

Ecological site R035XY103UT Desert Clay (Castle Valley Saltbush)

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Rangeland health reference sheet

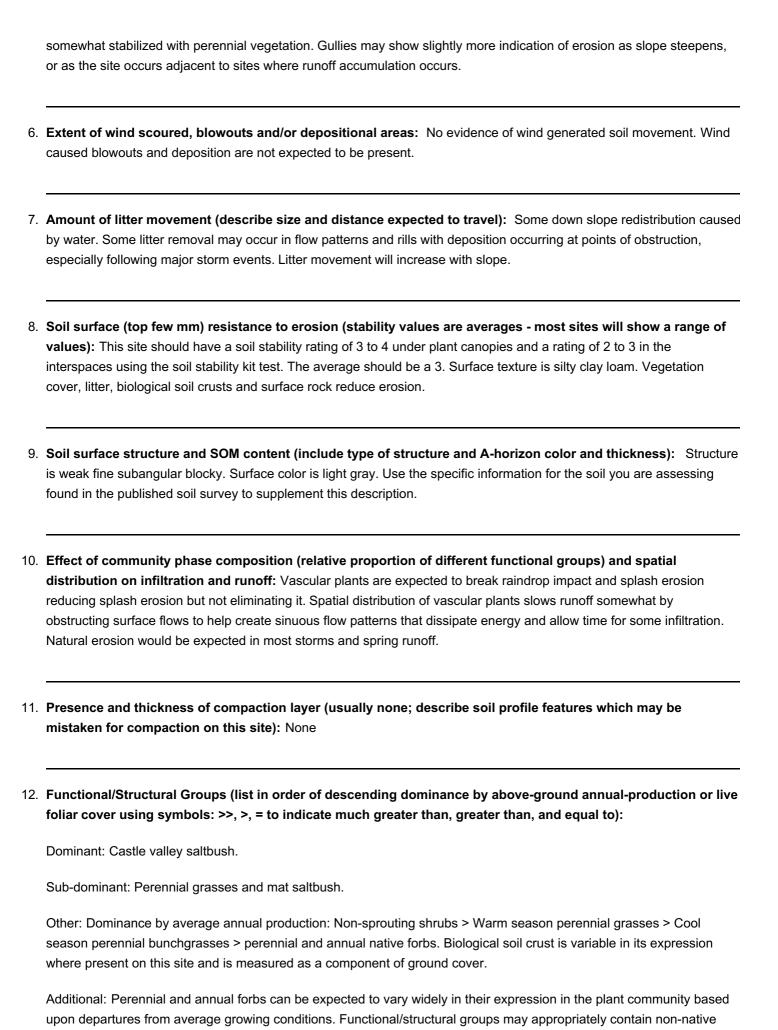
Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health is a qualitative assessment protocol used to determine ecosystem condition based on benchmark characteristics described in the Reference Sheet. A suite of 17 (or more) indicators are typically considered in an assessment. The ecological site(s) representative 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.

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Approved by	Shane A. Green
Approval date	
Composition (Indicators 10 and 12) based on	Annual Production

Indicators

1.	Number and extent of rills: Very common. Rills present could be 15 or more feet long. They could be 2-3 inches deep.
	As surface charge fragments increase, rills become shorter and may not be as deen

- 2. **Presence of water flow patterns:** Very common throughout the site. They are expected to be long and connected into drainage networks. Evidence of flow will increase with slope. As surface coarse fragments increase, flow patterns become less evident and may not be as deep.
- 3. **Number and height of erosional pedestals or terracettes:** Plants may show some pedestalling (up to .5 inch) on their down slope side. Terracettes should be few and stable. Interspaces between well developed biological soil crusts may resemble pedestals but they are actually a characteristic of the crust formation.
- 4. Bare ground from Ecological Site Description or other studies (rock, litter, lichen, moss, plant canopy are not bare ground): 20 55% depending on surface rock or pararock fragments. Ground cover is based on the first raindrop impact, and bare ground is the inverse of ground cover. Ground cover + bare ground = 100%. Poorly developed biological soil crusts that are interpreted as functioning as bare ground (therefore they would be susceptible to raindrop splash erosion) should be recorded as bare ground.
- 5. **Number of gullies and erosion associated with gullies:** Present. May be found where adjacent sites/watershed provides concentrated flows into the site. Gullies should show only minor signs of active erosion and should be



species if their ecological function is the same as the native species in the reference state (e.g. Siberian Wheatgrass,

Forage kochia etc.)

due to weather. nual-production, not just forage annual-
e). List species which BOTH characterize dominant species on the ecological site if nanagement interventions. Species that conse to drought or wildfire) are not what is NOT expected in the reference state flower, and annual mustards.
ve the ability to reproduce sexually or asexually
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