

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Spring Creek/Atkinson Mesa

Site Code S.USCOHP*21025

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1176 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>
1598	S.USWRO1*418	San Miguel River

LOCATORS

Nation United States Latitude 382349N
State Colorado Longitude 1084012W

Quad Code Quad Name

38108-C6 Uravan
38108-D6 Atkinson Creek

County

Montrose (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14030003 San Miguel

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,100.00 Feet	1,554.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	6,000.00 Feet	1,829.00 Meters

Site Description

Spring Creek occupies a narrow valley with a riparian width of 10 to 25 meters in this site. Uplands are pinon - juniper woodlands with Gambel's oak. High quality riparian vegetation was identified at Spring Creek during a CNHP survey conducted for the BLM in 1997. Researchers noted that the vegetation was unusually lush for the area. The narrowleaf cottonwood/skunkbrush plant association had a range of 20 to 80% tree cover, with all age classes represented, including some very mature trees. Skunkbrush varied from sparse to dominant in the understory. Other species that were common in these communities were Gambel's oak, Wood's rose, coyote willow, virgin's bower, red osier dogwood and poison ivy. There was only a trace of New Mexico privet and tamarisk. Populations of the Gray Vireo and Sage Sparrow were found in the pinon - juniper uplands during breeding season, suggesting the birds were nesting within the site.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 03/13/2000

Designer Lyon, M.J. and J.R. Sovell

Boundary Justification

The boundaries include historic observations in the uplands of 2 state rare birds, the Gray Vireo and Sage Sparrow. In addition to providing habitat for the two bird species, the upland pinon - juniper dominated areas contribute to the hydrological processes that maintain the riparian vegetation. Disturbances in these areas can be detrimental to the stream through siltation, introduction of exotic species. Any alterations in the current hydrological regime could potentially affect riparian plant communities. The boundary does not allow for all of the needs of the two bird species.

Primary Area 2,023.72 Acres 818.98 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B5: General Biodiversity Interest

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Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site was drawn for suspected breeding populations of two state rare bird species: Gray Vireo (*Vireo vicinior*) (G4/S2B) and Sage Sparrow (*Amphispiza belli*) (G5/S3B).

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>
21213	<i>Amphispiza belli</i>	Sage Sparrow	G5	S3B	Yes
18668	<i>Vireo vicinior</i>	Gray Vireo	G4	S2B	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
-	No Data

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 05/08/2003
Version Author Bell, J.B.

Disclaimer

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