

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 Silt Loam (Winterfat)

SITE NUMBER: 034XY240UT

MLRA: 034

Original Site Description: Author: JLB GWL

Date: 05/12/1981

Revised Site Description: Author: JLB GWL

Date: 01/04/1994

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: >60 inches

Surface Textures: Silt Loam

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

Subsurface Textures:

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

Geologic Parent Materials: Mixed Alluvium from Sedimentary

Moisture Regime:

Temperature Regime: Mesic

Runoff: Slow

Permeability(min-max): Moderately Slow to Moderate

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 2-4% Eroded

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 winterfat. The composition by air-dry weight is approximately 30 percent perennial grasses, 10 percent forbs and 60 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		60	90	10	15
Western wheatgrass	PASM		30	60	5	10
Needleandthread	HECO26		6	30	1	5
Nevada bluegrass	PONE3	1	6	18	1	3
Bottlebrush squirreltail	ELEL5	1	6	18	1	3
Blue grama	BOGR2	1	6	18	1	3
Galleta	HIJA	1	6	8	1	3
Other perennial grasses	PPGG	1	18	30	3	5
Other annual grasses	AAGG	1	18	30	3	5

Forbs, %

Common Name	National Symbol	Group	Pounds per Acre		% by Weight of Total Composition	
			Low	High	Low	High
Scarlet globemallow	SPCO		18	30	3	5
Mountain pepperweed	LEMO2	2	6	18	1	3
Fendler sandmat	CHFEF	2	6	18	1	3
Western sticktight	LAOC3	2	6	18	1	3
Western tansymustard	DEPI	2	6	18	1	3
Other perennial forbs	PPFF	2	18	30	3	5
Other annual forbs	AAFF	2	18	30	3	5

Shrubs/Vines, %

Common Name	National Symbol	Group	Pounds per Acre	% by Weight of Total Composition
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			Low	High	Low	High
Winterfat	KRLA2		210	270	35	45
Fourwing saltbush	ATCA2		30	60	5	10
Wyoming big sagebrush	ARTRW		6	30	1	5
Bud sagebrush	ARSP5		6	30	1	5
Fringed sagebrush	ARFR4	3	6	12	1	2
Shadscale	ATCO	3	6	12	1	2
Greasewood	SAVE4	3	6	12	1	2
Broom snakeweed	GUSA2	3	6	12	1	2
Shortspine horsebrush	TESP2	3	6	12	1	2
Other shrubs	SSSS		18	30	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	750	800
Average Year	550	600
Unfavorable Year	400	450

4. Ground Cover and Structure

a. Vegetative

Vegetation Type	Percent Canopy Cover	Height Range (ft.)	Percent Basal Area Cover
Grasses & Grass-like (perennial)	20	2	5
Forbs (perennial)	5	1	2
Shrubs	40	2	20
Trees			
Cryptogams			

b. Other

Litter	
Coarse Fragments	

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Bare Ground	
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5. Ecological Dynamics of the Site

As ecological condition deteriorates due to overgrazing, winterfat and Indian ricegrass decrease while western wheatgrass increases. Fire is not an important part of this ecosystem. Cheatgrass is 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	45	35	0	0	0	0	0	0
Name	PNC											
ID Number	UT2401											
Description	Excellent Condition											

7. Aspect Differences Near MLRA Boundaries

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

8. Associated Sites Within MLRA

034XY212UT
 Semidesert Loam (Wyoming big sagebrush)

034XY247UT
 Semidesert Stony Loam (Utah juniper-Pinyon)

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 sheep and cattle during fall, winter, and spring.

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 limited cover for wildlife.

b. List of Potential Species Present

Wildlife using this site include jackrabbit, snake, lizard, coyote, and hawk.

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
2. Animals

F. MODAL LOCATION AND DOCUMENTATION

Site Type: Rangeland
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State: Utah County:
 Latitude: Longitude:

Modal Soil: Mikim SiL 2-4% Eroded — fine-loamy, mixed, calcareous, mesic Ustic
 Torriorthents

Type Location: NW ¼, NW ¼, NW ¼; Section 34, Township 12S, Range 22E 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