

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: Semiwet Fresh Streambank (Water birch)

SITE NUMBER: 048AY006UT

MLRA: 048A

Original Site Description: Author: DJS

Date: 01/14/1994

Revised Site Description: Author:

Date:

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: >60 inches

Surface Textures: Sandy Loam

Surface Fragments(<=3" % cover, >3" % cover): None

Subsurface Textures: Loam, Sandy Loam, Clay Loam

Subsurface Fragments(<=3" % vol, >3" % vol): None

Geologic Parent Materials: Alluvium from Sandstone and Shale

Moisture Regime:

Temperature Regime:

Runoff:

Permeability(min-max): Moderate

Drainage Class(min-max): Poorly to Somewhat Poorly 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): 6-10

Major Soils Associated With This Site:

Soil Survey Area: 624

Firth Family

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

1. Potential Plant Community Description and Ecological Factors

The vegetation of this site usually has a variable overstory of water-loving trees and shrubs of approximately 40 percent of the total production annually on an air-dry weight basis. Grasses are about 45 percent of the plant composition and forbs 15 percent.

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
Slender wheatgrass	ELTR7		100	200	5	10
Great basin wildrye	LECI4		100	200	5	10
Mountain brome	BRCA5		60	100	3	5
Western wheatgrass	PASM		60	100	3	5
Clustered field sedge	CAPR5	1	20	60	1	3
Baltic rush	JUBAM	1	20	60	1	3
Redtop	AGST2	1	20	60	1	3
Other perennial grasses	PPGG	1	200	300	10	15
Other annual grasses	AAGG	1	200	300	10	15

Forbs, %

Common Name	National Symbol	Group	Pounds per Acre		% by Weight of Total Composition	
			Low	High	Low	High
Tobacco root	VAED	2	20	60	1	3
Sweetanice	OSOC	2	20	60	1	3
Thickleaf peavine	LALA3	2	20	60	1	3
Nettleleaf giant hyssop	AGUR	2	20	60	1	3
Butterweed	SESE2	2	20	60	1	3
Cow parsnip	HELA4	2	20	60	1	3
White cranesbill	GERI	2	20	60	1	3
Showy false solomonsseal	HEMU3	2	20	60	1	3
Showy cinquefoil	POGR9	2	20	60	1	3
Missouri goldenrod	SOMI2	2	20	60	1	3
Prairie goldenbanner	THRHM	2	20	60	1	3
Longstalk clover	TRLO	2	20	60	1	3
Louisiana wormwood	ARLU	2	20	60	1	3
Other perennial forbs	PPFF	2	200	300	10	15
Other annual forbs	AAFF	2	200	300	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
Drummond willow	SADR		100	200	5	10
Water birch	BEOC2		60	100	3	5
Chokecherry	PRVI		60	100	3	5
Speckled alder	ALIN2	3	20	60	1	3
Redosier	COSE16	3	20	60	1	3
Saskatoon serviceberry	AMAL2	3	20	60	1	3
Silver buffaloberry	SHAR	3	20	60	1	3
Blue elder	SACE3	3	20	60	1	3
Fourline honeysuckle	LOIN5	3	20	60	1	3
Mountain snowberry	SYOR2	3	20	60	1	3
Creeping Oregon grape	MARE11	3	20	60	1	3
Deciduous travelersjoy	CLLI2	3	20	60	1	3
Threadleaf rubber rabbitbrush	CHNAC2	3	20	60	1	3
Woods rose	ROWO	3	20	60	1	3
Wax current	RICE	3	20	60	1	3
Basin big sagebrush	ARTRT	3	20	60	1	3
Other shrubs	SSSS	3	200	300	10	15

Trees, %

Common Name	National Symbol	Group	Pounds per Acre		% by Weight of Total Composition	
			Low	High	Low	High
Narrowleaf cottonwood	POAN3		20	100	1	5

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	2400	2500
Average Year	1900	2000
Unfavorable Year	1400	1500

4. Ground Cover and Structure

a. Vegetative

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Vegetation Type	Percent Canopy Cover	Height Range (ft)	Percent Basal Area Cover
Grasses & Grass-like (perennial)	40	3	15
Forbs (perennial)	5	2	2
Shrubs	40	8	20
Trees	20	40	10
Cryptogams			

b. Other

Litter	
Coarse Fragments	
Bare Ground	

5. Ecological Dynamics of the Site

Several water-loving tree species are found in scattered clumps or as single trees throughout this site. Narrowleaf cottonwood and water birch are present along with tall shrub species such as chokecherry, Gambel oak, silver buffaloberry, and several species of willow. Plant species not a part of the climax plant community that are most likely to invade the site if plant cover deteriorates are cheatgrass, cocklebur, curlycup gumweed, lambsquarters, houndstongue, mullein, povertyweed, Canada thistle, bull thistle, burdock, and rubber rabbitbrush.

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	0	0	0	0	0
Name	PNC											
ID Number	UT0061											
Description	Excellent Condition											

7. Aspect Differences Near MLRA Boundaries

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

8. Associated Sites Within MLRA

048AY008UT
 Wet Fresh Meadow (Willow-Sedge)

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 has been grazed heavily since the settlements because it is near communities and ranch headquarters and produces a large volume of very nutritious native forage plants. It provides excellent grazing for sheep, cattle, goats, and horses. It is adapted for use in the spring, summer, and fall. If grazed in the winter, protein supplement should be provided. To control soil erosion and degradation of the plant community, this site may be properly grazed early with the animals being removed early to allow key plants to go ungrazed during the last part of the growing season. A stubble height of 4 to 6 inches should be adhered to.

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

The potential is good to fair for openland habitat, good for woodland habitat, fair for wetland habitat and good for rangeland habitat. This site is valuable for most species of wildlife due to the variety of grasses, forbs, shrubs, and trees and the interspersed nature of this vegetation with other range sites which in turn provides a great diversity and abundance of food and cover.

b. List of Potential Species Present

It provides valuable habitat for pheasants, mule deer, quail, elk, moose, squirrels, rabbits, coyotes, eagles, hawks, woodpeckers, wading birds, and numerous song birds.

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

This site has good values for aesthetics and natural beauty. It has a large number of forbs and shrubs which have flowers in bloom from early spring throughout the summer and into the fall. It has a combination of grasses, forbs, small shrubs, large shrubs, and trees, which offer excellent possibilities for screening and high value as camping and picnicking areas. Hunting for upland game birds, cottontail rabbits, elk, and mule deer is good to excellent on this site. Fishing is opportune on streams through this site. Summer homes are a possibility on this site, but detailed on-site investigation should be made to determine feasibility of the soils for septic tanks and sewage disposal facilities when specific locations are tentatively planned for summer homes or other building sites. Due to the high water table, sewage disposal is extremely difficult.

4. Wood Products

The tree species, except for cottonwood, do not grow large enough to make them valuable for lumber. Occasionally cottonwood had been used for saw timber. No site index determinations have been made to date on this species. Some values exist for fence posts and fuel for fireplaces and campfires. Some species furnish raw material for knick knacks, ornamental uses, and 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: Firth Family – coarse-loamy, mixed Aquaic Haploborolls

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Type Location: Consult the Grand County Soil Survey Report

General Legal Description:

Field Office Site Location

Price

Roosevelt

Legal Description:

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