

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 Clay Loam (Shadscale)

SITE NUMBER: 028AY126UT

MLRA: 028A

Original Site Description: Author: DJS

Date: 02/01/1987

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: Silty Clay Loam

Surface Fragments(<=3" % cover, >3" % cover): None

Subsurface Textures:

Subsurface Fragments(<=3" % vol, >3" % vol): None

Geologic Parent Materials: Residuum & Alluvium from Lacustrine

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 CaCl₂):

pH Range:

Available Water Capacity (inches):

Major Soils Associated With This Site:

Soil Survey Area: 617

Yuba Family SiCL

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 shadscale. The composition by air dry weight is approximately 10 percent perennial grasses, 15 percent forbs, and 75 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	1	7.5	12.5	3	5
Indian ricegrass	ACHY	1	7.5	12.5	3	5
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	7.5	12.5	3	5
Torrey milkvetch	ASCA9	2	7.5	12.5	3	5
Shrubby seepweed	SUMO	2	7.5	12.5	3	5
Western tansymustard	DEPI	2	7.5	12.5	3	5
Other perennial forbs	PPFF	2	25	37.5	10	15
Other annual forbs	AAFF	2	25	37.5	10	15

Shrubs/Vines, %

Common Name	National Symbol	Group	Pounds per Acre		% by Weight of Total Composition	
			Low	High	Low	High
Shadscale	ATCO		125	150	50	60
Greenmolly	KOAM		12.5	25	5	10
Black greasewood	SAVE4	3	2.5	7.5	1	3
Nuttall horsebrush	TENU2	3	2.5	7.5	1	3
Basin saltbush	ATTR3	3	2.5	7.5	1	3
Other shrubs	SSSS	3	7.5	12.5	3	5

Trees, %

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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)	5	1	2
Forbs (perennial)	5	1	2
Shrubs	30	1	10
Trees			
Cryptogams			

b. Other

Litter	
Coarse Fragments	
Bare Ground	

5. Ecological Dynamics of the Site

As ecological condition deteriorates due to overgrazing, bottlebrush squirreltail and Indian ricegrass decrease while broom snakeweed, horsebrush, and shadscale increase.

The potential natural plant community is normally not subject to fire.

Cheatgrass and 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

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	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	UT1261											
Description	Excellent Condition											

7. Aspect Differences Near MLRA Boundaries

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

8. Associated Sites Within MLRA

028AY119UT
 Desert Flat (Shadscale)

028AY106UT
 Desert Alkali Clay Loam (Alkali sacaton)

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

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This site provides food and 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 Indian ricegrass and scarlet globemallow. Some recreation uses of this site are hiking and picnicking.

4. Wood Products

None

5. Other Uses

E. THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

1. Plants
2. Animals

F. MODAL LOCATION AND DOCUMENTATION

State: Utah
 Latitude:

County:
 Longitude:

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Modal Soils: Yuba Family SiCL – fine, mixed (calcareous), mesic Typic Torriorthents

Type Location: Two Miles West of Little Sahara Sand Dunes in Juab County, Utah
 SW ¼ of SW ¼ of Section 14, Township 13S, Range 6W

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					
UTAH - RANGE - 2	3				
Permanent Transect Location					

Other References