

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 Shallow Loam (Salina wildrye)

SITE NUMBER: 034XY230UT

MLRA: 034

Original Site Description: Author: GSC

Date: 08/12/1985

Revised Site Description: Author: GSC

Date: 12/30/1993

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: 2-18 inches

Surface Textures:

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

Subsurface Textures: Silt Loam

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

Geologic Parent Materials: Residuum and Alluvium from Shale

Moisture Regime:

Temperature Regime: Mesic

Runoff:

Permeability(min-max): Moderately 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 CaCl<sub>2</sub>):

pH Range:

Available Water Capacity (inches):

Major Soils Associated With This Site:

Soil Survey Area: 624

Sandoval Sil 3-15%

The dalund Family Dry 30-50%

**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 shadscale and Salina wildrye. The composition by air-dry weight is approximately 40-50 percent perennial grasses, 10-15 percent forbs and 40-50 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		75	87.5	30	35
Galleta	HIJA		7.5	12.5	3	5
Indian ricegrass	ACHY	1	2.5	7.5	1	3
Purple threeawn	ARPU9	1	2.5	7.5	1	3
Bottlebrush squirreltail	ELEL5	1	2.5	7.5	1	3
Sandberg bluegrass	POSE	1	2.5	7.5	1	3
Other perennial grasses	PPGG	1	12.5	25	5	10
Other annual grasses	AAGG	1	12.5	25	5	10

Forbs, %

Common Name	National Symbol	Group	Pounds per Acre		% by Weight of Total Composition	
			Low	High	Low	High
Scarlet globemallow	SPCO		2.5	12.5	1	5
Woolly milkvetch	ASMO7	2	2.5	7.5	1	3
Indian pipeweed	ERIN4	2	2.5	7.5	1	3
Pacific aster	ASCH2	2	2.5	7.5	1	3
Northwestern Indian paintbrush	CAAN7	2	2.5	7.5	1	3
Plateau yellow catseye	SRFL5	2	2.5	7.5	1	3
Gumweed tansyaster	MAGR2	2	2.5	7.5	1	3
Wasatch aster	ASWA	2	2.5	7.5	1	3
Other perennial forbs	PPFF	2	12.5	25	5	10
Other annual forbs	AAFF	2	12.5	25	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
Shadscale	ATCO		50	62.5	20	25
Castlevalley saltbush	ATCU		12.5	25	5	10
Broom snakeweed	GUSA2		2.5	12.5	1	5
Torrey jointfir	EPTO	3	2.5	7.5	1	3
Mormon tea	EPVI	3	2.5	7.5	1	3
Cushion wild buckwheat	EROV	3	2.5	7.5	1	3
Winterfat	KRLA2	3	2.5	7.5	1	3
Central pricklypear	OPPO	3	2.5	7.5	1	3
Low rabbitbrush	CHVI8	3	2.5	7.5	1	3
Bud sagebrush	ARSP5	3	2.5	25	1	10
Other shrubs	SSSS	3	12.5	25	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	350	400
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)	20	2	10
Forbs (perennial)	10	1	5
Shrubs	30	1	15
Trees			
Cryptogams			

#### b. Other

Litter	
Coarse Fragments	

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

As ecological condition deteriorates due to overgrazing, Salina wildrye decreases while broom snakeweed increases.

When the potential natural plant community is burned, most of the shrubs decrease while Salina wildrye and rabbitbrush increase.

Cheatgrass is 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	15	45	35	0	0	0	0	0	0
Name	PNC											
ID Number	UT2301											
Description	Excellent Condition											

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

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

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

034XY244UT  
 Semidesert Stony Loam (Salina wildrye)

034XY247UT  
 Semidesert Stony Loam (Utah juniper-Pinyon)

### **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 sheep and cattle 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 provides food and limited cover for wildlife.

b. List of Potential Species Present

Wildlife using this site include jackrabbit, snake, lizard, hawk, and coyote.

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 moderate recreational opportunities and often has scenic vistas.

**4. Wood Products**

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 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: Sandoval SL, 3-15% — loamy, mixed (calc.), mesic, shallow 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**