

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 (Wyoming big sagebrush)

SITE NUMBER: 034XY251UT

MLRA: 034

Original Site Description: Author: GSC

Date: 08/26/1985

Revised Site Description: Author: GSC

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: Stony Sandy Clay Loam

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:

Permeability(min-max): Moderately Slow to Slow

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 CaCl₂):

pH Range:

Available Water Capacity (inches):

Major Soils Associated With This Site:

Soil Survey Area: 624

The dalund Family Cool

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

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1. Potential Plant Community Description and Ecological Factors

The dominant aspect of the plant community is Salina wildrye and Wyoming big sagebrush. The composition by air-dry weight is approximately 50 percent perennial grasses, 5 percent forbs and 45 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		180	210	30	35
Indian ricegrass	ACHY		6	30	1	5
Galleta	HIJA		6	30	1	5
Bottlebrush squirreltail	ELEL5		6	30	1	5
Needleandthread	HECO26		6	30	1	5
Other perennial grasses	PPGG	1	6	30	1	5
Other annual grasses	AAGG	1	6	30	1	5

Forbs, %

Common Name	National Symbol	Group	Pounds per Acre		% by Weight of Total Composition	
			Low	High	Low	High
Sego lily	CANU3	2	6	18	1	3
African mustard	MAAF	2	6	18	1	3
Tufted milkvetch	ASSP6	2	6	18	1	3
Western sticktight	LAOC3	2	6	18	1	3
Other perennial forbs	PPFF	2	30	60	5	10
Other annual forbs	AAFF	2	30	60	5	10

Shrubs/Vines, %

Site Type: Rangeland

Ecological Site Name: Semidesert Very Steep Loam (Wyoming big sagebrush)

Site Number: 034XY251UT

Common Name	National Symbol	Group	Pounds per Acre		% by Weight of Total Composition	
			Low	High	Low	High
Wyoming big sagebrush	ARTRW		90	120	15	20
Shadscale	ATCO		60	90	10	15
Low rabbitbrush	CHVI8		30	60	5	10
Winterfat	KRLA2		6	18	1	3
Broom snakeweed	GUSA2		6	18	1	3
Gardner saltbush	ATGA	1	6	18	1	3
Rubber rabbitbrush	ERNA10	1	6	18	1	3
Cushion wild buckwheat	EROV	1	6	18	1	3
Torrey jointfir	EPTO	1	6	18	1	3
Bud sagebrush	ARSP5	1	6	18	1	3
Shortspine horsebrush	TESP2	1	6	18	1	3
Spanish bayonet	YUHA	1	6	18	1	3
other shrubs	SSSS	1	30	60	5	10

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	750	800
Average Year	550	600
Unfavorable Year	350	400

4. Ground Cover and Structure

a. Vegetative

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

b. Other

Site Type: Rangeland

Ecological Site Name: Semidesert Very Steep Loam (Wyoming big sagebrush)

Site Number: 034XY251UT

Litter	
Coarse Fragments	
Bare Ground	

5. Ecological Dynamics of the Site

Grazing is of minor importance on this site because of the steepness of slopes. When the potential natural plant community is burned, big sagebrush, shadscale, Indian ricegrass, galleta, and needleandthread decrease while rabbitbrush, snakeweed, and Salina wildrye 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	UT2511											
Description	Excellent Condition											

7. Aspect Differences Near MLRA Boundaries

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

8. Associated Sites Within MLRA

034XY250UT

Semidesert Very Steep Loam (Salina wildrye)

9. Correlated Sites in Other States

(Give site name and number)

D. MAJOR USES OF THIS SITE

1. Livestock

a. Site Factors Influencing Management

Because of steep slopes this site is seldom used by livestock.

b. Guide to Forage Quality(Plant preference by season)

Species	Oct-Nov	Dec-Feb	Mar-May	Jun-Sep

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VG = Very Good G = Good F = Fair P = Poor

2. Wildlife

a. Site Factors Influencing Management

This site provides food and cover for wildlife.

b. List of Potential Species Present

Wildlife using this site include jackrabbit, hawk, coyote, and mule deer.

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 steep slopes this site has very limited recreation potential.

4. Wood Products

Invasion of Utah juniper may produce firewood.

5. Other Uses

E. THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

1. Plants

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 2. Animals

F. MODAL LOCATION AND DOCUMENTATION

State: Utah County:
 Latitude: Longitude:

Modal Soil: Thedalund Family Cool — fine-loamy, mixed calcareous, mesic Ustic Torriorthents

Type Location: Consult the Grand County Soil Survey Report.

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