

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Skinner Ridge

Site Code S.USCOHP*22924

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1427 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 393705N
State Colorado Longitude 1081731W

Quad Code Quad Name

39108-E2	Circle Dot Gulch
39108-E3	Mount Blaine
39108-E4	Desert Gulch
39108-F1	McCarthy Gulch
39108-F3	Bull Fork
39108-F4	Figure Four Spring
39108-F5	Razorback Ridge
39108-F2	Cutoff Gulch

County

Garfield (CO)
Rio Blanco (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14010006	Parachute-Roan
14050006	Piceance-Yellow

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	6,539.00	Feet	1,993.00	Meters
Maximum Elevation	8,576.00	Feet	2,614.00	Meters

Site Description

Skinner Ridge is a high elevation plateau lying between Brush and Clear creeks in the Parachute Creek Drainage. Parts of the Roan Plateau are included within this PCA along with Skinner Ridge. Southern areas of the PCA contain Gambel's oak (*Quercus gambelii*), mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus*) and serviceberry (*Amelanchier*) on lower slopes while upper slopes are forested with spruce-fir (*Picea* spp-*Pseudotsuga mensiezii*) and aspen (*Populus tremuloides*). The northern regions of this PCA contain large parks of big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) to the west and east with a Gambel's oak dominated shrubland lying between. The majority of this PCA is privately owned and there are patches of BLM land spread throughout. Local ranches utilize the plateau as summer pasture for their livestock. The PCA lies within the Piceance Basin and consists of sedimentary rocks of the Tertiary age including Uinta siltstone and sandstone, and Green River oil shale, marlstone and siltstone. Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and Sage Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) are known to occur in the PCA as are the rare Utah fescue (*Argillochloa dasuclada*) and the rare spring wetland plant community (*Catabrosa aquatica-Mimulus* spp).

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

This area has been privately owned and ranched for an extensive period of time.

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 11/13/2000
Designer Sovell, J.R.

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Boundary Justification

Boundaries for the PCA were adapted from Colorado Division of Wildlife Resource Information System GIS maps showing important sage grouse nesting habitat. Nesting habitat was mapped as a buffer zone of 2 mi around active leks which is the recommended standard. The random distribution of nests in relation to lek location suggests that Gunnison Sage Grouse choose nesting sites based on habitat components other than distance from leks. The quantity of habitat necessary to support minimum viable populations is necessarily greater than the 2 mi target. The greatest factors contributing to nest failure are predation of eggs, adults on nests, and young during feeding, as well as food availability. In addition, overwinter survival is compromised when large continuous stands of big sagebrush are absent. The boundaries of this PCA were drawn to include the lek sites, there two mile buffer zones and areas between the leks, thus effectively connecting all lek sites for what is probably a panmictic population of Sage Grouse. The boundaries effectively include territory accommodating all required seasonal habitats of the grouse.

Primary Area 84,077.72 Acres 34,025.18 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B5: General Biodiversity Interest

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This PCA contains an extant occurrence of the globally apparently secure (G4) Sage Grouse.

Other Values Rank No Data

Other Values Comments

No Data

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

No Data

Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

Exotics Comments

No Data

Offsite

No Data

Information Needs

No Data

ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

<u>Element</u>			<u>Global</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Driving</u>
<u>State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Site Rank</u>
21935	<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>	Sage Grouse	G4	S4	Yes

REFERENCES

Reference ID Full Citation

- No Data

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 11/13/2000

Version Author Sovell, J.R.

Disclaimer

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