

Climax or Near-Pristine Vegetation

TABLE 23. Rocky Mountain Area, Silty Range Site 20-24" Precipitation Zone

	#19	#28	#026
	Poison Patch Mord Gravelly Loam	Copper Creek Allotment (2 yr. Ave.) Passcreek Silt Loam	*Georgetown Lake Hanson Gravelly Loam
<u>Percent Composition By Weight</u>			
Rough fescue	42	95	55
Idaho fescue	8	2	5
Bluebunch wheatgrass	T		T
Western wheatgrass		T	
Slender wheatgrass	1		1
Columbia needlegrass			T
Richardson needlegrass			8
Timber danthonia	1		1
Purple oniongrass	T		
Mountain brome		T	
Mountain muhly		T	
Prairie junegrass	1	1	T
Threadleaf sedge	T	T	20
Perennial forbs	40	2	10
Annuals & biennials	7	T	T

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TABLE 24. Rocky Mountain Area, Shallow Range Site 15-19" Precipitation Zone

	#03
	*Square Butte (Highwoods) Woodhurst Loam
<u>Percent Composition By Weight</u>	
Rough fescue	85
Idaho fescue	T
Bluebunch wheatgrass	1
Bearded wheatgrass	T
Pumpelly brome	T
Timber danthonia	1
Ticklegrass	T
Prairie junegrass	1
Plains reedgrass	1
Threadleaf sedge	1
Perennial forbs	10
Annual & biennials	T

* Ocular estimates, not clippings



Fig. 1.

Close up view of a typical upland site in near-pristine condition. The dense ground cover produced by the taller growing, high producing grasses makes maximum use of the moisture. A natural mulch accumulates on the surface and lets water soak into the ground quickly. Erosion is controlled and aesthetic values and production are at their maximum.



Figure 2.

A landscape view of a typical silty site 10- to 14-inch precipitation zone in near-pristine condition. Percentage composition by weight is approximately:

Mid grasses	72%
Short grasses and dryland sedges	15%
Perennial forbs	8%
Shrubs	5%

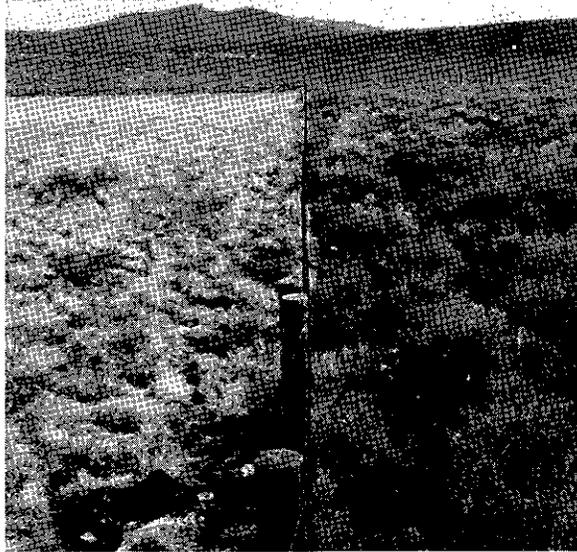


Fig. 3.

Climate and soil do not change at fence lines. Differences in kinds of plants can be attributed to differences in grazing pressure and past management. Near-pristine vegetation to the left of the fence is the result of natural species selection through thousands of years of survival of the fittest.

Years of heavy grazing pressure on range to the right of the fence has resulted in an increase of big sagebrush, short grasses, weedy plants, compacted soil, slow moisture intake, and excessive runoff and erosion.

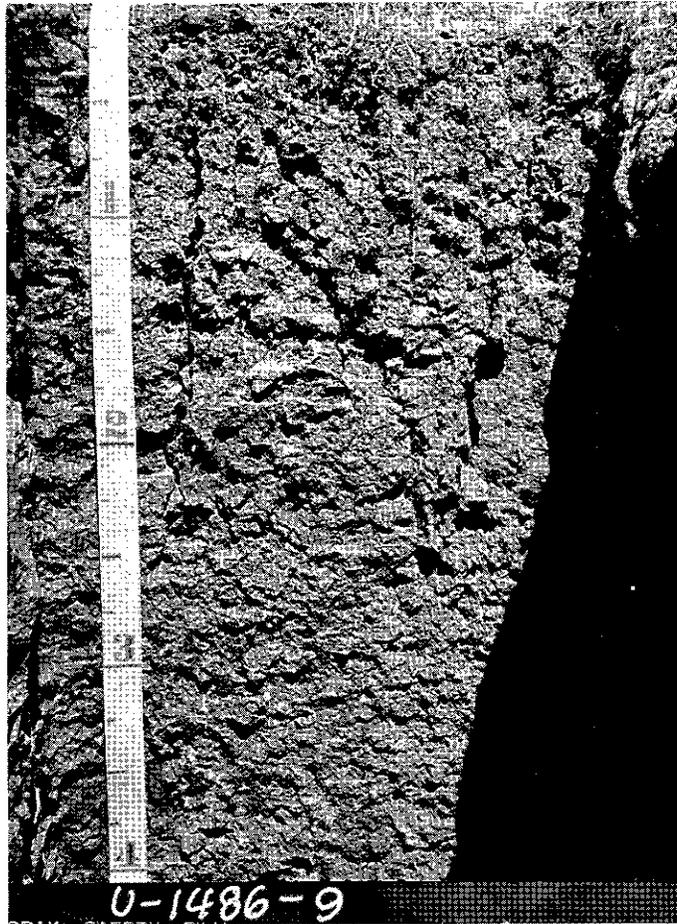


Figure 4.

Soil profile of pendroy clay series (clayey range site) shows depth of moisture holding capacity, root penetration, texture and structure of the soil, rodent and microorganism activity, and other physical features. Soil and vegetation are in equilibrium. Vigorous, healthy, "top" condition range is produced on, develops, and maintains a healthy fertile soil.

Comparison of Near-Pristine Vegetation
 TABLE 25. and Adjacent Grazed Areas. Foothills,
 Silty Range Site 15-19" Precipitation Zone.

	#02 Gold Butte Cemetery	Grazed Area	#44 Remini Turnoff	Grazed Area
Percent Composition By Weight				
Rough fescue	80	5	65	T
Idaho fescue	T		12	15
Western wheatgrass	5	5	1	
Green needlegrass	5		T	T
Threadleaf sedge	T	5		
Needleandthread		50	T	
Prairie junegrass		15		5
Bluebunch wheatgrass			11	20
Cussicks bluegrass	T		2	5
Annuals	T	3	2	10
Perennial forbs	10	15	7	35
Rubber rabbitbrush			T	10
Broom snakeweed		2		

Comparison of Near-Pristine Vegetation and
 TABLE 26. Adjacent Grazed Area. Foothill, clayey
 Range Site 10-14" Precipitation Zone.

	#34 Bearcreek Cemetery	Grazed Area
Percent Composition By Weight		
Bluebunch wheatgrass	70	30
Cussicks bluegrass	5	1
Sandberg bluegrass	1	2
Prairie junegrass	2	15
Threadleaf sedge	2	1
Perennial forbs	7	10
Annuals & biennials	T	5
Big sagebrush	10	30
Phlox		3
Rabbitbrush		1
Broom snakeweed		1
Cactus		1
Winterfat	3	T

TABLE 27. Comparison of Near-Pristine Vegetation and Adjacent Grazed Area. Foothill; Limy Range Site 10-14" Precipitation Zone.

	#32	
	Ft. Harrison Ballpark	Grazed Area
	<u>Percent Composition By Weight</u>	
Bluebunch wheatgrass	49	T
Western wheatgrass	2	T
Prairie junegrass	10	T
Needleandthread	5	10
Sandberg bluegrass	1	15
Blue grama	T	45
Perennial forbs	11	10
Annuals & biennials	T	5
Winterfat	1	
Fringed sagewort	3	
Silver sagebrush	10	10
Grey horsebrush	4	
Broom snakeweed	4	5

TABLE 28. Comparison of Near-Pristine Vegetation and Adjacent Grazed Area. Sedimentary Plains, Sands 10-14" Precipitation Zone.

	#017	
	Creek-DeCock Ranch	Grazed Area
	<u>Percent Composition By Weight</u>	
Needleandthread	50	45
Indian ricegrass	15	
Prairie sandreed	20	5
Blue grama	T	10
Sandberg bluegrass		10
Threadleaf sedge	2	15
Perennial forbs	7	8
Annuals	2	2
Skunkbush sumac	3	
Cactus	T	3
Yucca	1	2

TABLE 29. Comparison of Near-Pristine Vegetation and Adjacent Grazed Area. Sedimentary Plains, Sandy Range Site 10-14" Precipitation Zone

	#2	
	Square Butte West of Laurel	Grazed Area
	Percent Composition By Weight	
Needleandthread	12	T
Bluebunch wheatgrass	29	40
Western wheatgrass	6	5
Blue grama	3	
Prairie junegrass	1	
Sandberg bluegrass	3	
Threadleaf sedge	25	12
Green meedlegrass	T	2
Perennial forbs	4	2
Annuals & biennials		10
Big sagebrush		25
Fringed sagewort	17	4

TABLE 30. Comparison of Near-Pristine Vegetation and Adjacent Grazed Areas. Sedimentary Plains, Silty Range Site 10-14" Precipitation Zone

	#07		#016	
	Musselshell Cemetery	Grazed Area	Wagon Box Cemetery	Grazed Area
	Percent Composition By Weight			
Needleandthread	15	10	25	10
Bluebunch wheatgrass	15	15	5	
Western wheatgrass	5	10	10	15
Green needlegrass	3	T		
Sandberg bluegrass	T		5	10
Blue grama	T	20		5
Prairie junegrass	25	5	5	
Bottlebrush squirreltail			2	
Red threeawn			3	5
Threadleaf sedge	25	30	25	15
Perennial forbs	5	5	5	5
Annuals	T	T	5	10
Skunkbush sumac	T			
Fringed sagewort	2	2		
Big sagebrush			10	25
Silver sagebrush		3		

Comparison of Near-Pristine Vegetation and
 TABLE 31. Adjacent Grazed Areas. Sedimentary Plains,
 Clayey Range Site 10-14" Precipitation Zone

	#37		#014	
	Reno-Benteen Battlefield	Grazed Area	Dry Creek Power Station	Grazed Area
	<u>Percent Composition By Weight</u>			
Bluebunch wheatgrass	25	10	55	15
Western wheatgrass	19	15	15	10
Green needlegrass	4	T	1	
Sandberg bluegrass	T	T	2	5
Blue grama	1	5	T	
Prairie junegrass	10	25	2	5
Red threeawn		T		
Perennial forbs	15	15	12	10
Annuals & biennials	16	10	5	20
Big sagebrush	10	20	8	35
Broom snakeweed		T		

Comparison of Near-Pristine Vegetation and
 TABLE 32. Adjacent Grazed Area. Glaciated Plains, Silty
 Range Site 10-14" Precipitation Zone.

	#04	
	Midale Cemetery	Grazed Area
	<u>Percent Composition By Weight</u>	
Western wheatgrass	30	40
Needleandthread	40	15
Blue grama	T	15
Prairie junegrass	5	5
Threadleaf sedge	5	5
Perennial forbs	7	5
Annuals & biennials	5	5
Silver sagebrush	5	5
Fringed sagewort	3	5

