

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: Mountain Windswept Ridge (Low sagebrush)

SITE NUMBER: 047CY476UT

MLRA: 047C

Original Site Description: Author: GWL, LLR

Date: 04/22/1992

Revised Site Description: Author:

Date:

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

Date:

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: Clay Loams to Stony Loams

Surface Fragments(<=3" % cover, >3" % cover): 20-70%

Subsurface Textures:

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

Geologic Parent Materials: Residuum, Colluvium and Alluvium from Limestone

Moisture Regime:

Temperature Regime:

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): 0.06-0.10

Major Soils Associated With This Site:

Soil Survey Area: 047

Lap CNV-SiL, 8-25%

Tridell CBX-L, 30-60%

Deltree CBX-SCL, Dry, 4-30%

Shotnick Family CBX-L, 4-30%

Tridell CBX-L, 10-30%

Tridell STX-SL, 30-60%

Deltree CBX-SCL, Dry, 30-60%

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



**1. Potential Plant Community Description and Ecological Factors**

The general view of this site is bluebunch wheatgrass. The composition by air-dry weight is approximately 60 percent perennial grasses, 10 percent forbs, and 30 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
Bluebunch wheatgrass	PSSP6		100	150	20	30
Muttongrass	POFE		50	75	10	15
Prairie junegrass	KOMA		25	50	5	10
Needleandthread	HECO26		15	25	3	5
Bulbous oniongrass	MEBU	1	5	10	1	2
Bottlebrush squirreltail	ELEL5	1	5	10	1	2
Indian ricegrass	ACHY	1	5	10	1	2
Letterman needlegrass	ACLE9	1	5	10	1	2
Western wheatgrass	PASM	1	5	10	1	2
Sandberg bluegrass	POSE	1	5	10	1	2
Other perennial grasses	PPGG	1	15	25	3	5
Other annual grasses	AAGG	1	15	25	3	5

Forbs, %

Common Name	National Symbol	Group	Pounds per Acre		% by Weight of Total Composition	
			Low	High	Low	High
Hooker's balsamroot	BAHO	2	5	15	1	3
Grassy rockgoldenrod	PEPU7	2	5	15	1	3
Common stonecrop	SELA	2	5	15	1	3
Blue flax	LIPE2	2	5	15	1	3
Cushion milkvetch	ASAR3	2	5	15	1	3
Tufted beardtongue	PECA4	2	5	15	1	3
Small leaf pussytoes	ANMI3	2	5	15	1	3
Scarlet globemallow	SPCO	2	5	15	1	3
Hoary tansyaster	MACA2	2	5	15	1	3
Stemless fournerve daisy	TEACA2	2	5	15	1	3
Stemless mock goldenweed	STACA	2	5	15	1	3
Carpet phlox	PHHO	2	5	15	1	3
Matted wild buckwheat	ERCA8	2	5	15	1	3
Other perennial forbs	PPFF	2	25	50	5	10
Other annual forbs	AAFF	2	25	50	5	10

Shrubs, %

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Common Name	National Symbol	Group	Pounds per Acre		% by Weight of Total Composition	
			Low	High	Low	High
Low sagebrush	ARAR8		25	50	5	10
Fringed sagebrush	ARFR4		15	25	3	5
Utah serviceberry	AMUT		15	25	3	5
Spineless horsebrush	TECA4		15	25	3	5
Winterfat	KRLA2		15	25	3	5
Bitterbrush	PUTR2	3	5	15	1	3
Slender wild buckwheat	ERMI4	3	5	15	1	3
Green rubber rabbitbrush	CHNAG2	3	5	15	1	3
Granite pricklygilia	LEPU	3	5	15	1	3
Other shrubs	SSSS	3	15	25	3	5

### **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	600	700
Average Year	400	500
Unfavorable Year	200	300

### **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	15
Forbs (perennial)	5	1	5
Shrubs	20	1	10
Trees			
Cryptogams			

#### b. Other

Litter	
Coarse Fragments	
Bare Ground	

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

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As this site deteriorates due to grazing pressure, bluebunch wheatgrass, muttongrass, prairie junegrass and needleandthread decrease while letterman needlegrass, cushion milkvetch, tufted beardtongue, pussytoes, rock goldenrod, and horsebrush increase. Under sheep grazing bluebunch wheatgrass may increase. Under cattle grazing low sagebrush may 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	5	20	50	5	10	5	5	0	0
Name	PNC											
ID Number	UT4761											
Description	Excellent Condition											

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Percent Growth	0	0	0	0	30	50	0	10	10	0	0	0
Name	Good Condition No.1											
ID Number	UT4762											
Description	needlegrass, bluegrass, low sagebrush											

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

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

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

047CY456UT

Mountain Stony Loam (Antelope bitterbrush)

047CY430UT

Mountain Loam (Mountain 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

This site provides forage 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

This windswept site provides food for a few species of wildlife.

b. List of Potential Species Present

Wildlife using this site include sage grouse, rabbit, coyote, mule deer, and elk.

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 offers color and aesthetic appeal during the growing season.

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#### **4. Wood Products**

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: Lap Family CNV-SiL, 8-25% — loamy-skeletal, carbonatic Lithic Calciborolls

Type Location: NE ¼, SE ¼, SE ¼, Section 30, Township 1S, Range 24E

General Legal Description:

#### **Field Office Site Location**

Roosevelt

#### **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**