

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: Upland Sand (Mormontea)

SITE NUMBER: 035XY309UT

MLRA: 035

Original Site Description: Author: DJS

Date: 01/15/1984

Revised Site Description: Author: DJS

Date: 11/01/1993

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: 40-60 inches

Surface Textures:

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

Subsurface Textures: Loamy Fine Sand

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

Geologic Parent Materials: Eolian Deposits from Sandstone

Moisture Regime:

Temperature Regime: Mesic

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 CaCl<sub>2</sub>):

pH Range:

Available Water Capacity (inches):

Major Soils Associated With This Site:

Soil Survey Area: 633

Mido LFS, Moist

**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 general view of this site is grassland and Mormontea. The composition by air-dry weight is approximately 60 percent perennial grasses, 5 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
Sand dropseed	SPCR		200	250	20	25
Indian ricegrass	ACHY		100	150	10	15
Blue grama	BOGR2		50	100	5	10
Needleandthread	HECO26		50	100	5	10
Bottlebrush squirreltail	ELEL5	1	10	30	1	3
Purple threeawn	ARPU9	1	10	30	1	3
Eightflower sixweeks grass	VUOC	1	10	30	1	3
Spike dropseed	SPCO4	1	10	30	1	3
Other perennial grasses	PPGG	1	30	50	3	5
Other annual grasses	AAGG	1	30	50	3	5

Forbs, %

Common Name	National Symbol	Group	Pounds per Acre		% by Weight of Total Composition	
			Low	High	Low	High
Lobeleaf groundsel	SEMU3	2	10	30	1	3
Sand wild buckwheat	ERLE9	2	10	30	1	3
Plateau yellow catseye	CRFL5	2	10	30	1	3
Pacific aster	ASCH2	2	10	30	1	3
Scarlet globemallow	SPCO	2	10	30	1	3
Fendler sandmat	CHFEF	2	10	30	1	3
Tufted evening primrose	PECE2	2	10	30	1	3
Canaigre	RUHY	2	10	30	1	3
Other perennial forbs	PPFF	2	50	100	5	10
Other annual forbs	AAFF	2	50	100	5	10

Shrubs/Vines, %

Common Name	National	Group	Pounds per Acre	% by Weight of
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	Symbol				Total Composition	
			Low	High	Low	High
Mormontea	EPVI		100	150	10	15
Winterfat	KRLA2		50	100	5	10
Fourwing saltbush	ATCA2		50	100	5	10
Basin big sagebrush	ARTRT	3	10	30	1	3
Slender wild buckwheat	ERMI4	3	10	30	1	3
Central pricklypear	OPPO	3	10	30	1	3
Broom snakeweed	GUSA2	3	10	30	1	3
Other shrubs	SSSS	3	30	50	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	1400	1500
Average Year	900	1000
Unfavorable Year	600	700

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

a. Vegetative

Vegetation Type	Percent Canopy Cover	Height Range (ft.)	Percent Basal Area Cover
Grasses & Grass-like (perennial)	40	2	20
Forbs (perennial)	5	1	2
Shrubs	20	3	10
Trees			
Cryptogams			

b. Other

Litter	
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Coarse Fragments	
Bare Ground	

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

As ecological condition deteriorates due to grazing pressure, sand dropseed, Indian ricegrass, blue grama, and needleandthread decrease while snakeweed, basin big sagebrush, pricklypear, and annual grasses and forbs 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	0	10	30	45	5	5	5	0	0	0
Name	PNC											
ID Number	UT3091											
Description	Excellent Condition											

### **7. Aspect Differences Near MLRA Boundaries**

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

### **8. Associated Sites Within MLRA**

035XY306UT  
 Upland Loam (Basin big sagebrush)

035XY312UT  
 Upland Shallow Loam (Black sagebrush)

035XY315UT  
 Upland Shallow Loam (Pinyon-Utah juniper)

### **9. Correlated Sites in Other States**

(Give site name and number)

## **D. MAJOR USES OF THIS SITE**

### **1. Livestock**

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a. Site Factors Influencing Management

This site provides proper grazing for cattle and sheep in late spring, 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

The potential is poor for openland habitat, fair for woodland habitat, very poor for wetland habitat, and fair for rangeland habitat. This site is fair to good for wildlife.

b. List of Potential Species Present

Species that find feed and cover for at least part of the year on this site are deer, antelope, coyote, wildcat, quail, mourning dove, owls, hawks, rabbits, songbirds, and several species of small mammals.

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 fair to good values for aesthetics and natural beauty. Hunting is fair for deer, upland game, and rabbits. Potential is poor to fair for camping and picnicking on the basis of vegetation.

**4. Wood Products**

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None

## 5. Other Uses

### E. THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

1. Plants
2. Animals

### F. MODAL LOCATION AND DOCUMENTATION

State: Utah                      County:  
 Latitude:                        Longitude:

Modal Soil: Mido LFS, Moist — mixed, mesic Ustic Torripsamments

Type Location: See Canyonlands Soil Survey Utah

General Legal Description:

#### Field Office Site Location

Price  
 Cedar City  
 Richfield

#### 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