

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: Desert Salty Silt (Iodinebush)

SITE NUMBER: 028AY132UT

MLRA: 028A

Original Site Description: Author: DJS

Date: 09/01/1987

Revised Site Description: Author: DJS

Date: 05/18/1993

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

Date: 08/30/1993

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): None

Subsurface Textures:

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

Geologic Parent Materials: Lacustrine Sediments from Limestone, Shale, & Quartzite

Moisture Regime:

Temperature Regime:

Runoff:

Permeability(min-max): Slow or Very Slow

Drainage Class(min-max): Very Poorly to 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): 0.5-5

Major Soils Associated With This Site:

Soil Survey Area: 611  
Saltair SiL

**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 the plant community is Iodinebush. The composition by air dry weight is approximately 35 percent perennial grasses, 5 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
Coastal saltgrass	DISP		60	80	30	40
Alkali cordgrass	SPGR	1	2	6	1	3
Torrey rush	JUTO	1	2	6	1	3
Other perennial grasses	PPGG	1	6	10	3	5
Other annual grasses	AAGG	1	6	10	3	5

#### Forbs, %

Common Name	National Symbol	Group	Pounds per Acre		% by Weight of Total Composition	
			Low	High	Low	High
Shrubby seepweed	SUMO	2	6	10	3	5
Sea saltwort	SAMA11	2	6	10	3	5
Clustered goldenweed	PYRAR	2	6	10	3	5
Other perennial forbs	PPFF	2	10	20	5	10
Other annual forbs	A AFF	2	10	20	5	10

#### Shrubs/Vines, %

Common Name	National Symbol	Group	Pounds per Acre		% by Weight of Total Composition	
			Low	High	Low	High
Iodinebush	ALOC2		90	110	45	55
Sickle saltbush	ATFA	3	2	6	1	3
Black greasewood	SAVE4	3	2	6	1	3
Whiteflower rabbitbrush	CHAL9	3	2	6	1	3
Other shrubs	SSSS	3	6	10	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

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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	200	250
Average Year	150	200
Unfavorable Year	50	100

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

##### a. Vegetative

Vegetation Type	Percent Canopy Cover	Height Range (ft)	Percent Basal Area Cover
Grasses & Grass-like (perennial)	15	1	10
Forbs (perennial)	2	1	1
Shrubs	30	1	15
Trees			
Cryptogams			

##### b. Other

Litter	
Coarse Fragments	
Bare Ground	

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

As ecological condition deteriorates due to overgrazing, inland saltgrass decreases while iodinebush increases.

This site lacks the quantity of fuel to carry a fire.

Annual forbs 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**

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Percent Growth	0	0	5	25	50	10	0	0	5	5	0	0
Name	PNC											
ID Number	UT1321											
Description	Excellent Condition											

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

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

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**8. Associated Sites Within MLRA**

028AY004UT  
 Alkali Flat (Greasewood)

028AY119UT  
 Desert Flat (Shadscale)

**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 is suited for sheep and cattle grazing during fall, winter, and spring.

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 lacks food and cover for wildlife.

b. List of Potential Species Present

This site receives minor use by a few species of wildlife.

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**

A recreation use of this site is hiking.

### **4. Wood Products**

None

### **5. Other Uses**

## **E. THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES**

1. Plants

2. Animals

## **F. MODAL LOCATION AND DOCUMENTATION**

State: Utah

County: Box Elder

Latitude:

Longitude:

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 Modal Soils: Saltair SiL – fine-silty, mixed, mesic Typic Salorthids

Type Location: Box Elder, West Soil Survey – South of Terrace Mountain; Section 15,  
 Township 8N, Range 15W.

General Legal Description:

**Field Office Site Location**

Logan  
 Murray  
 Provo  
 Richfield  
 Cedar City

**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	18				
Permanent Transect Location					

**Other References**