

# Ecological site R010XB041OR

## JD Clayey South 9-12 PZ

Last updated: 12/13/2023  
 Accessed: 04/24/2024

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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.

### MLRA notes

Major Land Resource Area (MLRA): 010X–Central Rocky and Blue Mountain Foothills

This MLRA is characterized by gently rolling to steep hills, plateaus, and low mountains at the foothills of the Blue Mountains in Oregon and the Central Rocky Mountains in Idaho. The geology of this area is highly varied and ranges from Holocene volcanics to Cretaceous sedimentary rocks. Mollisols are the dominant soil order and the soil climate is typified by mesic or frigid soil temperature regimes, and xeric or aridic soil moisture regimes. Elevation ranges from 1,300 to 6,600 feet (395 to 2,010 meters), increasing from west to east. The climate is characterized by dry summers and snow dominated winters with precipitation averaging 8 to 16 inches (205 to 405 millimeters) and increasing from west to east. These factors support plant communities with shrub-grass associations with considerable acreage of sagebrush grassland. Big sagebrush, bluebunch wheatgrass, and Idaho fescue are the dominant species. Stiff sagebrush, low sagebrush, and Sandberg bluegrass are often dominant on sites with shallow restrictive layers. Western juniper is one of the few common tree species and since European settlement has greatly expanded its extent in Oregon. Nearly half of the MLRA is federally owned and managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Most of the area is used for livestock grazing with areas accessible by irrigation often used for irrigated agriculture.

### Ecological site concept

In reference condition, this ecological site supports a plant community dominated by bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*). Thurber's needlegrass (*Achnatherum thurberianum*) is also common. Abiotically, this site is characterized by moderately deep to deep clayey soils with significant cobbles and stones present. This site receives low precipitation and generally occupies droughty, southerly aspects, lowering plant community resilience to disturbance. The soil climate is Mesic/Aridic. Historically, plant community dynamics were driven primarily by disturbances such as fire and drought. Presently, reference conditions are less common and current dynamics are influenced by the spread of invasive species, proliferation of western juniper (*Juniperus occidentalis*), livestock grazing pressures and fire suppression.

### Associated sites

R010XB051OR	<b>JD Shallow South 9-12 PZ</b> Adjacent south aspects with shallower soils
R010XB019OR	<b>JD Gumbo 9-12 PZ</b> Adjacent low slope site

### Similar sites

R010XB051OR	<b>JD Shallow South 9-12 PZ</b> Shallower soil, lower production
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**Table 1. Dominant plant species**

Tree	Not specified
Shrub	Not specified
Herbaceous	(1) <i>Pseudoroegneria spicata</i> ssp. <i>spicata</i> (2) <i>Achnatherum thurberianum</i>

## Physiographic features

This site occurs on southerly exposures of low elevation terraces and tablelands. Slopes range from 12 to 70 percent. Elevation varies from 1,300 to 3,000 feet (400 to 900 meters). This site is not subject to ponding or flooding and no water table is present within the soil profile.

**Table 2. Representative physiographic features**

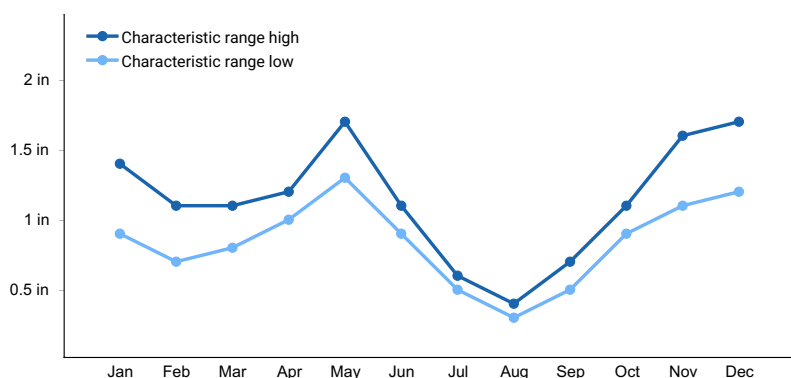
Landforms	(1) Tableland > Terrace
Flooding frequency	None
Ponding frequency	None
Elevation	1,300–3,000 ft
Slope	12–70%
Aspect	E, SE, S, SW

## Climatic features

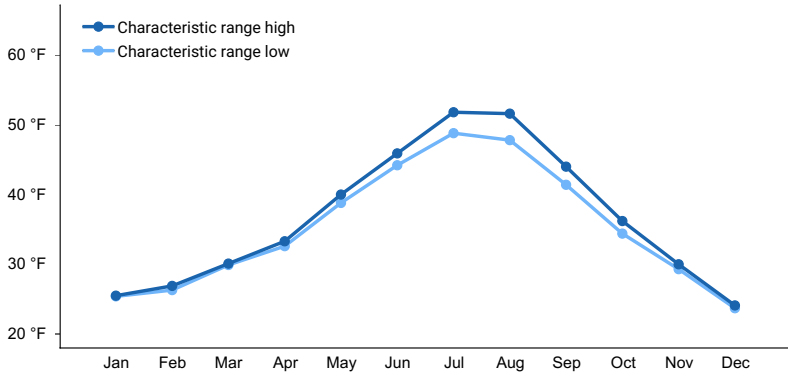
The annual precipitation ranges from 9 to 12 inches (225 to 300mm), most of which occurs in the form of rain during the months of November through April. Localized, occasionally severe, convectional storms occur during the summer. The soil temperature regime is mesic with a mean annual air temperature of 54° F. Temperature extremes range from 105 to -10° F. The frost-free period ranges from 130 to 180 days. The optimum period for plant growth is from April through June. The graphs below are populated from the closest available weather station to representative site locations and are provided to indicate general climate patterns.

**Table 3. Representative climatic features**

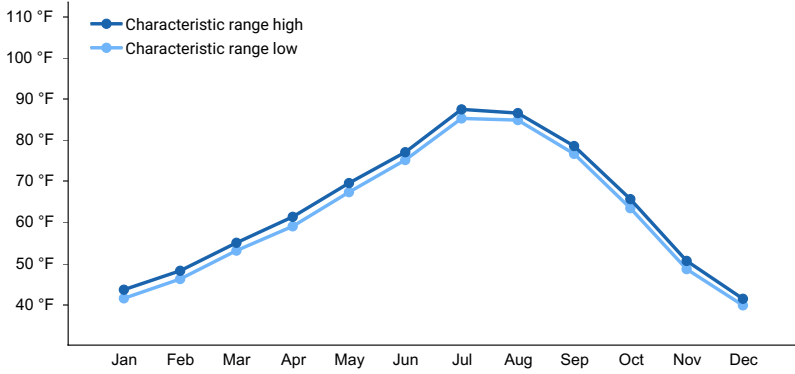
Frost-free period (characteristic range)	130-180 days
Freeze-free period (characteristic range)	
Precipitation total (characteristic range)	9-12 in
Frost-free period (average)	155 days
Freeze-free period (average)	
Precipitation total (average)	11 in



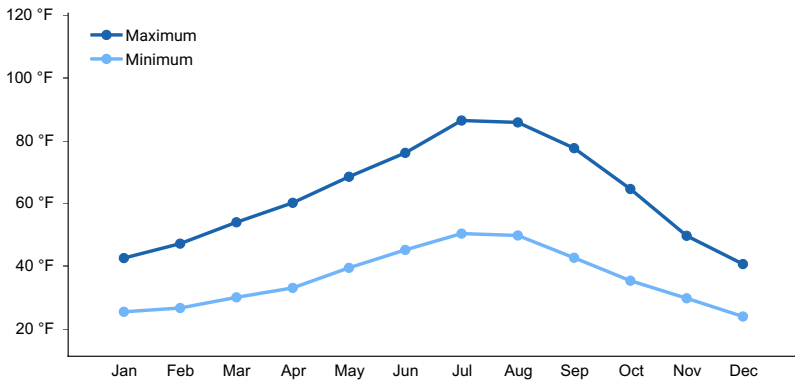
**Figure 1. Monthly precipitation range**



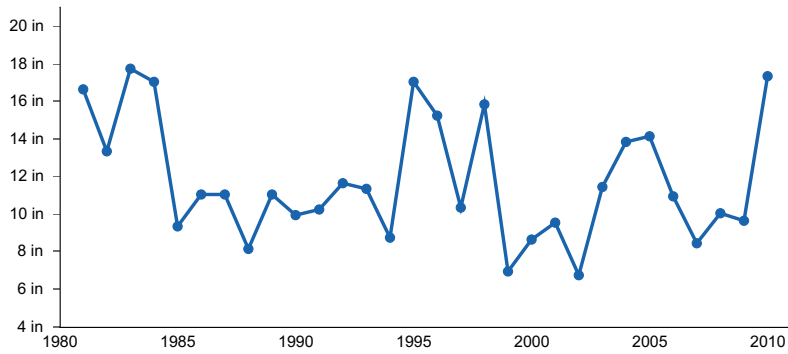
**Figure 2. Monthly minimum temperature range**



**Figure 3. Monthly maximum temperature range**



**Figure 4. Monthly average minimum and maximum temperature**



**Figure 5. Annual precipitation pattern**

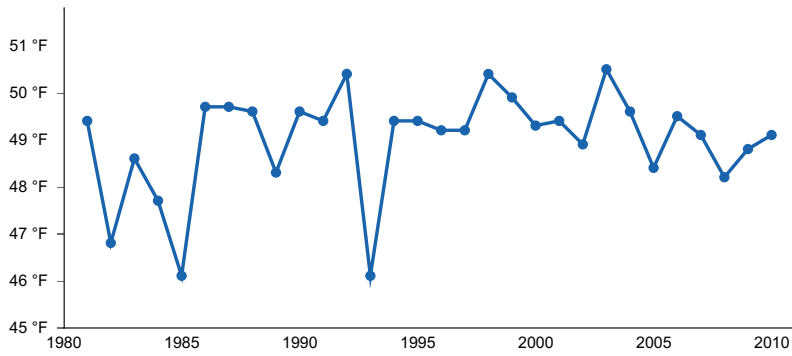


Figure 6. Annual average temperature pattern

### Climate stations used

- (1) MITCHELL 2 NW [USC00355641], Mitchell, OR
- (2) ANTELOPE 6 SSW [USC00350197], Antelope, OR
- (3) PRINEVILLE [USC00356883], Prineville, OR

### Influencing water features

This site is not influenced by water from a wetland or stream.

### Wetland description

N/A

### Soil features

The soils of this site are typically moderately deep to deep and moderately well drained. Typically the surface layer is a stony clay loam or very stony loam about 5 inches thick. the subsoil is a cobbly clay loam about 20 inches thick. Depth to bedrock or sediments is 30 to 60 inches. permeability is slow. The potential for erosion is moderate to severe.

Table 4. Representative soil features

Parent material	(1) Colluvium–volcanic rock (2) Residuum–volcanic rock
Surface texture	(1) Cobbly clay loam (2) Very stony loam
Family particle size	(1) Fine (2) Clayey-skeletal
Drainage class	Moderately well drained
Permeability class	Slow
Depth to restrictive layer	2–12 in
Soil depth	30–60 in
Surface fragment cover <=3"	0–45%
Surface fragment cover >3"	0–45%
Available water capacity (0-40in)	2–7 in
Soil reaction (1:1 water) (0-40in)	6.6–9
Subsurface fragment volume <=3" (4-40in)	10–35%

Subsurface fragment volume >3" (4-40in)	5-40%
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## Ecological dynamics

The reference plant community is dominated by bluebunch wheatgrass. Needlegrasses are common in the stand. With an increase in coarse fragments in the soil or with coarse surface textures, there is an increase in the proportion of needlegrasses. Western juniper may increase in the absence of fire, particularly at the upper end of the precipitation range.

### Ecological Dynamics:

Disturbance outside the normal range of variability may cause a decrease in bluebunch wheatgrass, the preferred perennial bunchgrass on this site. As bluebunch wheatgrass declines, Sandberg's bluegrass increases along with shrub/tree species such as sagebrush and juniper. The potential for cheatgrass invasion is increased as the site deteriorates (State 1). The Juniper Shrub Steppe and Sagebrush Dominant phases within State 1 are recognized as the "at risk" plant communities. Phases are included in the model diagram image.

Multiple pathways of change from State 1 Juniper Shrub Steppe phase exist. If fire is suppressed juniper will continue to expand and out-compete both the bunchgrass and sagebrush understory. When fine fuels are reduced to the point where fire no longer will carry, the site has crossed a threshold and transitioned to State 3 with no way for restoration; Juniper Shrub Steppe phase (fireproof). Cheatgrass can invade these ecological sites and with inappropriate grazing will likely be found under the juniper canopy. The Juniper Shrub Steppe phase within State 3 has the potential to transition to State 4 with a canopy fire. Maturation of the juniper community within State 3 leads to a juniper woodland with no more than a trace amount of sagebrush and deep-rooted perennial bunchgrasses. Juniper controls nutrient cycling, energy capture and water use (State 3 Juniper Woodland phase). The potential for soil erosion increases as the juniper woodland matures and the understory plant community cover declines. The risk of an irreversible transition over an abiotic threshold to the Juniper Woodland erosional phase of State 6 increases with increasing slope and increasing bare ground.

With no fire, overgrazing and/or severe drought within State 1 Juniper Shrub Steppe phase the perennial bunchgrasses will continue to decline while cheatgrass abundance increases and sagebrush matures further facilitating the decline in bunchgrass. This feedback continues until sagebrush and cheatgrass control stand dynamics (State 2). Fire within this community can trigger an irreversible transition to State 4. The potential for soil erosion increases as the sagebrush community matures and the understory plant community cover declines. The risk of an irreversible transition over an abiotic threshold to the erosional phase of State 6 increases with increasing slope and increasing bare ground.

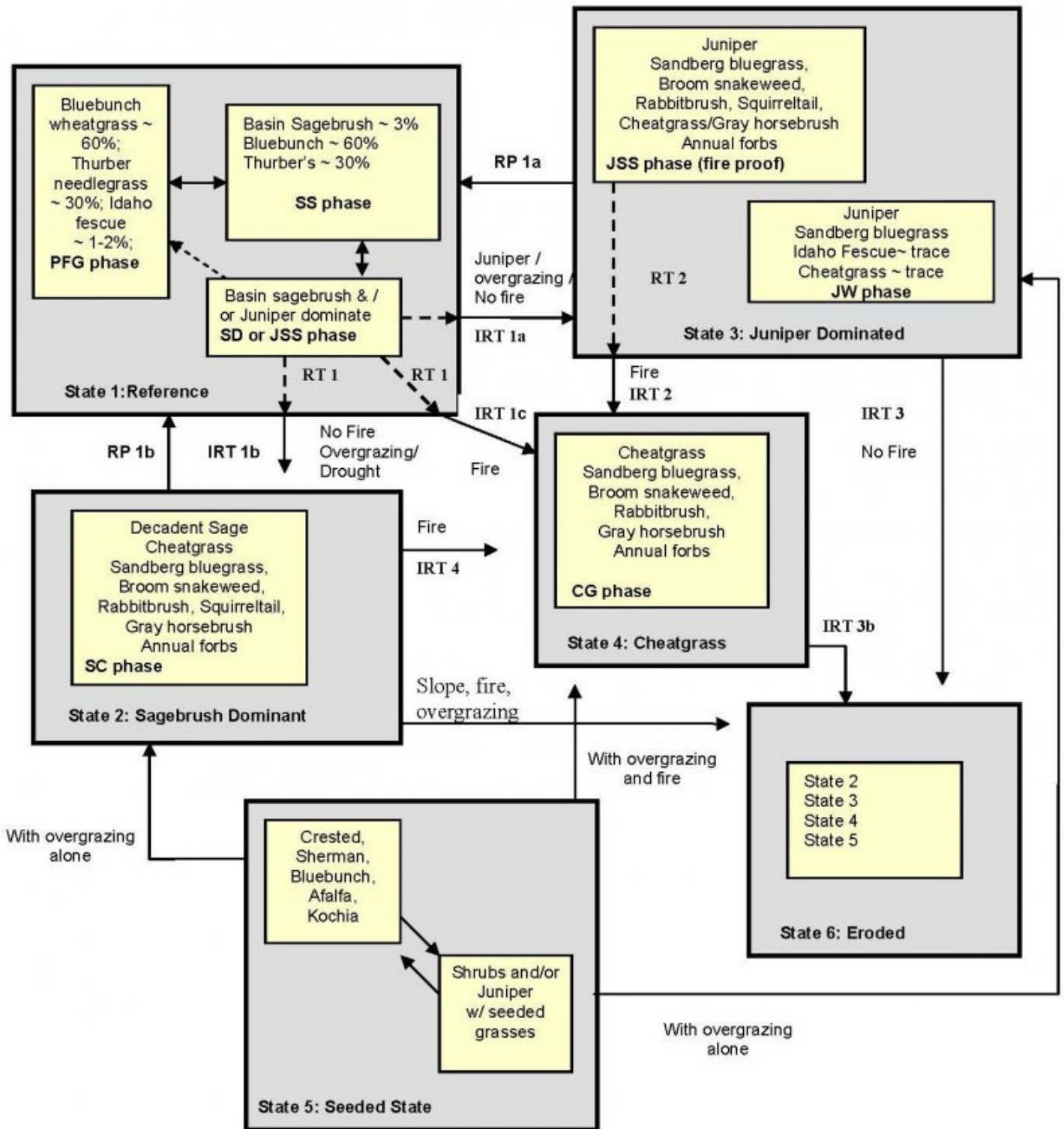
When this site is seeded (typically to non-native grass and forb communities), abusive grazing can cause the seeded State 5 to transition either to a decadent sagebrush cover type or a juniper dominated system. With abusive grazing and fire the seeded rangeland has the potential to convert to State 4.

### Treatment Response:

This site lack resilience to disturbance primarily due to the characteristic annual precipitation of less than 12 inches along with south exposure and droughty soils. The restoration pathway from State 3 to State 1 indicates potential for rehabilitation of the juniper controlled plant community exists. The potential for success is limited. Treatment of juniper should incorporate methods to provide soil cover to facilitate microsites for seedling establishment along with seeding of bluebunch wheatgrass, forbs and sagebrush. Fire is not a recommended tool of rehabilitation due to the increased risk presented by cheatgrass presence. Restoration pathway from State 2 to 1 captures that the treatment of the Sagebrush and Cheatgrass phase would require chemical or mechanical control of the sagebrush and cheatgrass along with seeding. The potential for failure of rehabilitation projects on this site is high. Every effort should be made to prevent threshold forcing events from occurring.

(Adapted from Stringham, 2007)

## State and transition model



**Legend:**

**Plant Community Phases**

- PFG** Perennial Forb Grass
- SS** Sagebrush Steppe
- SD** Sagebrush Dominate
- JSS** Juniper Shrub Steppe
- SC** Sagebrush & Cheatgrass
- CG** Cheatgrass
- E** Eroded

**Vectors of change**

- RT** reversible transition
- IRT** irreversible transition
- RP** repair pathway

(Adapted from Stringham, 2007)

**RT1:** The SD or JSS community in State 1 is recognized as the “at risk” community and the transition to State 2 or 3, a fire proof juniper woodland or decadent sagebrush / cheatgrass community has begun. If fire occurs with cheatgrass present State 1 has a high risk of transitioning to State 4.

**IRT 1a:** Irreversible transition has occurred and a biotic threshold has been crossed. Juniper controls site dynamics.

**IRT 1b:** Irreversible transition has occurred and a biotic threshold has been crossed. Sagebrush and cheatgrass controls site dynamics.

**IRT 1c:** Irreversible transition has occurred and a biotic threshold has been crossed. Cheatgrass controls site dynamics.

**RP1a:** Requires mechanical treatment of juniper and potentially seeding of native grass and shrubs. If cheatgrass is present herbicide or other treatment may be necessary.

**RP1b:** Requires mechanical or chemical treatment of sagebrush and treatment of cheatgrass. Desired grasses and forbs may need to be seeded.

**IRT 2:** Canopy fire leading to cheatgrass domination.

**IRT 3:** Soil erosion is evident and widespread.

**IRT 4:** Canopy fire leading to cheatgrass domination.

## State 1

### Reference State

Community phases are maintained by fire and are not negatively affected by appropriate grazing. Inappropriate grazing, reduced fire frequency or both lead to increased sagebrush and juniper cover and decreased cover of understory species, however the Sagebrush Dominant or Juniper Shrub Steppe community phase is still susceptible to fire. In addition, due to the south facing aspect and shallow soil typical of this ecological site, the risk of cheatgrass invasion with inappropriate grazing is significant. Sites exhibit low resilience to disturbance.

### Dominant plant species

- bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata ssp. spicata*), grass
- Thurber's needlegrass (*Achnatherum thurberianum*), grass

## Community 1.1

### Reference - Perennial Forb Grass

The Reference Plant Community is dominated by bluebunch wheatgrass. Needlegrasses are common in the stand. Vegetative composition of the community is approximately 90 percent grasses, 8 percent forbs, and 2 percent shrubs.

Table 5. Annual production by plant type

Plant Type	Low (Lb/Acre)	Representative Value (Lb/Acre)	High (Lb/Acre)
Grass/Grasslike	670	835	1005
Forb	70	90	110
Shrub/Vine	50	60	70
Tree	10	15	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>1200</b>

## Community 1.2

### Sagebrush Steppe

Basin big sagebrush is approximately 3 percent of the community with bluebunch wheatgrass at 60 percent and Thurber's needlegrass is approximately 30 percent.

## **Community 1.3**

### **Sagebrush Dominant or Juniper Shrub Steppe**

Basin big sagebrush and Juniper dominant.

#### **Pathway 1.1A**

##### **Community 1.1 to 1.2**

#### **Pathway 1.2A**

##### **Community 1.2 to 1.1**

#### **Pathway 1.2B**

##### **Community 1.2 to 1.3**

#### **Pathway 1.3A**

##### **Community 1.3 to 1.1**

#### **Pathway 1.3B**

##### **Community 1.3 to 1.2**

## **State 2**

### **Sagebrush Dominant**

Recognized by the need to mechanically or chemically treat the sagebrush. The presence of cheatgrass and site characteristics indicate prescribed burning as an extreme risk. Sagebrush and Cheatgrass phase with sagebrush dominant, bareground interspaces with a trace of bluebunch wheatgrass under the brush canopy and an increase in Sandberg bluegrass, broom snakeweed and rabbitbrush.

#### **Dominant plant species**

- basin big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *tridentata*), shrub

## **Community 2.1**

### **Sagebrush and Cheatgrass**

Decadent sagebrush with cheatgrass, Sandberg bluegrass, broom snakeweed squirreltail, gray horsebrush, and annual forbs.

## **State 3**

### **Juniper Dominant**

Recognized by the need to mechanically treat the juniper woodland. The presence of cheatgrass and site characteristics indicate prescribed burning as an extreme risk. Juniper Shrub Steppe phase with Juniper dominant, bareground interspaces with a trace of bluebunch wheatgrass under the tree canopy and an increase in Sandberg bluegrass. Sagebrush is stressed and dying (Juniper Shrub Steppe phase). As the juniper woodland matures, sagebrush and bluebunch wheatgrass are eliminated and the potential for soil erosion increases (Juniper Woodland phase).

#### **Dominant plant species**

- western juniper (*Juniperus occidentalis*), tree

## **Community 3.1**

### **Juniper Shrub Steppe (Fire Proof)**

Juniper, Sandberg bluegrass, broom snakeweed, rabbitbrush, squirreltail, cheatgrass, gray horsebrush, and annual forbs.



## **Community 3.2 Juniper Woodland**

Juniper, Sandberg bluegrass, trace of Idaho fescue, and a trace of cheatgrass.

## **State 4 Cheatgrass**

Cheatgrass dominated state maintained through frequent fire. [For this site: cheatgrass can be interpreted to mean any invasive annual grass (e.g. medusahead, ventenata). Soil textures with higher clay percentages have higher susceptibility to medusahead.]

### **Dominant plant species**

- cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), grass

## **Community 4.1 Cheatgrass**

Cheatgrass, Sandberg bluegrass, broom snakeweed, rabbitbrush, gray horsebrush, and annual forbs.

## **State 5 Seeded**

State 5 is a common occurrence on many ecological sites therefore it has been included in the model. Overgrazing of the seeded rangeland can cause a reduction in deep rooted perennial grasses in favor of Sandberg bluegrass, cheatgrass, sagebrush and juniper. State 5 can transition to any of the other alternative states with inappropriate grazing, fire, or both.

### **Dominant plant species**

- crested wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum*), grass

## **Community 5.1 Seeded Grass Dominant**

Crested wheatgrass, Sherman, bluebunch wheatgrass, alfalfa, and Kochia.

## **Community 5.2 Shrub and Seeded Grasses**

Shrubs and juniper with seeded grasses.

## **Pathway 5.1A Community 5.1 to 5.2**

## **Pathway 5.2A Community 5.2 to 5.1**

## **State 6 Eroded**

Eroded version of State 2, 3, 4 or 5. The site has crossed an abiotic threshold characterized by soil loss and lack of seedbank thereby resulting in the inability to sustain the establishment of perennial plants including juniper. All ecological processes, hydrologic cycle, nutrient cycle and energy capture have been significantly changed.

### **Dominant plant species**

- western juniper (*Juniperus occidentalis*), tree

## **Community 6.1**

### **Eroded State-shift Dependant**

Community dynamic is based on what state (State 2, 3, 4, or 5) the community that has shifted across the threshold.

#### **Transition T1A**

##### **State 1 to 2**

Grazing management favoring shrubs and/or severe drought will reduce the perennial bunchgrasses in the understory.

#### **Transition T1B**

##### **State 1 to 3**

Less frequent fire and/or extended drought reduces perennial bunch grasses and allows for an increase in shrub/tree species.

#### **Transition T1C**

##### **State 1 to 4**

Catastrophic fire, multiple fires, and/or soil disturbing treatments/activities in the presence of invasive species

#### **Restoration pathway R2A**

##### **State 2 to 1**

Requires mechanical treatment of juniper and potentially seeding of native grass and shrubs. If cheatgrass is present herbicide or other treatment may be necessary.

#### **Transition T2A**

##### **State 2 to 4**

Catastrophic fire, multiple fires, and/or soil disturbing treatments/activities.

#### **Transition T2B**

##### **State 2 to 6**

Chronic, heavy growing season grazing. Severe fire likely following shrub and tree fuel accumulation.

#### **Restoration pathway R3A**

##### **State 3 to 1**

Juniper stand removal and seeding of desired cultivated species: herbicide may be necessary

#### **Transition T3A**

##### **State 3 to 4**

Catastrophic fire and/ or failed rehabilitation treatment or combination of both. Inappropriate grazing management in the presence of annual non-native species.

#### **Transition T3B**

##### **State 3 to 6**

Chronic, heavy growing season grazing. Severe fire likely following shrub and tree fuel accumulation.

**Transition T4A**  
**State 4 to 6**

Chronic, heavy growing season grazing. Severe fire.

**Restoration pathway R5A**  
**State 5 to 2**

Chronic, heavy growing season grazing will decrease bunchgrasses, increase Sandberg bluegrass and shrubs.

**Transition T5A**  
**State 5 to 3**

Time without disturbance allows for trees to outcompete understory

**Transition T5B**  
**State 5 to 6**

With overgrazing alone.

**Additional community tables**

Table 6. Community 1.1 plant community composition

Group	Common Name	Symbol	Scientific Name	Annual Production (Lb/Acre)	Foliar Cover (%)
<b>Grass/Grasslike</b>					
1	<b>Perennial Grasses</b>			730–1120	
	bluebunch wheatgrass	PSSPS	<i>Pseudoroegneria spicata ssp. spicata</i>	600–800	–
	Thurber's needlegrass	ACTH7	<i>Achnatherum thurberianum</i>	100–200	–
	Sandberg bluegrass	POSE	<i>Poa secunda</i>	20–100	–
	needle and thread	HECO26	<i>Hesperostipa comata</i>	10–20	–
2	<b>Other Perennial Grasses</b>			20–40	
	basin wildrye	LECI4	<i>Leymus cinereus</i>	10–20	–
	squirreltail	ELEL5	<i>Elymus elymoides</i>	10–20	–
<b>Forb</b>					
4	<b>Forbs</b>			40–80	
	milkvetch	ASTRA	<i>Astragalus</i>	20–40	–
	desertparsley	LOMAT	<i>Lomatium</i>	10–20	–
	buckwheat	ERIOG	<i>Eriogonum</i>	10–20	–
4	<b>Other Forbs</b>			0–50	
	common yarrow	ACMI2	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	0–10	–
	tapertip hawksbeard	CRAC2	<i>Crepis acuminata</i>	0–10	–
	arrowleaf balsamroot	BASA3	<i>Balsamorhiza sagittata</i>	0–10	–
	phlox	PHLOX	<i>Phlox</i>	0–10	–
	fleabane	ERIGE2	<i>Erigeron</i>	0–10	–
	lupine	LUPIN	<i>Lupinus</i>	0–10	–
	phacelia	PHACE	<i>Phacelia</i>	0–10	–
	pussytoes	ANTEN	<i>Antennaria</i>	0–10	–
<b>Shrub/Vine</b>					
7	<b>Shrubs</b>			30–60	
	basin big sagebrush	ARTRT	<i>Artemisia tridentata ssp. tridentata</i>	10–20	–
	rubber rabbitbrush	ERNA10	<i>Ericameria nauseosa</i>	10–20	–
	broom snakeweed	GUSA2	<i>Gutierrezia sarothrae</i>	10–20	–
8	<b>Other Shrubs</b>			0–30	
	Wyoming big sagebrush	ARTRW8	<i>Artemisia tridentata ssp. wyomingensis</i>	0–20	–
	purple sage	SADO4	<i>Salvia dorrii</i>	0–20	–
<b>Tree</b>					
6	<b>Trees</b>			10–20	
	western juniper	JUOC	<i>Juniperus occidentalis</i>	10–20	–

## Animal community

### LIVESTOCK

This site is suited to use by cattle, sheep, and horses in all seasons under a planned grazing system. Limitations are clayey soils, steepness of slope, and coarse fragments. Use should be postponed until the soils are firm enough to avoid trampling damage and soil compaction.

### WILDLIFE

The southerly aspect of this site offers warm temperatures and early spring growth that attracts several grazing and browsing forms of wildlife and gallinaceous birds in winter and spring. It is an important wintering area for mule deer.

## Hydrological functions

The soils are in hydrologic groups C and D. The soils of this site have moderately high to high runoff potential.

## Wood products

This site is susceptible to increase in western juniper. Where this has occurred, the site will yield fence posts, firewood, and specialty products.

## 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. Mechanical seeding is not well suited to this site due to extremely stony surfaces and steeper slopes.

## References

. Fire Effects Information System. <http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/>.

. 2021 (Date accessed). USDA PLANTS Database. <http://plants.usda.gov>.

## Other references

Stringham, Tamzen, 2007. Final Report for USDA Ecological Site Description. Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon.

## Contributors

A. Bahn, C. Brooks - Updated 2004

Original Authors: A Bahn, J. Thompson, B. O'Donnell, H. Barrett - 6/89

Andrew Neary - table population and edits 2021

## Approval

Kirt Walstad, 12/13/2023

## 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)	
Contact for lead author	
Date	08/06/2012
Approved by	Kirt Walstad

Approval date	
Composition (Indicators 10 and 12) based on	Annual Production

## Indicators

1. **Number and extent of rills:** None to few on steeper slopes, moderate sheet & rill erosion hazard  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. **Presence of water flow patterns:** None to few on steeper slopes  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. **Number and height of erosional pedestals or terracettes:** None  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. **Bare ground from Ecological Site Description or other studies (rock, litter, lichen, moss, plant canopy are not bare ground):** 10-20%  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. **Number of gullies and erosion associated with gullies:** None  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. **Extent of wind scoured, blowouts and/or depositional areas:** None, slight 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):**  
Moderately deep to deep, well drained stony clay loams and clay loams: 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 (50-60%) and gentle to very steep slopes (12-70%) moderately 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: Bluebunch wheatgrass > Thurber needlegrass > other grasses > forbs > 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
- 

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: 1200, Normal: 1000, Unfavorable: 800 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. Western Juniper readily invades the 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
-