

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: Subalpine Windswept Ridge (Fringed sagebrush)

SITE NUMBER: 025XY615UT

MLRA: 025

Original Site Description: Author: GBB

Date: 07/15/1989

Revised Site Description: Author: GBB

Date: 02/10/1994

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

Date: 04/25/1994

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: 10-20

Surface Textures: Loam

Surface Fragments(<=3" % cover, >3" % cover): 60%

Subsurface Textures:

Subsurface Fragments(<=3" % vol, >3" % vol): 25-75%

Geologic Parent Materials: Residuum from Metamorphic Materials

Moisture Regime:

Temperature Regime:

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: 601

Nielson Family

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

1. Potential Plant Community Description and Ecological Factors

The general view of this site is fringed sagebrush and grass. The composition by air-dry weight is approximately 70 percent perennial grasses, 20 percent forbs, and 10 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
Idaho fescue	FEID		140	180	35	45
Spike trisetum	TRSP2		40	60	10	15
Muttongrass	POFE		20	40	5	10
Sandberg bluegrass	POSE		0	20	0	5
Other perennial grasses	PPGG	1	0	20	0	5
Other annual grasses	AAGG	1	0	20	0	5

Forbs, %

Common Name	National Symbol	Group	Pounds per Acre		% by Weight of Total Composition	
			Low	High	Low	High
Common yarrow	ACMI2		20	40	5	10
Carpet phlox	PHHO		12	20	3	5
Low beardtongue	PEHU	2	4	12	1	3
Queenanns lace	DACA6	2	4	12	1	3
Common stonecrop	SELA	2	4	12	1	3
Cushion pussytoes	ANDI2	2	4	12	1	3
Rocky mountain crazyweed	OXSE	2	4	12	1	3
Other perennial forbs	PPFF	2	12	20	3	5
Other annual forbs	AAFF	2	12	20	3	5

Shrubs/Vines, %

Common Name	National Symbol	Group	Pounds per Acre		% by Weight of Total Composition	
			Low	High	Low	High
Fringed sagebrush	ARFR4		20	40	5	10
Stemless mock goldenweed	STACA		12	20	3	5
Subalpine big sagebrush	ARTRS2		0	4	0	1
Other shrubs	SSSS	3	0	4	0	1

Trees, %

Common Name	National Symbol	Group	Pounds per Acre	% by Weight of
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	Symbol			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	700
Average Year	350	400
Unfavorable Year	150	200

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	30
Forbs (perennial)	10	1	5
Shrubs	10	1	5
Trees			
Cryptogams			

b. Other

Litter	
Coarse Fragments	
Bare Ground	

5. Ecological Dynamics of the Site

As this site deteriorates due to grazing pressure all plants decrease and the soil is left bare. When the potential natural plant community is burned, sagebrush decreases while Sandberg bluegrass, and yarrow increase.

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	0	0	0	0	20	35	30	10	5	0	0	0

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Growth												
Name	PNC											
ID Number	UT6151											
Description	Excellent Condition											

7. Aspect Differences Near MLRA Boundaries

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

8. Associated Sites Within MLRA

025XY610UT
 Subalpine Loam (Subalpine big sagebrush – Idaho fescue)

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 summer, and fall.

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 but very little cover for wildlife.

b. List of Potential Species Present

Wildlife using this site include sage grouse, mule deer, cottontail rabbit, coyote, red-tailed hawk, and potgut ground squirrel.

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

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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

Hiking and Hunting

4. Wood Products

None

5. Watershed Values

6. Other Uses

E. THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

1. Plants
2. Animals

F. MODAL LOCATION AND DOCUMENTATION

State: Utah County: Box Elder
 Latitude: Longitude:

Modal Soil: Nielson Family – Loamy-skeletal, Mixed, Argic lithic cryoborolls

Type Location: Top of Raft River Mountains at “The Meadows”

General Legal Description:

Field Office Site Location

Logan
 Box Elder County

Data Collected and References

Sampling Source	Number of Records	Range Similarity Index			
		> 76%	51-75%	26-50%	0-25%
NRCS - ECS - 417					

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UTAH - RANGE - 2	2				
Permanent Transect Location					

4. Other References