

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: Talus Slope (Blackbrush-Shadscale)

SITE NUMBER: 035XY018UT

MLRA: 035

Original Site Description: Author: GSC

Date: 04/01/1984

Revised Site Description: Author: GSC

Date: 09/09/1993

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: 20-60 inches

Surface Textures: Cobbly to Extremely Bouldery

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

Subsurface Textures: Cobbly to Extremely Bouldery

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

Geologic Parent Materials: Colluvium from Sandstone

Moisture Regime:

Temperature Regime:

Runoff: High

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 CaCl<sub>2</sub>):

pH Range:

Available Water Capacity (inches):

Major Soils Associated With This Site:

Soil Survey Area: 638

Chilton Family

Nihill Family

Myton Family, 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 dominant aspect of the plant community is shadscale and Indian ricegrass. 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
Indian ricegrass	ACHY		22.5	33.75	10	15
Salina wildrye	LESAS		11.25	22.5	5	10
Galleta	HIJA		11.25	22.5	5	10
Bottlebrush squirreltail	ELEL5	1	6.75	11.25	3	5
Desert needlegrass	ACSP12	1	6.75	11.25	3	5
Purple threeawn	ARPU9	1	6.75	11.25	3	5
Black grama	BOER4	1	6.75	11.25	3	5
Needleandthread	HECO26	1	6.75	11.25	3	5
Other perennial grasses	PPGG	1	11.25	22.5	5	10
Other annual grasses	AAGG	1	11.25	22.5	5	10

### Forbs, %

Common Name	National Symbol	Group	Pounds per Acre		% by Weight of Total Composition	
			Low	High	Low	High
Gooseberry globemallow	SPGR2	2	2.25	6.75	1	3
Fineleaf woollywhite	HYFI	2	2.25	6.75	1	3
Aladdin slippers	ASAM5	2	2.25	6.75	1	3
Plateau yellow catseye	CRFL5	2	2.25	6.75	1	3
Golden princesplume	STPI	2	2.25	6.75	1	3
Badland mulesears	WYSC	2	2.25	6.75	1	3
Stemless fournerve daisy	TEACA2	2	2.25	6.75	1	3
Pacific aster	ASCH2	2	2.25	6.75	1	3
Utah fleabane	ERUT	2	2.25	6.75	1	3
Indian pipeweed	ERIN4	2	2.25	6.75	1	3
Thrift mock goldenweed	STARA	2	2.25	6.75	1	3
Mountain pepperweed	LEMO2	2	2.25	6.75	1	3
Redroot wild buckwheat	ERRA3	2	2.25	6.75	1	3
Wright birdbeak	COWR2	2	2.25	6.75	1	3
Wasatch aster	ASWA	2	2.25	6.75	1	3
Other perennial forbs	PPFF	2	22.5	33.75	10	15
Other annual forbs	AAFF	2	22.5	33.75	10	15

### Shrubs/Vines, %

Common Name	National	Group	Pounds per Acre	% by Weight of
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	Symbol				Total Composition	
			Low	High	Low	High
Shadscale	ATCO		11.25	22.5	5	10
Blackbrush	CORA		11.25	22.5	5	10
Torrey jointfir	ERTO		112.5	22.5	5	10
Low rabbitbrush	CHVI8		6.75	11.25	3	5
Ill scented sumac	RHTRT		6.75	11.25	3	5
Mexican cliffrose	PUME	3	2.25	6.75	1	3
Spiny hopsage	GRSP	3	2.25	6.75	1	3
Fourwing saltbush	ATCA2	3	2.25	6.75	1	3
Bigelow sagebrush	ARBI3	3	2.25	6.75	1	3
Littleleaf brickellbush	BRMI	3	2.25	6.75	1	3
Green rabbitbrush	ERNAG	3	2.25	6.75	1	3
Rubber rabbitbrush	ERNA10	3	2.25	6.75	1	3
Roundleaf buffaloberry	SHRO	3	2.25	6.75	1	3
Nevada jointfir	EPNE	3	2.25	6.75	1	3
Eastern Mohave wild buckwheat	ERFAP	3	2.25	6.75	1	3
Shortspine horsebrush	TESP2	3	2.25	6.75	1	3
Broom snakeweed	GUSA2	3	2.25	6.75	1	3
Other shrubs	SSSS	3	33.75	45	15	20

#### Trees, %

Common Name	National Symbol	Group	Pounds per Acre		% by Weight of Total Composition	
			Low	High	Low	High
Utah juniper	JUOS		2.25	6.75	1	3

### **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	275	300
Average Year	200	225
Unfavorable Year	75	100

### **4. Ground Cover and Structure**

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 a. Vegetative

Vegetation Type	Percent Canopy Cover	Height Range (ft.)	Percent Basal Area Cover
Grasses & Grass-like (perennial)	25	2	10
Forbs (perennial)	5	1	2
Shrubs	40	4	15
Trees	2	8	1
Cryptogams			

b. Other

Litter	
Coarse Fragments	
Bare Ground	

## **5. Ecological Dynamics of the Site**

Because of steep slopes, grazing is not generally an important factor. Fire is not an important factor in this ecosystem. Cheatgrass and Russian thistle 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	5	25	65	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Name	PNC											
ID Number	UT0181											
Description	Excellent Condition											

## **7. Aspect Differences Near MLRA Boundaries**

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

## **8. Associated Sites Within MLRA**

035XY133UT  
 Desert Shallow Sandy Loam (Blackbrush)

035XY139UT  
 Desert Stony Loam (Blackbrush)

035XY233UT  
 Semidesert Shallow Sandy Loam (Blackbrush)

## **9. Correlated Sites in Other States**

(Give site name and number)

**D. MAJOR USES OF THIS SITE**

**1. Livestock**

a. Site Factors Influencing Management

Because of steep slopes, grazing is not generally an important factor 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 provides food and limited cover for wildlife.

b. List of Potential Species Present

Wildlife using this site include jackrabbit, coyote, bobcat, hawk, kangaroo rat, mice, and snake.

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**

Recreation is limited because of steep slopes. Natural beauty lies in the topography, soils, and plants.

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#### **4. Wood Products**

Firewood

#### **5. Other Uses**

### **E. THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES**

1. Plants
2. Animals

### **F. MODAL LOCATION AND DOCUMENTATION**

State: Utah                      County:  
 Latitude:                        Longitude:

Modal Soil: Chilton Family — loamy-skeletal, mixed (calc.), mesic Ustic Torriorthents

Type Location: See the San Juan Soil Survey

General Legal Description:

#### **Field Office Site Location**

Price  
 Cedar City

#### **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**