

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: Semidesert Shallow Loam (Salina wildrye)

SITE NUMBER: 028AY237UT

MLRA: 028A

Original Site Description: Author: DJS

Date: 02/01/1988

Revised Site Description: Author: DJS

Date: 06/24/1993

Approved by: Title: State Range Cons.

Signed: Pat Shaver

Date: 08/30/1993

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: 10-20 inches

Surface Textures: Loam

Surface Fragments(<=3" % cover, >3" % cover): 75%

Subsurface Textures:

Subsurface Fragments(<=3" % vol, >3" % vol): 60%

Geologic Parent Materials: Colluvium and Residuum from Limestone

Moisture Regime:

Temperature Regime:

Runoff: Rapid

Permeability(min-max): Moderately to Rapidly

Drainage Class(min-max): Well drained

Water Erosion Hazard: Severe

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): 1-3

Major Soils Associated With This Site:

Soil Survey Area: 601

Amtoft CBX-L GRV-L

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

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1. Potential Plant Community Description and Ecological Factors

The dominant aspect of this plant community is Salina wildrye. The composition by air-dry weight is approximately 50 percent perennial grasses, 5 percent forbs, and 45 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	375	40	50
Bluebunch wheatgrass	PSSP6	1	7.5	22.5	1	3
Indian ricegrass	ACHY	1	7.5	22.5	1	3
Galleta	HIJA	1	7.5	22.5	1	3
Bottlebrush squirreltail	ELEL5	1	7.5	22.5	1	3
Nevada bluegrass	PONE3	1	7.5	22.5	1	3
Other perennial grasses	PPGG	1	37.5	75	5	10
Other annual grasses	AAGG	1	37.5	75	5	10

Forbs, %

Common Name	National Symbol	Group	Pounds per Acre		% by Weight of Total Composition	
			Low	High	Low	High
Carpet phlox	PHHO	2	7.5	22.5	1	3
Scarlet globemallow	SPCO	2	7.5	22.5	1	3
Freckled milkvetch	ASLE8	2	7.5	22.5	1	3
Stemless mock goldenweed	STACA	2	7.5	22.5	1	3
Cushion wild buckwheat	EROV	2	7.5	22.5	1	3
Pink buttercup	RAAN	2	7.5	22.5	1	3
Other perennial forbs	PPFF	2	22.5	37.5	3	5
Other annual forbs	AAFF	2	22.5	37.5	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
Black sagebrush	ARNO4		225	300	30	40
Nevada jointfir	EPNE		22.5	37.5	3	5
Nuttall horsebrush	TENU2	3	7.5	22.5	1	3
Shadscale	ATCO	3	7.5	22.5	1	3
Low rabbitbrush	CHVI8	3	7.5	22.5	1	3
Dwarf heathgoldenrod	ERNA7	3	7.5	22.5	1	3
Mexican cliffrose	PUME	3	7.5	22.5	1	3
Rocky mountain rockmat	PECA12	3	7.5	22.5	1	3
Stansbury rockdaisy	PEST7	3	7.5	22.5	1	3
Other shrubs	SSSS	3	37.5	75	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	650	850
Average Year	550	750
Unfavorable Year	250	400

4. Ground Cover and Structure

a. Vegetative

Vegetation Type	Percent Canopy Cover	Height Range (ft)	Percent Basal Area Cover
Grasses & Grass-like (perennial)	30	2	15
Forbs (perennial)	3	2	2
Shrubs	20	2	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, Salina wildrye and bluebunch wheatgrass decrease, while low rabbitbrush and Sandberg bluegrass increase.

When the potential natural plant community is burned, Wyoming big sagebrush and winterfat decrease while low rabbitbrush, snakeweed, and undesirable forbs increase.

Cheatgrass and annual forbs 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	15	40	30	5	5	0	0	0	0
Name	UT2371											
ID Number	PNC											
Description	Excellent Condition											

7. Aspect Differences Near MLRA Boundaries

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

8. Associated Sites Within MLRA

028AY234UT
 Semidesert Shallow Loam (Utah juniper-Salina wildrye)

028AY122UT
 Desert Gravelly Loam (Indian ricegrass)

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 is suited for grazing by cattle and sheep during fall, winter, and spring.

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 rabbit, coyote, fox, badger, pronghorn antelope, mule deer, and dove.

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

Resources that have special aesthetic and landscape values are wildflowers. Some recreation uses of this site are hiking and horseback riding.

4. Wood Products

None

5. Other Uses

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E. THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

1. Plants
2. Animals

F. MODAL LOCATION AND DOCUMENTATION

State: Utah County: Box Elder
 Latitude: Longitude:

Modal Soil: Amtoft CBX-L GRV-L – loamy-skeletal, carbonatic, mesic Lithic Xerollic Calciorthid

Type Location: Southeast Hogup Mountain Area NW ¼, NW ¼, Section 8, Township 7N, Range 12W

General Legal Description:

Field Office Site Location

Logan
 Provo
 Cedar City
 Murray
 Richfield

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	9				
Permanent Transect Location					

Other References