

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 Shallow Loam (Utah juniper-Pinyon)

SITE NUMBER: 034XY259UT

MLRA: 034

Original Site Description: Author: DJS

Date: 01/05/1994

Revised Site Description: Author:

Date:

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: 6-20 inches

Surface Textures:

Surface Fragments(<=3" % cover, >3" % cover): 60-80%

Subsurface Textures:

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

Geologic Parent Materials: Residuum and Colluvium from Sandstone and Shale

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): 0.05-0.09

Major Soils Associated With This Site:

Soil Survey Area: 047

Atchee CNX-SL 50-70% Svrly Ero

Travessilla FSL Dry 50-80%

**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 dominant aspect of the plant community is Utah juniper and pinyon. The composition by air-dry weight is approximately 30 percent perennial grasses, 5 percent forbs, 65 percent shrubs, and 5 percent trees.

## 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		30	45	10	15
Bluebunch wheatgrass	PSSP6		9	15	3	5
Galleta	HIJA		9	15	3	5
Indian ricegrass	ACHY		9	15	3	5
Needleandthread	HECO26		9	15	3	5
Bottlebrush squirreltail	ELEL5	1	3	9	1	3
Sandberg bluegrass	POSE	1	3	9	1	3
Western wheatgrass	PASM	1	3	9	1	3
Blue grama	BOGR2	1	3	9	1	3
Other perennial grasses	PPGG	1	9	15	3	5
Other annual grasses	AAGG	1	9	15	3	5

Forbs, %

Common Name	National Symbol	Group	Pounds per Acre		% by Weight of Total Composition	
			Low	High	Low	High
Roughseed catseye	CRFL6	2	0	3	0	1
Cushion wild buckwheat	EROV	2	0	3	0	1
Thickleaf beardtongue	PEPA6	2	0	3	0	1
Mountain pepperweed	LEMO2	2	0	3	0	1
Hedge mustard	SIOF	2	0	3	0	1
Scarlet globemallow	SPCO	2	0	3	0	1
Carpet phlox	PHHO	2	0	3	0	1
Grassy rockgoldenrod	PEPU7	2	0	3	0	1
Hooker sandwort	ARHO4	2	0	3	0	1
Tufted milkvetch	ASSP6	2	0	3	0	1
Northwestern Indian paintbrush	CAAN7	2	0	3	0	1
Hairy false goldenaster	HEVI4	2	0	3	0	1
Gumweed tansyaster	MAGR2	2	0	3	0	1
Other perennial forbs	PPFF	2	15	30	5	10
Other annual forbs	AAFF	2	15	30	5	10

Shrubs/Vines, %

Common Name	National Symbol	Group	Pounds per Acre	% by Weight of Total Composition
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			Low	High	Low	High
Black sagebrush	ARNO4	3	45	60	15	20
Birchleaf mountainmahogany	CEMO2	3	15	30	5	10
Mormon tea	EPVI	3	15	30	5	10
Bigelow sagebrush	ARBI3	3	3	15	1	5
Wyoming big sagebrush	ARTRW	3	3	15	1	5
Fourwing saltbush	ATCA2	3	3	15	1	5
Shadscale	ATCO	3	3	15	1	5
Mexican cliffrose	PUME	3	3	15	1	5
Winterfat	KRLA2	3	3	15	1	5
Spiny greasewood	GLSPM	3	3	15	1	5
Broom snakeweed	GUSA2	3	3	15	1	5
Stemless mock goldenweed	STACA	3	3	15	1	5
Central pricklypear	OPPO	3	3	15	1	5
Spanish bayonet	YUHA	3	3	15	1	5
Crispleaf wild buckwheat	ERCO14	3	3	15	1	5
Other shrubs	SSSS	3	30	60	10	20

Trees, %

Common Name	National Symbol	Group	Pounds per Acre		% by Weight of Total Composition	
			Low	High	Low	High
Utah juniper	JUOS		9	15	3	5
Pinyon	PIED		9	15	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	350	400
Average Year	250	300
Unfavorable Year	150	200

### 4. Ground Cover and Structure

a. Vegetative

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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	30	12	15
Cryptogams			

b. Other

Litter	
Coarse Fragments	
Bare Ground	

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

Livestock grazing is of minor importance in altering the composition of the plant community because of steep slopes. When the potential natural plant community is burned Utah juniper, pinyon, and black sagebrush decrease while grasses, rabbitbrush, and annuals 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	UT2591											
Description	Excellent Condition											

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

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

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

034XY251UT

Semidesert Very Steep Loam (Wyoming 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

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This site is used very little by livestock because of steep slopes.

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 produces food and cover for wildlife.

b. List of Potential Species Present

Wildlife using this site include jackrabbit, woodrat, 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

This site has little or no recreation potential because of steep slopes.

## 4. Wood Products

This site produces firewood and posts.

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**5. Other Uses**

**E. THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES**

1. Plants
2. Animals

**F. MODAL LOCATION AND DOCUMENTATION**

State: Utah                      County:  
 Latitude:                        Longitude:

Modal Soil: Atchee CNX-SL 50-70% Severely Eroded — loamy-skeletal, mixed calc., mesic Lithic Ustic Torriorthents

Type Location: SE ¼, NW ¼, SW ¼; Section 11, Township 3S, Range 25E SLBM

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**