

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

This draft ecological site description is approved for field use and testing for a one year period beginning MM, YYYY.
Additional information and comments on this site should be sent to the Utah State Range Management Specialist.

STATE: Utah

SITE TYPE: Rangeland

ECOLOGICAL SITE NAME: Mountain Very Steep Loam (Salina wildrye)

SITE NUMBER: 048AY466UT

MLRA: 048A

Original Site Description: Author: DJS

Date: 05/15/1981

Revised Site Description: Author: DJS

Date: 01/31/1994

Approved by: Title: State Range Cons. Signed: Pat Shaver

Date: 05/27/1994

Ecological Site Definition - A distinctive kind of land, with specific physical characteristics, which differs from other kinds of land in its ability to produce a distinctive kind and amount of vegetation, and in its response to management.

A. PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

(description narrative of this particular site)

1. SOILS

Depth: 20-40 inches

Surface Textures:

Surface Fragments(<=3" % cover, >3" % cover):

Subsurface Textures:

Subsurface Fragments(<=3" % vol, >3" % vol):

Geologic Parent Materials: Colluvium from Sandstone and Shale

Moisture Regime:

Temperature Regime:

Runoff: Medium to Rapid

Permeability(min-max): Moderate to Moderately Slow

Drainage Class(min-max): Well Drained

Water Erosion Hazard: High

Wind Erosion Hazard:

Electrical Conductivity (EC in mmhos/cm):

Sodium Adsorption Ration (SAR):

Soil Reaction (1:1 water):

Soil Reaction (0.1 M CaCl₂):

pH Range:

Available Water Capacity (inches): 4-7

Major Soils Associated With This Site:

Soil Survey Area: 616

Pathead STX-L, 50-70%

Sheepcan ST-L, 40-70%

Doney Family ST-L, 50-70%

Additional information may be found in Section II of the Field Office Technical Guide.

2. PHYSIOGRAPHIC FEATURES

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1. Potential Plant Community Description and Ecological Factors

The general view of this site is grass-shrub. The potential natural plant community by air-dry weight is composed of approximately 60 percent perennial grasses, 15 percent forbs, and 25 percent shrubs.

2. Plant Community Composition by Weight and Percentage

Grasses and Grasslike, %

Common Name	National Symbol	Group	Pounds per Acre		% by Weight of Total Composition	
			Low	High	Low	High
Salina wildrye	LESAS		300	360	25	30
Slender wheatgrass	ELTR7		120	180	10	15
Prairie junegrass	KOMA		36	60	3	5
Indian ricegrass	ACHY		36	60	3	5
Muttongrass	POFE		36	60	3	5
Geyer sedge	CAGE2		12	36	1	3
Columbia needlegrass	ACNE9		12	36	1	3
Bluebunch wheatgrass	PSSP6		12	36	1	3
Other perennial grasses	PPGG		36	60	3	5
Other annual grasses	AAGG		36	60	3	5

Forbs, %

Common Name	National Symbol	Group	Pounds per Acre		% by Weight of Total Composition	
			Low	High	Low	High
Longleaf hawksbeard	CRAC2		36	60	3	5
Wyoming Indian paintbrush	CALI4		36	60	3	5
Common yarrow	ACMI2		36	60	3	5
Parry goldenrod	SPOA4		36	60	3	5
Small leaf pussytoes	ANMI3		36	60	3	5
Sulphurflower wild buckwheat	ERUM		36	60	3	5
Blue flax	LIPE2		36	60	3	5
Hoary tansyaster	MACA2		36	60	3	5
Spurred lupine	LUCAC3		36	60	3	5
Lobeleaf groundsel	SEMU3		36	60	3	5
Rocky mountain beardtongue	PEST2		36	60	3	5
Other perennial forbs	PPFF		36	60	3	5
Other annual forbs	AAFF		36	60	3	5

Shrubs/Vines, %

Common Name	National Symbol	Group	Pounds per Acre	% by Weight of Total Composition
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		Low	High	Low	High
Mountain big sagebrush	ARTRV	60	120	5	10
Mountain snowberry	SYOR2	60	120	5	10
Utah serviceberry	AMUT	12	36	1	3
Birchleaf mountainmahogany	CEMO2	12	36	1	3
Bitterbrush	PUTR2	12	36	1	3
Creeping Oregon grape	MARE11	12	36	1	3
Mountain low rabbitbrush	CHVIL4	12	36	1	3
Crispleaf wild buckwheat	ERCO14	12	36	1	3
Tobaccobrush	CEVE	12	36	1	3
Black sagebrush	ARNO4	12	36	1	3
Woods rose	ROWO	12	36	1	3
Spineless horsebrush	TEAC2	12	36	1	3
Other shrubs	SSSS	60	120	5	10

Trees, %

Common Name	National Symbol	Group	Pounds per Acre		% by Weight of Total Composition	
			Low	High	Low	High

3. Plant Community Annual Production

At the highest potential similarity index, this site will produce approximately the following amount of air-dry herbage, expressed as pounds/acre:

	Low	High
Favorable Year	1300	1400
Average Year	1100	1200
Unfavorable Year	900	1000

4. Ground Cover and Structure

a. Vegetative

Vegetation Type	Percent Canopy Cover	Height Range (ft)	Percent Basal Area Cover
Grasses & Grass-like (perennial)	50	2	20
Forbs (perennial)	5	1	2
Shrubs	15	4	10
Trees			
Cryptogams			

b. Other

Litter	
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Coarse Fragments	
Bare Ground	

5. Ecological Dynamics of the Site

As ecological condition deteriorates due to overgrazing, bitterbrush, serviceberry, bluegrasses, and bluebunch wheatgrass decrease while Salina wildrye and mountain big sagebrush increase. When the potential natural plant community is burned, bitterbrush, serviceberry and sagebrush decrease while Salina wildrye and snowberry increase. Thistles, stickseed, houndstongue and other annual or biannual weeds are most likely to invade this site.

Plant Communities & Transitional Pathways

(Show a steady state diagram with influences to move from one steady state to another)

6. Plant Growth Curves

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Percent Growth	0	0	0	5	15	40	30	5	5	0	0	0
Name	PNC											
ID Number	UT4661											
Description	Excellent Condition											

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Percent Growth	0	0	0	0	10	50	30	5	5	0	0	0
Name	Good condition No. 1											
ID Number	UT4662											
Description	Salina wildrye, Needlegrass, Big sagebrush											

7. Aspect Differences Near MLRA Boundaries

(Give related range sites in MLRA's above and below)

8. Associated Sites Within MLRA

048AY473UT
 Mountain Very Steep Stony Loam (Browse)

9. Correlated Sites in Other States

(Give site name and number)

D. MAJOR USES OF THIS SITE

1. Livestock

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a. Site Factors Influencing Management

This site gets limited grazing use because of steep slopes. Cattle get very little use on this site..

b. Guide to Forage Quality(Plant preference by season)

Species	Oct-Nov	Dec-Feb	Mar-May	Jun-Sep

VG = Very Good G = Good F = Fair P = Poor

2. Wildlife

a. Site Factors Influencing Management

This site produces food and cover for many species of wildlife.

b. List of Potential Species Present

Wildlife species that use this site include sage grouse, rabbit, coyote, mule deer, and elk.

This is a short list of the more common species found. Many other species are present as well and migratory birds are present at times.

c. Guide to Forage Preference of Managed Wildlife Species

Wildlife Species →				
Plant Species ↓	Use	Season	Use	Season

Use - A = preferred or desirable
 B = some use, but less important
 C = little use or used occasionally

Season - F = Fall (Oct-Nov)
 W = Winter (Dec-Feb)
 Sp. = Spring (Mar-May)
 Su. = Summer (Jun-Sep)

3. Recreational Uses

This site offers color and aesthetic appeal during the growing season.

4. Wood Products

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Douglas fir, Limber pine, Pinyon pine, and Rocky Mountain juniper may be found sparsely on or near this site.

5. Other Uses

E. THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

1. Plants

2. Animals

F. MODAL LOCATION AND DOCUMENTATION

State: Utah

County:

Latitude:

Longitude:

Modal Soil: Pathead STX-L 50-70% — loamy-skeletal, mixed (calc.), frigid Typic Ustorthents

Type Location: NW ¼; NW ¼; Section 12 Township 12S, Range7E

General Legal Description:

Field Office Site Location

Roosevelt

Price

Data Collected and References

Sampling Source	Number of Records	Range Similarity Index			
		> 76%	51-75%	26-50%	0-25%
NRCS - ECS - 417					
UTAH - RANGE - 2					
BLM FORM	20				
Permanent Transect Location					

Other References