

# Ecological site R023XY210OR

## PUMICE

### 10-12 PZ

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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

<b>R023XY221OR</b>	<p><b>GRAVELLY TERRACE 10-12 PZ</b></p> <p>Gravelly Terrace 10-12" PZ</p>
<b>R023XY508OR</b>	<p><b>PUMICE FLAT 10-12 PZ</b></p> <p>Pumice Flat 10-12" PZ</p>
<b>R023XY514OR</b>	<p><b>Pumice 8-10 PZ</b></p> <p>Pumice 8-10" PZ</p>

#### Similar sites

<b>R023XY508OR</b>	<p><b>PUMICE FLAT 10-12 PZ</b></p> <p>Pumice Flat 10-12" PZ</p>
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**Table 1. Dominant plant species**

Tree	Not specified
Shrub	Not specified
Herbaceous	Not specified

#### Physiographic features

This site occurs on nearly level to gently sloping basin and low ridges. Slopes range from 0 to 20 percent. Elevations range from 4300 to 5000 feet.

**Table 2. Representative physiographic features**

Landforms	(1) Ridge
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Elevation	1,310 – 1,520 m
Slope	0 – 20 %
Water table depth	150 cm
Aspect	Aspect is not a significant factor

### Climatic features

The annual precipitation ranges from 10 to 12 inches. This occurs mainly between the months of November and June, mostly in the form of snow and spring-fall rains. The soil temperature regime is frigid. The average annual air temperature is 43 degrees F with extreme temperatures ranging from -30 to 103 degrees F. The frost free period is 50 to 90 days. The optimum period for plant growth is from mid-April through July.

Table 3 Representative climatic features

Frost-free period (average)	90 days
Freeze-free period (average)	0 days
Precipitation total (average)	310 mm

### Influencing water features

#### Soil features

The soils of this site are very deep pumice sand and are excessively drained. They are generally underlain with mixed sand and gravel and often contain weakly cemented pans. Permeability is moderately rapid and the available water holding capacity (AWC) is 7 to 10 inches for the profile. The potential for water erosion is low and for wind erosion is high.

Table 4. Representative soil features

Surface texture	(1) Gravelly sand
Family particle size	(1) Sandy
Drainage class	Excessively drained
Permeability class	Moderately rapid
Available water capacity (0-101.6cm)	17.78 – 25.4 cm

## Ecological dynamics

Range in Characteristics:

Western needlegrass is more abundant where there is more coarse textured and/or gravelly pumice material.

Response to Disturbance:

Burning will temporarily reduce both big sagebrush and bitterbrush while encouraging rabbitbrush. Composition changes from overgrazing, are generally a decline in Idaho fescue and an increase in needlegrass.

## 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	<b>Perennial, deep-rooted, dominant</b>			404-605	
	Idaho fescue	FEID	<i>Festuca idahoensis</i>	404-605	–
2	<b>Perennial, deep-rooted, sub-dominant</b>			151-323	
	western needlegrass	ACOC3	<i>Achnatherum occidentale</i>	101-202	–
	Thurber's needlegrass	ACTH7	<i>Achnatherum thurberianum</i>	20-50	–
	Ross' sedge	CARO5	<i>Carex rossii</i>	20-50	–
	Indian ricegrass	ACHY	<i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i>	10-20	–
4	<b>Perennial, shallow-rooted, sub-dominant</b>			10-20	
	prairie Junegrass	KOMA	<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	10-20	–
5	<b>Other perennial grasses, all</b>			10-20	
	squirreltail	ELEL5	<i>Elymus elymoides</i>	0-10	–
	Sandberg bluegrass	POSE	<i>Poa secunda</i>	0-10	–
<b>Forb</b>					
7	<b>Perennial, all, dominant</b>			40-81	
	common yarrow	ACMI2	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	10-20	–
	buckwheat	ERIOG	<i>Eriogonum</i>	10-20	–
	desertparsley	LOMAT	<i>Lomatium</i>	10-20	–
	lupine	LUPIN	<i>Lupinus</i>	10-20	–
9	<b>Other perennial forbs, all</b>			10-20	
	pussytoes	ANTEN	<i>Antennaria</i>	0-4	–
	Douglas' dustymaiden	CHDO	<i>Chaenactis douglasii</i>	0-4	–
	common starlily	LEMO4	<i>Leucocrinum montanum</i>	0-4	–
	phacelia	PHACE	<i>Phacelia</i>	0-4	–
	phlox	PHLOX	<i>Phlox</i>	0-4	–
<b>Shrub/Vine</b>					
11	<b>Perennial, evergreen, dominant</b>			202-303	
	antelope bitterbrush	PUTR2	<i>Purshia tridentata</i>	151-202	–
	mountain big sagebrush	ARTRV	<i>Artemisia tridentata ssp. vaseyana</i>	50-101	–
15	<b>Other perennial shrubs, all</b>			10-30	
	yellow rabbitbrush	CHVI8	<i>Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus</i>	0-8	–
	slender buckwheat	ERMI4	<i>Eriogonum microthecum</i>	0-8	–

### Animal community

Livestock Grazing: Water is not usually available on-site. Fall-winter grazing may create a conflict with deer over the use of bitterbrush. Native Wildlife Associated with the Potential Climax Community: Deer Antelope Rabbits Deer are important users of bitterbrush for browse.

### Hydrological functions

The soils of this site have rapid infiltration rates and low runoff potential. The hydrologic soil group is C.

### Other information

Adapted species for seedings include crested wheatgrass, Siberian wheatgrass, thickspike wheatgrass, and sheep fescue.

### Contributors

Gene Hickman  
M. Parks (OSU)

### 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
Contact for lead author	Oregon NRCS State Rangeland Management Specialist
Date	08/15/2012
Approved by	
Approval date	
Composition (Indicators 10 and 12) based on	Annual Production

### Indicators

1. Number and extent of rills: None, Moderate 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

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4. Bare ground from Ecological Site Description or other studies (rock, litter, lichen, moss, plant canopy are not bare ground):  
0-5%

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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 to some, High 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 resistant to erosion: aggregate stability = 1-3

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9. Soil surface structure and SOM content (include type of structure and A-horizon color and thickness): Very deep excessively  
drained pumice sands: Low OM (0-2%)

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10. Effect of community phase composition (relative proportion of different functional groups) and spatial distribution on  
infiltration and runoff: Significant ground cover (70-80%) and gentle to moderate slopes (0-20%) effectively limit rainfall 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: Idaho fescue > Western needlegrass > Antelope bitterbrush > other grasses = other shrubs > forbs

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: 1100, Normal: 900, Unfavorable: 700 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: Perennial brush species will increase with deterioration of plant community. 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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