

Developing Ecological Site Keys

Utah has 500 ecological sites within its borders. Keeping track of all of the sites can be difficult, particularly when moving between MLRAs. A commonly used method is creating ecological site keys for each MLRA. Utah utilized NASIS data for each MLRA and ecological site. Each ecological site was separated based on soil or physical characteristics, such as soil depth, slope, and rock content. This methodology for separating ecological sites allows the user to observe physical characteristics before vegetation in the field when identifying ecological sites, thus narrowing the list of ecological sites that best fit the location.