

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: 025XY418UT

MLRA: 025

Original Site Description: Author: GBB

Date: 01/15/1985

Revised Site Description: Author: GBB

Date: 02/08/1994

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

Date: 04/25/1994

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: 40-60 inches (variable)

Surface Textures:

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

Subsurface Textures:

Subsurface Fragments(<=3" % vol, >3" % vol): 35-80%

Geologic Parent Materials: Colluvium from Mixed Materials

Moisture Regime:

Temperature Regime:

Runoff: Rapid

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 CaCl₂):

pH Range:

Available Water Capacity (inches): 2-4

Major Soils Associated With This Site:

Soil Survey Area: 601

Broad Canyon Family

Nielson Family

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 low sagebrush and grass. The composition by air-dry weight is approximately 50 percent perennial grasses, 20 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		50	62.5	20	25
Idaho fescue	FEID		25	37.5	10	15
Nevada bluegrass	PONE3		12.5	25	5	10
Bottlebrush squirreltail	ELEL5	1	2.5	7.5	1	3
Prairie junegrass	KOMA	1	2.5	7.5	1	3
Sandberg bluegrass	POSE	1	2.5	7.5	1	3
Other perennial grasses	PPGG	1	7.5	12.5	3	5
Other annual grasses	AAGG	1	7.5	12.5	3	5

Forbs, %

Common Name	National Symbol	Group	Pounds per Acre		% by Weight of Total Composition	
			Low	High	Low	High
Carpet phlox	PHHO		7.5	12.5	3	5
Stemless Mock Goldenweed	STACA		7.5	12.5	3	5
Common stonecrop	SELA	2	2.5	7.5	1	3
Low beardtongue	PEHU	2	2.5	7.5	1	3
Fendler sandwort	ARFE3	2	2.5	7.5	1	3
Torrey milkvetch	ASCA9	2	2.5	7.5	1	3
Longleaf hawksbeard	CRAC2	2	2.5	7.5	1	3
Shaggy fleabane	ERPU2	2	2.5	7.5	1	3
Northwestern Indian paintbrush	CAAN7	2	2.5	7.5	1	3
Fewseed whitlowgrass	DROL	2	2.5	7.5	1	3
Oldmans whiskers	GETR	2	2.5	7.5	1	3
Other perennial forbs	PPFF	2	2.5	7.5	1	3
Other annual forbs	AAFF	2	2.5	7.5	1	3

Shrubs/Vines, %

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Common Name	National Symbol	Group	Pounds per Acre		% by Weight of Total Composition	
			Low	High	Low	High
Low sagebrush	ARAR8		50	62.5	20	25
Low rabbitbrush	CHVI8		7.5	12.5	3	5
Winterfat	KRLA2	3	2.5	7.5	1	3
Mountain big sagebrush	ARTRV	3	2.5	7.5	1	3
Slender wild buckwheat	ERMI4	3	2.5	7.5	1	3
Fringed sagebrush	ARFR4	3	2.5	7.5	1	3
Snowball cactus	PESI	3	2.5	7.5	1	3
Black sagebrush	ARNO4	3	2.5	7.5	1	3
Other shrubs	SSSS	3	7.5	12.5	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	300	350
Average Year	200	250
Unfavorable Year	100	150

4. Ground Cover and Structure

a. Vegetative

Vegetation Type	Percent Canopy Cover	Height Range (ft)	Percent Basal Area Cover
Grasses & Grass-like (perennial)	30	2	15
Forbs (perennial)	10	1	5
Shrubs	20	2	10
Trees			
Cryptogams			

b. Other

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Litter	
Coarse Fragments	
Bare Ground	

5. Ecological Dynamics of the Site

The general view of this site is low sagebrush and grass. The composition by air-dry weight is approximately 50 percent perennial grasses, 20 percent forbs, and 30 percent shrubs.

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	UT4181											
Description	Excellent Condition											

7. Aspect Differences Near MLRA Boundaries

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

8. Associated Sites Within MLRA

025XY412UT

Mountain Gravelly Loam (Mountain Big Sagebrush)

025XY316UT

Upland Shallow Loam (Black 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 proper grazing for cattle and sheep during spring, summer, and fall.

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 limited cover for wildlife.

b. List of Potential Species Present

Wildlife using this site include blacktail jackrabbit, coyote, sage grouse, 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

Hunting and Hiking

4. Wood Products

None

5. Other Uses

E. THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

1. Plants

2. Animals

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F. MODAL LOCATION AND DOCUMENTATION

State: Utah County: Box Elder
 Latitude: Longitude:

Modal Soil: Broad Canyon Family – loamy-skeletal, mixed Typic Cryoborolls

Type Location: SW ¼ SW ¼ Section 5, Township 14N, Range 17W
 SW ¼ NE ¼ Section 26, Township 13N, Range 17W

General Legal Description:

Field Office Site Location

Logan
 Box Elder

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	23				
Permanent Transect Location					

Other References