

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: Upland Silt Loam (Fourwing saltbush-Winterfat)

SITE NUMBER: 034XY329UT

MLRA: 034

Original Site Description: Author: JLB GWL

Date: 05/18/1981

Revised Site Description: Author: JLB GWL

Date: 01/12/1994

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

Date: 06/25/1994

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: 40->60 inches

Surface Textures: Silt Loam

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

Subsurface Textures:

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

Geologic Parent Materials: Alluvium from Sedimentary

Moisture Regime:

Temperature Regime: Mesic and Frigid

Runoff:

Permeability(min-max):

Drainage Class(min-max): Well Drained

Water Erosion Hazard:

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):

Major Soils Associated With This Site:

Soil Survey Area: 047

Mikim SiL Moist 2-8%

Abra SiL Cool 4-8%

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 dominant aspect of the plant community is fourwing saltbush and winterfat. The composition by air-dry weight is approximately 35 percent perennial grasses, 10 percent forbs and 55 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
Western wheatgrass	PASM		80	120	10	15
Indian ricegrass	ACHY		40	80	5	10
Nevada bluegrass	PONE3		40	80	5	10
Needleandthread	HECO26		8	40	1	5
Blue grama	BOGR2	1	8	24	1	3
Bottlebrush squirreltail	ELEL5	1	8	24	1	3
Sand dropseed	SPCR	1	8	24	1	3
Sandberg bluegrass	POSE	1	8	24	1	3
Other perennial grasses	PPGG	1	24	40	3	5
Other annual grasses	AAGG	1	24	40	3	5

Forbs, %

Common Name	National Symbol	Group	Pounds per Acre		% by Weight of Total Composition	
			Low	High	Low	High
Scarlet globemallow	SPCO		8	40	1	5
Mountain pepperweed	LEMO2	2	8	16	1	2
Basin fleabane	ERPU9	2	8	16	1	2
Shockley wild buckwheat	ERSH	2	8	16	1	2
Longleaf phlox	PHLO2	2	8	16	1	2
Pacific aster	ASCH2	2	8	16	1	2
Hoary tansyaster	MACA2	2	8	16	1	2
Hedge mustard	SIOF	2	8	16	1	2
Other perennial forbs	PPFF	2	24	40	3	5
Other annual forbs	AAFF	2	24	40	3	5

Shrubs/Vines, %

Common Name	National	Group	Pounds per Acre	% by Weight of
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	Symbol				Total Composition	
			Low	High	Low	High
Fourwing saltbush	ATCA2		160	200	20	25
Winterfat	KRLA2		120	160	15	20
Basin big sagebrush	ARTRT		40	80	5	10
Low rabbitbrush	CHVI8	3	8	24	1	3
Fringe sagebrush	ARFR4	3	8	24	1	3
Broom snakeweed	GUSA2	3	8	24	1	3
Other shrubs	SSSS	3	24	40	3	5

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	900	1000
Average Year	700	800
Unfavorable Year	450	550

4. Ground Cover and Structure

a. Vegetative

Vegetation Type	Percent Canopy Cover	Height Range (ft.)	Percent Basal Area Cover
Grasses & Grass-like (perennial)	25	2	15
Forbs (perennial)	5	1	2
Shrubs	45	4	25
Trees			
Cryptogams			

b. Other

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Litter	
Coarse Fragments	
Bare Ground	

5. Ecological Dynamics of the Site

As ecological condition deteriorates due to overgrazing, perennial bunch grasses will decrease while cheatgrass and western wheatgrass increase. Under cattle grazing, fourwing saltbush and winterfat may dominate the site. Although this site can burn, fire does not appear to be an important ecological factor. Cheatgrass and annual 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	10	30	45	5	5	5	0	0	0
Name	PNC											
ID Number	UT3291											
Description	Excellent Condition											

7. Aspect Differences Near MLRA Boundaries

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

8. Associated Sites Within MLRA

034XY320UT

Upland Shallow Loam (Black sagebrush)

034XY322UT

Upland Shallow Loam (Pinyon-Utah juniper)

9. Correlated Sites in Other States

(Give site name and number)

D. MAJOR USES OF THIS SITE

1. Livestock

a. Site Factors Influencing Management

This site provides proper grazing for cattle and sheep during spring, summer, and fall.

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

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

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

2. Wildlife

a. Site Factors Influencing Management

This site provides food and cover for wildlife.

b. List of Potential Species Present

Wildlife using this site include jackrabbit, 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 has moderate recreational opportunities and often has scenic vistas.

4. Wood Products

None

5. Other Uses

E. THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

1. Plants

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2. Animals

F. MODAL LOCATION AND DOCUMENTATION

State: Utah

County:

Latitude:

Longitude:

Modal Soil: Mikim SiL Moist 2-8% — fine-loamy, mixed calcareous, mesic Ustic Torriorthents

Type Location: NE ¼, SW ¼, SW ¼; Section 35, Township 12S, Range 24E SLBM

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					
Permanent Transect Location					

Other References