

# Ecological site R010XB035OR

## JD Shallow North

### 9-12 PZ

Accessed: 08/21/2026

#### General information

**Provisional.** A provisional ecological site description has undergone quality control and quality assurance review. It contains a working state and transition model and enough information to identify the ecological site.

Table 1. Dominant plant species

|            |               |
|------------|---------------|
| Tree       | Not specified |
| Shrub      | Not specified |
| Herbaceous | Not specified |

#### Physiographic features

This site occurs on northerly exposures of low elevation canyon side slopes. Slopes range from 12 to 90%. Elevation varies from 1300 to 3000 feet.

Table 2. Representative physiographic features

|                    |                                         |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Landforms          | (1) Hill<br>(2) Mountain<br>(3) Plateau |
| Flooding frequency | None                                    |
| Ponding frequency  | None                                    |
| Elevation          | 400 – 910 m                             |
| Slope              | 10 – 90 %                               |
| Water table depth  | 180 cm                                  |
| Aspect             | N                                       |

#### Climatic features

Elevation and aspect affect precipitation and the relative effectiveness of the precipitation and temperatures. Temperature changes can occur rapidly. In addition, the topography also results in localized cold air drainages, along with occasional cold air entrapment and inversions in the valleys.

**Table 3 Representative climatic features**

|                               |          |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Frost-free period (average)   | 140 days |
| Freeze-free period (average)  | 180 days |
| Precipitation total (average) | 310 mm   |

## Influencing water features

### Soil features

Soils on this site are typically shallow. The surface is predominantly loamy. These soils are well drained.

**Table 4. Representative soil features**

|                                             |                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Surface texture                             | (1) Cobbly loam<br>(2) Very cobbly coarse sandy loam<br>(3) Very stony loamy coarse sand |
| Family particle size                        | (1) Loamy                                                                                |
| Drainage class                              | Well drained to somewhat excessively drained                                             |
| Permeability class                          | Slow to rapid                                                                            |
| Soil depth                                  | 10 – 50 cm                                                                               |
| Available water capacity<br>(0-101.6cm)     | 0.38 – 4.93 cm                                                                           |
| Calcium carbonate equivalent<br>(0-101.6cm) | Not specified                                                                            |
| Electrical conductivity<br>(0-101.6cm)      | Not specified                                                                            |

|                                          |               |
|------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Sodium adsorption ratio<br>(0-101.6cm)   | Not specified |
| Soil reaction (1:1 water)<br>(0-101.6cm) | 6.6 – 8.4     |

## Ecological dynamics

This site occurs on hills, mountains and plateaus. Grasses with few forbs and shrubs dominate this plant community. Idaho fescue increases on due north steep slopes. Bluebunch wheatgrass increases on east and northwest slopes. Sandberg bluegrass increases as soil depth decreases. The interpretive plant community for this site is the Historic Climax Plant Community (HCPC).

## State and transition model

## Additional community tables

Table 5. Community 1.1 plant community composition

| Group                  | Common Name           | Symbol | Scientific Name                             | Annual Production () | Foliar Cover (%) |
|------------------------|-----------------------|--------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| <b>Grass/Grasslike</b> |                       |        |                                             |                      |                  |
| 1                      |                       |        |                                             | 28-90                |                  |
|                        | Sandberg bluegrass    | POSE   | <i>Poa secunda</i>                          | 18-72                | –                |
| 2                      |                       |        |                                             | 616-1009             |                  |
|                        | bluebunch wheatgrass  | PSSPS  | <i>Pseudoroegneria spicata ssp. spicata</i> | 359-538              | –                |
|                        | Idaho fescue          | FEID   | <i>Festuca idahoensis</i>                   | 269-448              | –                |
|                        | Thurber's needlegrass | ACTH7  | <i>Achnatherum thurberianum</i>             | 9-45                 | –                |
| <b>Forb</b>            |                       |        |                                             |                      |                  |
| 3                      |                       |        |                                             | 28-67                |                  |
|                        | common yarrow         | ACMI2  | <i>Achillea millefolium</i>                 | 9-17                 | –                |
|                        | pussytoes             | ANTEN  | <i>Antennaria</i>                           | 9-17                 | –                |
|                        | milkvetch             | ASTRA  | <i>Astragalus</i>                           | 9-17                 | –                |
|                        | fleabane              | ERIGE2 | <i>Erigeron</i>                             | 9-17                 | –                |
|                        | buckwheat             | ERIOG  | <i>Eriogonum</i>                            | 9-17                 | –                |
|                        | phlox                 | PHLOX  | <i>Phlox</i>                                | 9-17                 | –                |
| <b>Shrub/Vine</b>      |                       |        |                                             |                      |                  |
| 4                      |                       |        |                                             | 28-67                |                  |
|                        | basin big sagebrush   | ARTRT  | <i>Artemisia tridentata ssp. tridentata</i> | 11-22                | –                |
|                        | rubber rabbitbrush    | ERNA10 | <i>Ericameria nauseosa</i>                  | 9-17                 | –                |
|                        | broom snakeweed       | GUSA2  | <i>Gutierrezia sarothrae</i>                | 6-11                 | –                |

Table 6. Community 2.1 plant community composition

| Group                  | Common Name        | Symbol | Scientific Name        | Annual Production () | Foliar Cover (%) |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| <b>Grass/Grasslike</b> |                    |        |                        |                      |                  |
| 1                      |                    |        |                        | 336-426              |                  |
|                        | Sandberg bluegrass | POSE   | <i>Poa secunda</i>     | 224-269              | –                |
|                        | cheatgrass         | BRTE   | <i>Bromus tectorum</i> | 168-202              | –                |

|                   |                      |        |                                             |       |   |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------|---------------------------------------------|-------|---|
| 2                 |                      |        |                                             | 22-56 |   |
|                   | bluebunch wheatgrass | PSSPS  | <i>Pseudoroegneria spicata ssp. spicata</i> | 17-50 | – |
| <b>Forb</b>       |                      |        |                                             |       |   |
| 3                 |                      |        |                                             | 11-56 |   |
| <b>Shrub/Vine</b> |                      |        |                                             |       |   |
| 4                 |                      |        |                                             | 11-45 |   |
|                   | basin big sagebrush  | ARTRT  | <i>Artemisia tridentata ssp. tridentata</i> | 9-17  | – |
|                   | rubber rabbitbrush   | ERNA10 | <i>Ericameria nauseosa</i>                  | 9-17  | – |
|                   | broom snakeweed      | GUSA2  | <i>Gutierrezia sarothrae</i>                | 9-17  | – |

## Animal community

Grazing Livestock- Grazing is suitable for this site as long as management objectives include the improvement or maintenance of this site. It is easy to overuse this site and cause a shift in vegetation this is difficult to change. This site has the potential to produce a large amount of high quality forage. Management should be aimed at harvesting the forage as quickly as possible, letting the site recover from the grazing event prior to fall dormancy. Initial stocking rate will be based on forage preference ratings. Wildlife- The main wildlife species of concern on this site are large herbivores. These are mule deer and elk. These wildlife species can possibly overuse this site before the time cattle or sheep are planned to be grazed. Being an open grassland, this site is home to a variety of small herbivores, birds and their associated predators. This site is mainly a foraging area for the larger wildlife. No threatened or endangered wildlife species rely on this site for any of their habitat requirements.

## Hydrological functions

The site has a high potential in low seral condition to produce significant run-off to receiving waters. The hydrology of this site is characterized by high intensity thunderstorms during the summer months and by low intensity frontal storms during the winter.

## Recreational uses

None

## Wood products

No wood products are associated with this site.

## Other information

Increase in western juniper and the subsequent competition for moisture will lead to a reduction of available forage. Overgrazing can easily reduce ground cover and accelerate soil loss. Improving infiltration and permeability, and reducing runoff should be the immediate goal of juniper control.

## Type locality

|                              |                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Location 1: Grant County, OR |                                                                                                                 |
| Township/Range/Section       | TT12 S RR26 E S18                                                                                               |
| General legal description    | SE 1/4 Sec. 18 T12 S R26 E WM. South of Hwy 26 Sheep Rock Unit, Joh Day Fossil Beds National Monument (90% SI). |

## Contributors

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## Rangeland health reference sheet

**Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health** is a qualitative assessment protocol used to determine ecosystem condition based on benchmark characteristics described in the Reference Sheet. A suite of 17 (or more) indicators are typically considered in an assessment. The ecological site(s) representative of an assessment location must be known prior to applying the protocol and must be verified based on soils and climate. Current plant community cannot be used to identify the ecological site.

|                                             |                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Author(s)/participant(s)                    | Jeff Repp and Bruce Frannsen                            |
| Contact for lead author                     | State Rangeland Management Specialist for NRCS - Oregon |
| Date                                        | 08/06/2012                                              |
| Approved by                                 |                                                         |
| Approval date                               |                                                         |
| Composition (Indicators 10 and 12) based on | Annual Production                                       |

## Indicators

1. Number and extent of rills: None to some on steeper slopes, significant sheet & rill erosion hazard

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2. Presence of water flow patterns: None

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3. Number and height of erosional pedestals or terracettes: None to some on steeper slopes, significant sheet & rill erosion hazard

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4. Bare ground from Ecological Site Description or other studies (rock, litter, lichen, moss, plant canopy are not bare ground): 5-15%

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5. Number of gullies and erosion associated with gullies: None

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6. Extent of wind scoured, blowouts and/or depositional areas: None, moderate wind erosion hazard

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7. Amount of litter movement (describe size and distance expected to travel): Fine - limited movement

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8. Soil surface (top few mm) resistance to erosion (stability values are averages - most sites will show a range of values):  
Slightly to moderately resistant to erosion: aggregate stability = 2-5

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9. Soil surface structure and SOM content (include type of structure and A-horizon color and thickness): Shallow to very shallow  
cobbly loamy coarse sand, very cobbly coarse sandy loam, very stony or very cobbly loams: low OM (1-2%)

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10. Effect of community phase composition (relative proportion of different functional groups) and spatial distribution on  
infiltration and runoff: Moderate to significant ground cover (60-70%) and gentle to extremely steep slopes (12-90%) moderately limit  
rainfall impact and overland flow

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11. Presence and thickness of compaction layer (usually none; describe soil profile features which may be mistaken for  
compaction on this site): None

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12. Functional/Structural Groups (list in order of descending dominance by above-ground annual-production or live foliar  
cover using symbols: >>, >, = to indicate much greater than, greater than, and equal to):

Dominant: Bluebunch wheatgrass > Idaho fescue > other grasses > Basin big sagebrush > forbs > other shrubs

Sub-dominant:

Other:

Additional:

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13. Amount of plant mortality and decadence (include which functional groups are expected to show mortality or decadence):  
Normal decadence and mortality expected

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14. Average percent litter cover (%) and depth ( in):

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15. Expected annual annual-production (this is TOTAL above-ground annual-production, not just forage annual-production):  
Favorable: 1000, Normal: 800, Unfavorable: 600 lbs/acre/year at high RSI (HCPC)

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16. Potential invasive (including noxious) species (native and non-native). List species which BOTH characterize degraded  
states and have the potential to become a dominant or co-dominant species on the ecological site if their future  
establishment and growth is not actively controlled by management interventions. Species that become dominant for only  
one to several years (e.g., short-term response to drought or wildfire) are not invasive plants. Note that unlike other

indicators, we are describing what is NOT expected in the reference state for the ecological site: Cheatgrass and Medusahead invade sites that have lost deep rooted perennial grass functional groups.

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17. **Perennial plant reproductive capability:** All species should be capable of reproducing annually

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