

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Sulphur Mine

Site Code S.USCOHP*218

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 381 Site Class PCA
Site Alias Shamrock Mesa

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 384759N
State Colorado Longitude 1075053W

Quad Code Quad Name

38107-G7 Lazear

County

Delta (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14020004 North Fork Gunnison
14020005 Lower Gunnison

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,131.00 Feet	1,563.93 Meters
Maximum Elevation	5,666.00 Feet	1,727.00 Meters

Site Description

On a bluff above the Gunnison River, this site consists of rolling adobe hills with sparse vegetation and Mancos shale. Although there were several historic records of Colorado hookless cactus here, we were unable to locate any in 1997. The Colorado desert-parsley at this site was much smaller and appeared less healthy than the populations at Hotchkiss Hills and Cedar Hill. In general, the area appeared quite degraded. Dominant plant communities include Gardner's saltbush (*Atriplex gardneri*) / salina wildrye (*Elymus salina*) and shadscale saltbush (*Atriplex confertifolia*) / James' galleta (*Hilaria jamesii*). Additional associated plant species include sharpleaf twinpod (*Physaria acutifolia*), fineleaf hymenopappus (*Hymenopappus filifolius*), whitestem blazingstar (*Mentzelia albicaulis*), desert trumpet (*Eriogonum inflatum*), squirreltail (*Elymus elymoides*), Torrey's jointfir (*Ephedra torreyana*), New Mexico yucca (*Yucca harrimaniae*), shortspine horsebrush (*Tetradymia spinosa*), budsage (*Artemisia spinescens*), *Psilostrophe*, scarlett globemallow (*Sphaeralcea coccinea*), Fendler's springparsley (*Cymopterus fendleri*), Esteve's pincushion (*Chaenactis stevioides*), and *Atriplex brandegei*.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

Arid semi-desert.

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 07/28/2009
Designer Panjabi, S.S.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the occurrences of the Colorado desert-parsley that were confirmed in 1997 and historic occurrences that were not verified. Since populations of these plants can be variable, and the areas we saw appeared to be suffering from drought and/or grazing pressure, it would be advisable to recheck this area in another year. The boundary was digitized while referencing a one meter digital color orthophoto quad.

Primary Area 2,302.20 Acres 931.67 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

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Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The sulphur mine site contains a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S3) Arizona prince-plume (*Stanleya albescens*) and a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S3) long-flower cat's-eye (*Oreocarya longiflora*). In addition, there were small populations of two rare plants: the globally imperiled (G2G3/S2S3) Colorado desert-parsley (*Lomatium concinnum*) and the globally imperiled (G2G33/S2S3) Colorado hookless cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*) which is listed as a Threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Current field surveys are needed to document these populations.

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

Russian knapweed (*Acroptilon repens*) has been documented.

Offsite

No Data

Information Needs

Current field surveys are needed to locate the cactus and desert-parsley.

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>
23232	<i>Lomatium concinnum</i>	Colorado desert-parsley	G2G3	S2S3	No
16984	<i>Sclerocactus glaucus</i>	Colorado hookless cactus	G2G3	S2S3	No
23232	<i>Lomatium concinnum</i>	Colorado desert-parsley	G2G3	S2S3	No
16984	<i>Sclerocactus glaucus</i>	Colorado hookless cactus	G2G3	S2S3	No
16984	<i>Sclerocactus glaucus</i>	Colorado hookless cactus	G2G3	S2S3	No
16984	<i>Sclerocactus glaucus</i>	Colorado hookless cactus	G2G3	S2S3	No
24321	<i>Stanleya albescens</i>	Arizona prince-plume	G3	S3	Yes
24362	<i>Oreocarya longiflora</i>	long-flower cat's-eye	G3	S3	Yes
23232	<i>Lomatium concinnum</i>	Colorado desert-parsley	G2G3	S2S3	No
23232	<i>Lomatium concinnum</i>	Colorado desert-parsley	G2G3	S2S3	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
178765	Lyon, P. and E. Williams. 1997. Final Report: Natural Heritage Biological Survey of Delta County. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

Original site design by Lyon, M.J. 1997-12-01.

VERSION

Version Date 07/28/2009
Version Author Lyon, M.J. and S.S. Panjabi

Disclaimer

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