

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 Very Steep Loam (Shadscale)

SITE NUMBER: 034XY248UT

MLRA: 034

Original Site Description: Author: JLB

Date: 08/25/1985

Revised Site Description: Author: JLB

Date: 01/05/1994

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: 20-40 inches

Surface Textures:

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

Subsurface Textures: Silty Clay Loam

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

Geologic Parent Materials: Colluvium and Residuum from Shale and Sandstone

Moisture Regime:

Temperature Regime:

Runoff: Very Rapid

Permeability(min-max): Moderately Slow to Slow

Drainage Class(min-max): Well Drained

Water Erosion Hazard: Very High

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: 624

Thedalund Family Stony

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 Salina wildrye. The composition by air-dry weight is approximately 55 percent perennial grasses, 10 percent forbs and 35 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		125	137.5	50	55
Indian ricegrass	ACHY	1	2.5	7.5	1	3
Galleta	HIJA	1	2.5	7.5	1	3
Other perennial grasses	PPGG	1	7.5	12.5	3	5
Other annual grasses	AAGG	1	7.5	12.5	3	5

Forbs, %

Common Name	National Symbol	Group	Pounds per Acre		% by Weight of Total Composition	
			Low	High	Low	High
Juniper desert parsley	LOJU	2	2.5	7.5	1	3
Roughseed catseye	CRFL6	2	2.5	7.5	1	3
Sego lily	CANU3	2	2.5	7.5	1	3
Woolly milkvetch	ASMO7	2	2.5	7.5	1	3
Golden princeplume	STPI	2	2.5	7.5	1	3
Shaggy fleabane	ERPU2	2	2.5	7.5	1	3
Indian pipeweed	ERIN4	2	2.5	7.5	1	3
Cushion wild buckwheat	EROV	2	2.5	7.5	1	3
Pacific aster	ASCH2	2	2.5	7.5	1	3
Mountain pepperweed	LEMO2	2	2.5	7.5	1	3
Other perennial forbs	PPFF	2	25	37.5	10	15
Other annual forbs	AAFF	2	25	37.5	10	15

Shrubs/Vines, %

Common Name	National Symbol	Group	Pounds per Acre	% by Weight of Total Composition
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			Low	High	Low	High
Shadscale	ATCO		25	37.5	10	15
Low rabbitbrush	CHVI8		12.5	25	5	10
Castlevally saltbush	ATCU		2.5	12.5	1	5
Broom snakeweed	GUSA2	3	2.5	5	1	2
Torrey jointfir	EPTO	3	2.5	5	1	2
Littleleaf brickellbush	BRMI	3	2.5	5	1	2
Mexican cliffrose	PUME	3	2.5	5	1	2
Mormon tea	EPVI	3	2.5	5	1	2
Rubber rabbitbrush	CHNA2	3	2.5	5	1	2
Granite pricklygilia	LEPU	3	2.5	5	1	2
Pretty wild buckwheat	ERBI	3	2.5	5	1	2
Desert Oregon grape	MAFR3	3	2.5	5	1	2
Bud sagebrush	ARSP5	3	2.5	5	1	2
Shortspine horsebrush	TESP2	3	2.5	5	1	2
Slender wild buckwheat	ERMI4	3	2.5	5	1	2
Plains pricklypear	OPPO	3	2.5	5	1	2
Other shrubs	SSSS	3	7.5	12.5	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	250	300
Average Year	200	250
Unfavorable Year	150	200

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)	30	2	15
Forbs (perennial)	5	1	2
Shrubs	15	2	5
Trees			
Cryptogams			

b. Other

Litter	
Coarse Fragments	
Bare Ground	

5. Ecological Dynamics of the Site

As this site deteriorates due to grazing pressure perennial grasses and palatable forbs and shrubs decrease while unpalatable plants increase. When the potential natural plant community is burned, many valuable forage plants are eliminated while low rabbitbrush and broom snakeweed 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 Growth	0	0	5	15	45	35	0	0	0	0	0	0
Name	PNC											
ID Number	UT2481											
Description	Excellent Condition											

7. Aspect Differences Near MLRA Boundaries

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

8. Associated Sites Within MLRA

034XY251UT
 Semidesert Very Steep Loam (Wyoming big sagebrush)

9. Correlated Sites in Other States

(Give site name and number)

D. MAJOR USES OF THIS SITE

1. Livestock

a. Site Factors Influencing Management

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This site receives very little grazing from livestock because of steep slopes.

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 produces food but limited cover for wildlife.

b. List of Potential Species Present

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

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

Because of steepness of slopes this site has limited potential for recreation.

4. Wood Products

None

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5. Other Uses

E. THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

1. Plants
2. Animals

F. MODAL LOCATION AND DOCUMENTATION

State: Utah County:
 Latitude: Longitude:

Modal Soil: Thedalund Family (Stony) — fine-loamy, mixed (calc.), mesic Ustic Torriorthents

Type Location:

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