

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Sims Mesa

Site Code S.USCOHP\*16662

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 647 Site Class PCA  
Site Alias None

### Network of Conservation Areas (NCA)

<u>NCA Site ID</u>	<u>NCA Site Code</u>	<u>NCA Site Name</u>
-		No Data

## LOCATORS

Nation United States Latitude 382150N  
State Colorado Longitude 1075042W

### Quad Code Quad Name

38107-C7	Colona
38107-C8	Government Springs
38107-D7	Montrose East
38107-D8	Montrose West

### County

Montrose (CO)  
Ouray (CO)

### Watershed Code Watershed Name

14020006 Uncompahange

## SITE DESCRIPTION

<b>Minimum Elevation</b>	6,000.00	<b>Feet</b>	1,829.00	<b>Meters</b>
<b>Maximum Elevation</b>	7,000.00	<b>Feet</b>	2,134.00	<b>Meters</b>

### Site Description

"The Sims Mesa Area is located in Montrose County about 7 miles south of Montrose, Colorado, and is approximately 5,300 acres. Elevation ranges from 6,000 to 7,000 feet and consists of small patches of sagebrush that are heavily fragmented by piñon - juniper, residential and recreational development, and agricultural lands" (GSGRSC 2005). A flat mesa land divided by creek drainages makes up this site. The mesas are vegetated with sagebrush interspersed with piñon - juniper. Indian ricegrass, blue-gramma and prickly pear make up the understory. Dirt roads are common throughout the area.

### Key Environmental Factors

No Data

### Climate Description

No Data

### Land Use History

No Data

### Cultural Features

No Data

## SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 04/20/2006  
Designer Gaughan, C.R.

### Boundary Justification

The site boundary was provided by CDOW (NDIS overall range) drawn to encompass the entire nesting area, including known leks, of the Gunnison Sage Grouse and surrounding habitat containing potential or known roost and nesting locations (CDOW 2005). An occurrence of a sagebrush bottomland shrubland natural community is also contained in the site boundary. Although not drawn for the Sage Sparrow, this boundary should provide ample habitat for the sparrow population.

Primary Area 5,351.09 Acres 2,165.52 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

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## Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains a poor (D-ranked) occurrence of the Gunnison Sage Grouse (*Centrocercus minimus*), which is critically imperiled on a global scale (G1/S1). Although this population is severely degraded, outer populations are critical to the core population for genetic augmentation. The site also supports a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3?/S1S2) community, *Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *vaseyana* / *Pascopyrum smithii*.

Other Values Rank No Data

## Other Values Comments

No Data

## LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

### Land Use Comments

"Landownership is roughly 44% private, 51% BLM, and 6% CDOW. Land-use at Sims Mesa is primarily ranching" (GSGRSC 2005).

### Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

### Exotics Comments

No Data

### Offsite

No Data

### Information Needs

No Data

## ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

Element <u>State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>	<u>Global Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
24951	<i>Artemisia tridentata</i> ssp. <i>vaseyana</i> / <i>Pascopyrum smithii</i> Shrubland	Sagebrush Bottomland Shrublands	G3?	S1S2	No
17758	<i>Centrocercus minimus</i>	Gunnison Sage Grouse	G1	S1	Yes

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
194308	Colorado Division of Wildlife. 2005. Gunnison Sage Grouse Overall Range. Fort Collins, CO. GIS data online at <a href="http://ndis.nrel.colostate.edu/ftp/index.html">http://ndis.nrel.colostate.edu/ftp/index.html</a>
194272	Gunnison Sage-grouse Rangewide Steering Committee (GSGRSC). 2005. Gunnison sage -grouse rangewide conservation plan. Colorado Division of Wildlife, Denver, Colorado, USA.
194306	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2005. Candidate conservation agreements with assurances for non-federal land owners. <a href="http://endangered.fws.gov/listing/cca.pdf">http://endangered.fws.gov/listing/cca.pdf</a> .
160295	Wakkinen, W. L., K. P. Reese, J. W. Connelly. 1992. Sage grouse nest locations in relation to leks. <i>Journal of Wildlife Management</i> 56(2):381-383.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

Original site design by Siemers, J.L. 1999-07-29.

## VERSION

Version Date 04/20/2006  
Version Author Gaughan, C.R.

## Disclaimer

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