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: Desert Salt Flat (Sickle saltbush)
SITE NUMBER: 028AY130UT
MLRA: 028A
Original Site Description: Author: DJS Date: 09/01/1987
Revised Site Description: Author: DJS Date: 05/18/1993
Approved by: Title: State Range Cons. Signed: Pat Shaver Date: 08/30/1993

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: >60 inches
Surface Textures: Silt, Loam
Surface Fragments(<=3" % cover, >3" % cover): None
Subsurface Textures:
Subsurface Fragments(<=3" % vol, >3" % vol): None
Geologic Parent Materials: Alluvium & Lake Sediment from Mixed Sedimentary & Igneous Parent Materials
Moisture Regime:
Temperature Regime:
Runoff:
Permeability(min-max): Moderately Slow
Drainage Class(min-max): Moderately to 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 $CaCl_2$):
pH Range:
Available Water Capacity (inches): 3-6

Major Soils Associated With This Site:

Soil Survey Area: 601
Swingler SiL Skumpah SiL
Uvada SiCL Sodic

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

2. PHYSIOGRAPHIC FEATURES

Landform and Position: Low Run-in Valley Bottoms and Playa Lakes, Lake Deltas, Lake Plains, and Floodplains Where Extra Moisture Accumulates
Aspect: All

	Minimum	Maximum
Slope:	0	3
Elevation:	4500	4800

Flooding:
- Frequency:
- Duration:

Ponding:
- Depth (inches):
- Frequency:
- Duration:
- Water Table Depth:

B. CLIMATIC FEATURES

Mean Annual Precipitation (inches): 5-8
Mean Annual Air Temperature: 45-50
Mean Annual Soil Temperature: 49-52
Frost Free Period (days): 0-0
Freeze Free Period (days): 100-160

Temperature and Moisture Distribution:

Temp	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
High	40	46	54	63	73	84	93	90	81	68	52	41
Mean												
Low	15	20	25	33	41	50	58	56	45	34	24	16

ppt	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
High												
Mean	0.42	0.45	0.60	0.65	0.77	0.53	0.52	0.56	0.49	0.57	0.49	0.43
Low												

Climate Stations: St. ID.: Location: Period:
From: To:

(Includes factors such as storm intensity, precipitation dependability, origin and pattern of storms, driest and wettest months, orographic effects, etc.)

Influencing Water Features (if any):

Wetland Description(Cowardin System) System Subsystem Class

Stream Types(Rosgen System) System

C. PLANT COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS

1. Potential Plant Community Description and Ecological Factors

The dominant aspect of the plant community is sickle saltbush. The composition by air-dry weight is approximately 5 percent perennial grasses, 10 percent forbs, and 85 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
Bottlebrush squirreltail	ELEL5		9	15	3	5
Alkali sacaton	SPAI	1	3	9	1	3
Coastal saltgrass	DISP	1	3	9	1	3
Sandberg bluegrass	POSE	1	3	9	1	3
Galleta	HIJA	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
Shrubby seepweed	SUMO	2	9	15	3	5
Western tansymustard	DEPI	2	9	15	3	5
Clasping pepperweed	LEPE2	2	9	15	3	5
Fivehorn smotherweed	BAHY	2	9	15	3	5
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	
			Low	High	Low	High
Sickle saltbush	ATFA		150	180	50	60
Greenmolly	KOAM		45	60	15	20
Shadscale	ATCO	3	9	15	3	5
Iodinebush	ALOC2	3	9	15	3	5
Black greasewood	SAVE4	3	9	15	3	5
Other shrubs	SSSS	3	15	30	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	250	300
Unfavorable Year	50	100

4. Ground Cover and Structure

a. Vegetative

Vegetation Type	Percent Canopy Cover	Height Range (ft)	Percent Basal Area Cover
Grasses & Grass-like (perennial)	2	1	1
Forbs (perennial)	5	1	2
Shrubs	25	1	10
Trees			
Cryptogams			

b. Other

Litter	
Coarse Fragments	
Bare Ground	

5. Ecological Dynamics of the Site

As ecological condition deteriorates due to overgrazing, sickle saltbush, greenmolly, and squirreltail decrease while greasewood and seepweed increase.

This site lacks quantity of fuel to carry a fire.

Annual forbs are 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	25	50	10	0	0	5	5	0	0

Name	PNC
ID Number	UT1301
Description	Excellent Condition

7. Aspect Differences Near MLRA Boundaries

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

8. Associated Sites Within MLRA

028AY004UT
Alkali Flat (Greasewood)

028AY120UT
Alkali Bottom (Alkali sacaton)

028AY119UT
Desert Flat (Shadscale)

028AY140UT
Desert Silt Flat (Winterfat)

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 is suited for sheep and cattle grazing 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 very limited cover for wildlife.

b. List of Potential Species Present

Wildlife using this site include rabbit, coyote, fox, pronghorn antelope, and mule deer (seasonal).

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

Resources that have special aesthetic and landscape value are wildflowers. Some recreation uses of this site are hiking and hunting.

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 Soils: Swinger SiL – fine-silty, mixed (calcareous), mesic Typic Torriorthents

Site Type: Rangeland
Ecological Site Name: Desert Salt Flat (Sickle saltbush)
Site Number: 028AY130UT
Type Location: Warm Springs Soils Survey - Photo 6-3; Box Elder County, Western, Soil Survey - Section 20, Township 10N, Range 14W. Aerial Photo 151-k-5; Section 26, Township 11N, Range 15W. Aerial Photo 134-G-5

General Legal Description:

Field Office Site Location

Logan
Provo
Cedar City
Murray
Richfield

Data Collected and References

Sampling Source	Number of Records	Range Similarity Index			
		> 76%	51-75%	26-50%	0-25%
NRCS - ECS - 417	4				
UTAH - RANGE - 2	28				
Permanent Transect Location					

Other References