

Ecological site R010XC018OR

SR Adobeland

9-12 PZ

Last updated: 5/13/2025
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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.

Associated sites

R010XC021OR	SR Clayey 9-12 PZ SR Clayey 9-12" PZ
R010XC043OR	SR South 9-12 PZ SR Clayey South 9-12" PZ

Table 1. Dominant plant species

Tree	Not specified
Shrub	(1) <i>Artemisia tridentata</i> ssp. <i>tridentata</i>
Herbaceous	(1) <i>Leymus cinereus</i> (2) <i>Pseudoroegneria spicata</i> ssp. <i>spicata</i>

Physiographic features

This site occurs in ancient lacustrine sediments on low terraces and rolling hills. Slopes range from 0 to 12 percent. Elevations range from 2000 to 4000 feet.

Table 2. Representative physiographic features

Landforms	(1) Terrace (2) Hill
Elevation	610 – 1,220 m
Slope	0 – 10 %

Water table depth	150 cm
Aspect	Aspect is not a significant factor

Climatic features

The annual precipitation ranges from 9 to 12 inches, most of which occurs in the form of snow during the months of December through March. Localized, occasionally severe, convectional storms occur during the summer. The soil temperature regime is mesic with a mean annual air temperature of 52 degrees F. Temperature extremes range from 100 to -10 degrees F. The frost-free period ranges from 110 to 140 days. The optimum period for plant growth is from April through June.

Table 3 Representative climatic features

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

Influencing water features

Soil features

The soils of this site are typically deep clays over lacustrine sediments or bedrock. They are generally well-drained. Typically both the surface and subsoil are clays with high shrink well potentials. Soil churning is prevalent. Depth to bedrock is usually greater than 60 inches. Permeability is very slow. The available water holding capacity is about 6 to 8 inches for the profile. The potential for erosion is moderate to severe.

Table 4. Representative soil features

Surface texture	(1) Clay
Family particle size	(1) Clayey
Drainage class	Well drained
Permeability class	Very slow
Soil depth	150 cm
Available water capacity (0-101.6cm)	15.24 – 20.32 cm

Ecological dynamics

Response to Disturbance:

If the condition of the site deteriorates as a result of overgrazing, basin wildrye and bluebunch wheatgrass decrease. Both of these grasses are preferred species during the spring. Bareground increases and annual grasses and forbs such as China lettuce invade. Under deteriorated conditions, excessive erosion in the bare soil interspaces reduces the site productivity and contributes to downstream sedimentation.

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 (%)
Grass/Grasslike					
1	Perennial, deep-rooted, dominant			1009-1345	
	basin wildrye	LECI4	<i>Leymus cinereus</i>	1009-1345	–
2	Perennial, deep-rooted, sub-dominant			185-538	
	bluebunch wheatgrass	PSSP6	<i>Pseudoroegneria spicata</i>	168-504	–
	squirreltail	ELEL5	<i>Elymus elymoides</i>	17-34	–
5	Other perennial grasses, all			17-34	
	bluegrass	POA	<i>Poa</i>	0-17	–
	Sandberg bluegrass	POSE	<i>Poa secunda</i>	0-17	–
Forb					
9	Other perennial forbs, all			17-34	
10	Other annual forbs, all			17-34	
Shrub/Vine					
11	Perennial, evergreen, dominant			34-84	
	basin big sagebrush	ARTRT	<i>Artemisia tridentata ssp. tridentata</i>	34-84	–

Animal community

Livestock Grazing: This site is suited to use by cattle, sheep, and horses during most seasons under a planned grazing system. Limitations are associated with the churning nature of the soil during the late winter and early spring. Care should be taken to avoid trampling damage and soil compaction when the soils are wet. Native Wildlife Associated with the Potential Climax Community: Mule deer Antelope Hawks Rodents This site offers food and cover for mule deer, antelope, rodents, and a variety of birds.

Hydrological functions

The soils are in hydrologic group D. The soils of this site have high runoff potential.

Contributors

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Approval

Kirt Walstad, 5/13/2025

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
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Date	08/07/2012
Approved by	
Approval date	
Composition (Indicators 10 and 12) based on	Annual Production

Indicators

1. Number and extent of rills: None, moderate to severe sheet & rill erosion hazard

2. Presence of water flow patterns: None to some - soil churning is prevalent

3. Number and height of erosional pedestals or terracettes: None to some - soil churning is prevalent

4. Bare ground from Ecological Site Description or other studies (rock, litter, lichen, moss, plant canopy are not bare ground): 10-25%

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

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

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

8. Soil surface (top few mm) resistance to erosion (stability values are averages - most sites will show a range of values):
Significantly resistant to erosion: aggregate stability = 4-6

9. Soil surface structure and SOM content (include type of structure and A-horizon color and thickness): Deep, well drained
clays with high shrink-swell potential: moderate OM (2-4%)

10. Effect of community phase composition (relative proportion of different functional groups) and spatial distribution on
infiltration and runoff: Moderate ground cover (40-60%) and gentle slopes (2-12%) effectively limit rainfall impact and overland flow

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

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: Basin wildrye > Bluebunch wheatgrass > shrubs > other grasses > forbs

Sub-dominant:

Other:

Additional:

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

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

15. Expected annual annual-production (this is TOTAL above-ground annual-production, not just forage annual-production):
Favorable: 1800, Normal: 1500, Unfavorable: 1000 lbs/acre/year at high RSI (HCPC)

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: Perennial brush species will
increase with deterioration of plant community. Cheatgrass and Medusahead invade sites that have lost deep rooted perennial grass
functional groups.

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