

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: Wet Saline Meadow (Inland saltgrass)

SITE NUMBER: 034XY024UT

MLRA: 034

Original Site Description: Author: JLB GWL

Date: 01/13/1992

Revised Site Description: Author: JLB GWL

Date: 11/29/1993

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

Date: 07/25/1994

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:

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

Subsurface Textures: Loam to Clay

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

Geologic Parent Materials: Alluvium from Sedimentary Parent Materials

Moisture Regime:

Temperature Regime:

Runoff:

Permeability(min-max):

Drainage Class(min-max): 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 CaCl<sub>2</sub>):

pH Range:

Available Water Capacity (inches):

Major Soils Associated With This Site:

Soil Survey Area: 047

Turzo SiCl Saline, 0-2%

Libbings SiCl, 0-3%

Saltair SiCl, 0-3%

Ferron SiL, 0-3%

Rafael SiCl, 1-3%

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



## 1. Potential Plant Community Description and Ecological Factors

The dominant aspect of this plant community is inland saltgrass and alkali sacaton. The composition by air-dry weight is approximately 85 percent perennial grasses, 10 percent forbs, and 5 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
Inland saltgrass	DISP		300	450	20	30
Alkali sacaton	SPAI		225	375	15	25
Tufted hairgrass	DECE		150	225	10	15
Alkali bluegrass	POJU		75	150	5	10
Meadow barley	HOBR2	1	15	75	1	5
Redtop	AGST2	1	15	75	1	5
Baltic rush	JUBAM	1	15	75	1	5
Nebraska sedge	CANE2	1	15	75	1	5
Pale spikerush	ELPA3	1	15	75	1	5
Other perennial grasses	PPGG	1	75	150	5	10
Other annual grasses	AAGG	1	75	150	5	10

### Forbs, %

Common Name	National Symbol	Group	Pounds per Acre		% by Weight of Total Composition	
			Low	High	Low	High
Black medic	MELU	2	15	45	1	3
Yellow sweetclover	MEOF	2	15	45	1	3
Curly dock	RUCR	2	15	45	1	3
Silverscale	ATAR2	2	15	45	1	3
Other perennial forbs	PPFF	2	75	150	5	10
Other annual forbs	AAFF	2	75	150	5	10

### Shrubs/Vines, %

Common Name	National Symbol	Group	Pounds per Acre		% by Weight of Total Composition	
			Low	High	Low	High
Fourwing saltbush	ATCA2	3	15	30	1	2
Greasewood	SAVE4	3	15	30	1	2
Rubber rabbitbrush	ERNA10	3	15	30	1	2
Low rabbitbrush	CHVI8	3	15	30	1	2
Skunkbrush sumac	RHTRT	3	15	30	1	2
Other shrubs	SSSS	3	45	75	3	5

### Trees, %

Site Type: Rangeland

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Site Number: 034XY024UT

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	1900	2000
Average Year	1400	1500
Unfavorable Year	900	1000

### **4. Ground Cover and Structure**

a. Vegetative

Vegetation Type	Percent Canopy Cover	Height Range (ft)	Percent Basal Area Cover
Grasses & Grass-like (perennial)	80	1	60
Forbs (perennial)	5	1	2
Shrubs	5	3	2
Trees			
Cryptogams			

b. Other

Litter	
Coarse Fragments	
Bare Ground	

### **5. Ecological Dynamics of the Site**

As ecological condition deteriorates due to over grazing alkali sacaton, tufted hairgrass, and alkali bluegrass decrease, while inland saltgrass will increase. When the potential natural plant community is burned inland saltgrass will increase. Salt cedar and Russian olive 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**

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	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Percent Growth	0	0	5	15	40	20	10	5	5	0	0	0
Name	UT0241											
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**

034XY002UT  
 Alkali Bottom (Alkali sacaton)

034XY026UT  
 Wet Saline Streambank (Coyote willow)

**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 in the winter and spring for cattle and sheep.

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

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This site provides food and limited cover for wildlife.

**b. List of Potential Species Present**

Wildlife using this site include deer, elk, moose, coyotes, rabbit, muskrat, beaver, and many birds including raptors.

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**

Natural beauty exists in the more favorable plant growth condition on this site when compared to adjacent sites. Recreation activities are hiking and hunting.

**4. Wood Products**

None

**5. Other Uses**

**E. THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES**

1. Plants
2. Animals

**F. MODAL LOCATION AND DOCUMENTATION**

State: Utah  
 Latitude:

County:  
 Longitude:

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Modal Soil: Turzo SiCL Saline, 0-2% – fine-loamy, mixed (calcareous), mesic Typic Torriorthents

Type Location: SE ¼; NE ¼; NE ¼; Section 35, Township 3S, Range 1W

General Legal Description:

**Field Office Site Location**

**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	1				
Permanent Transect Location					

**4. Other References**