

Ecological site R010XB048OR JD Loamy South 12-16 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.

Table 1. Dominant	plant	species
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Tree	Not specified
Shrub	Not specified
Herbaceous	Not specified

Physiographic features

This site occurs on southerly exposures of terraces, tablelands and rolling uplands. Slopes range from 12 to 90 percent. Elevation varies from 2700 to 4000 feet.

Landforms	(1) Slump
Flooding frequency	None
Ponding frequency	None
Elevation	823–1,219 m
Slope	12–90%
Water table depth	183 cm
Aspect	S, SW, W

Table 2. Representative physiographic features

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)	120 days
Freeze-free period (average)	160 days
Precipitation total (average)	406 mm



Figure 1. Monthly precipitation range



Figure 2. Monthly average minimum and maximum temperature

Influencing water features

Soil features

Soils on this site consist of very deep, well drained soils that formed in colluvium weathered from fractured, exfoliated Basalts.

Table 4. Representative soil features

Surface texture	(1) Extremely cobbly sandy loam
Family particle size	(1) Loamy
Drainage class	Well drained
Permeability class	Moderately rapid
Soil depth	152 cm
Surface fragment cover <=3"	10%
Surface fragment cover >3"	15%
Available water capacity (0-101.6cm)	7.62–16.15 cm
Calcium carbonate equivalent (0-101.6cm)	0–8%
Electrical conductivity (0-101.6cm)	0 mmhos/cm
Sodium adsorption ratio (0-101.6cm)	0
Soil reaction (1:1 water) (0-101.6cm)	7.4–8.4

Subsurface fragment volume <=3" (Depth not specified)	60%
Subsurface fragment volume >3" (Depth not specified)	30%

Ecological dynamics

This site occurs on south-facing footslopes of cliffs and on sloping slump benches. Grasses dominate this plant community with forbs and shrubs making up a lesser component. Fluctuations in species composition and relative production may change from year to year dependent upon abnormal precipitation or other climatic factors. The two needlegrass species increase with coarse sandy surfaces. The interpretive plant community for this site is the Historic Climax Plant Community (HCPC).

State and transition model



GENERAL MODEL FOR COOL-SEASON BUNCHGRASS RANGELANDS

State 1 HCPC: PSSP6-ACTH7

Community 1.1 HCPC: PSSP6-ACTH7

This site is dominated by Bluebunch wheatgrass. Forbs and shrubs make up a minor component of this site.

Plant Type	Low (Kg/Hectare)	Representative Value (Kg/Hectare)	High (Kg/Hectare)
Grass/Grasslike	908	1211	1412
Shrub/Vine	50	67	78
Forb	50	67	78
Total	1008	1345	1568



Figure 4. Plant community growth curve (percent production by month). OR4211, B10 JD Loamy South 12-16 A. JD Loamy South 12-16 A, JD Clayey South 12-16, JD Sh. Mtn. So. 12-16, JD Sh. So. 12-16, & JD Ashy So. 12-16 RPC Growth Curve.



Community 2.1 State B: Disturbance (Western juniper/Broom snakeweed/Cheatgrass)

This site is dominated by Broom snakeweed. Bluebunch wheatgrass decreases and needlegrasses increase. Big sagebrush, Broom snakeweed, Rabbitbrush and Western juniper increase. With further deterioration cheatgrass, mustard and other annuals invade.

Plant Type	Low (Kg/Hectare)	Representative Value (Kg/Hectare)	High (Kg/Hectare)
Shrub/Vine	404	538	673
Grass/Grasslike	202	269	336
Forb	67	90	112
Total	673	897	1121

 Table 6. Annual production by plant type



OR4212, B10 JD Loamy South 12-16 B. Disturbance (JUOC/GUSA2/BRTE).

Additional community tables

Table 7. Community 1.1 plant community composition

Group	Common Name	Symbol	Scientific Name	Annual Production (Kg/Hectare)	Foliar Cover (%)
Grass	/Grasslike	<u>.</u>			
1				28–56	
	sand dropseed	SPCR	Sporobolus cryptandrus	27–135	_
	Sandberg bluegrass	POSE	Poa secunda	13–34	_
2				1009–168	
	bluebunch wheatgrass	PSSPS	Pseudoroegneria spicata ssp. spicata	807–1076	_
	Thurber's needlegrass	ACTH7	Achnatherum thurberianum	135–404	_
	needle and thread	HECOC8	Hesperostipa comata ssp. comata	67–202	_
	Indian ricegrass	ACHY	Achnatherum hymenoides	13–34	_
Forb	Forb				
3				56–112	
	common yarrow	ACMI2	Achillea millefolium	11–28	-
	milkvetch	ASTRA	Astragalus	11–28	-
	fleabane	ERIGE2	Erigeron	11–28	-
	buckwheat	ERIOG	Eriogonum	11–28	-
	desertparsley	LOMAT	Lomatium	11–28	-
	phacelia	PHACE	Phacelia	11–28	_
Shrub	/Vine				
4				56–140	
	basin big sagebrush	ARTRT	Artemisia tridentata ssp. tridentata	13–34	-
	broom snakeweed	GUSA2	Gutierrezia sarothrae	13–34	-
	western juniper	JUOC	Juniperus occidentalis	11–28	-
	purple sage	SADOI	Salvia dorrii ssp. dorrii var. incana	11–28	-
	rubber rabbitbrush	ERNA10	Ericameria nauseosa	11–28	-

Table 8. Community 2.1 plant community composition

Group	Common Name	Symbol	Scientific Name	Annual Production (Kg/Hectare)	Foliar Cover (%)
Grass	/Grasslike	<u>.</u>			
1				224–280	
	cheatgrass	BRTE	Bromus tectorum	202–224	_
	Sandberg bluegrass	POSE	Poa secunda	78–112	_
	sand dropseed	SPCR	Sporobolus cryptandrus	56–90	_
2		-		224–336	
	Thurber's needlegrass	ACTH7	Achnatherum thurberianum	235–336	_
	needle and thread	HECOC8	Hesperostipa comata ssp. comata	112–168	_
	bluebunch wheatgrass	PSSPS	Pseudoroegneria spicata ssp. spicata	67–112	_
Forb		+	••	· · · ·	
3				22–67	
	mustard	BRASS2	Brassica	11–28	-
Shrub	/Vine				
4				168–280	
	broom snakeweed	GUSA2	Gutierrezia sarothrae	67–112	-
	basin big sagebrush	ARTRT	Artemisia tridentata ssp. tridentata	67–112	_
	rubber rabbitbrush	ERNA10	Ericameria nauseosa	45–90	_
	western juniper	JUOC	Juniperus occidentalis	45–90	_
	purple sage	SADOI	Salvia dorrii ssp. dorrii var. incana	22–45	_

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 that 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 rates will be determined with the landowner or decisionmaker. They will be based on past use histories and type and condition of the vegetation. Calculations used to determine an initial starting 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 thier 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.

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	T11S R26E S9		
Latitude	44° 37′ 50″		
Longitude	119° 36′ 16″		
General legal description	Approximately 9 miles south of Kimberly or about 6.5 miles north of the junciton of Highways 19 and 26 along the eastern edge of Devils Gulch; 1700 feet east and 2300 feet south of the NW corner of section 9(SE1/4 NW 1/4), T11S, R26E		

Other references

Soil Conservation Service, Relative Forage Preference of Plants for Grazing Use by Season, Range Technical Note No.16, 1982

Western Regional Climate Center, NOAA, National Weather Service, Portland, OR.

web site- http://nimbo.wrh.noaa.gov/Portland/climate.html

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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
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Date	08/06/2012
Approved by	Bob Gillaspy
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
- 2. Presence of water flow patterns: None to some 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 to some, moderate wind erosion hazard
- 7. Amount of litter movement (describe size and distance expected to travel): Fine limited movement
- 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 = 2-4
- 9. Soil surface structure and SOM content (include type of structure and A-horizon color and thickness): Very deep, well drained extremely cobbly sandy loams: low OM (1-2%)
- 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 extreme slopes (12-90%) moderately to slightly 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 > shrubs > 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 annualproduction): Favorable: 1400, Normal: 1200, Unfavorable: 900 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: 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