

Ecological site R035XA118AZ Sandy Upland 10-14" p.z.

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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)	Ken Gishi, Dean Schlichting, Dan Carroll
Contact for lead author	State Rangeland Management Specialist, NRCS-Arizona State Office, Phoenix, AZ
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Approved by	Steve Cassady
Approval date	
Composition (Indicators 10 and 12) based on	Annual Production

Indicators

- Number and extent of rills:** None. The sandy surface textures and well drained nature of the soils should preclude the presence of rills.

- Presence of water flow patterns:** A very few scattered water flow patterns may be present on steepest slopes. Water Flow patterns on these soils are commonly 1 to 2 meters long, generally occupying < 5% of the ground cover.

- Number and height of erosional pedestals or terracettes:** Uncommon. If present pedestals typically less than 1" in height often associated with deposition areas and water flow patterns. Terracettes are absent. This site has potential for significant development of biological crust. Well developed biological crust should not be confused with pedestals.

- Bare ground from Ecological Site Description or other studies (rock, litter, lichen, moss, plant canopy are not bare ground):** Bare ground averages 35-55%. Drought may cause an increase in bare ground.

- Number of gullies and erosion associated with gullies:** None.

- Extent of wind scoured, blowouts and/or depositional areas:** Wind scoured areas, blowouts, and/or depositional

under shrub and tree canopies it ranges from 25 to 60% cover with depths from 1/8 to 1/4 inch thick.

15. **Expected annual annual-production (this is TOTAL above-ground annual-production, not just forage annual-production):** 250-350 pounds per acre (dry weight) in drought years, 450-550 pounds per acre in normal years, 600-700 pounds per acre in wet years.
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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:** Mormon tea, Broom snakeweed, sand sagebrush and rabbitbrush are all native to the site, but have the ability to increase and dominate the area after disturbance. Oneseed juniper (JUMO) is native to the site, but has the ability to increase and dominate the site after unmanaged grazing and/or fire exclusion. Introduced annuals that have the ability to increase and dominate the site after unmanaged grazing and/or ground disturbance include cheatgrass and Russian thistle
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17. **Perennial plant reproductive capability:** All plants native to this site are adapted to the climate and are capable of producing seeds, stolons and rhizomes except during the most severe droughts.
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