Ecological site group DX035X01HESG11
Black Mesa-Navajo Mtn-Sandy Loam Upland, warm

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Key Characteristics

- Black Mesa Navajo Mountain
- Sandy loam soils
- Sandy loam uplands
- Sandy loam uplands, warm

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.

Physiography

Alluvial fans, structural benches, valleys, basins and dunes. Slopes range typically from 1 to 12 percent. Elevations range from 3,800 to 5,000 feet.

Climate

Climate typically characterized by hot summers and cool to warm winters. mean annual temperature range from 40 to 71 degrees Fahrenheit. Average annual precipitation 6 to 10 inches but ranges up to 14 inches of precipitation with the majority occurring from March to October.

Soil features

Soils within group range from 20 to 60 inches in depth. Soil textures group is fine sandy loam, loamy fine sand, and very fine sandy loam. Well drained to somewhat excessively drained.

Vegetation dynamics

Shrub communities are typically dominated by blackbrush with some salt desert shrubs and perennial cool season and warm season grasses.

Major Land Resource Area

MLRA 035X
Colorado Plateau

Subclasses

- R035XY121UT–Desert Sandy Loam (Blackbrush)

Stage

Provisional

Contributors

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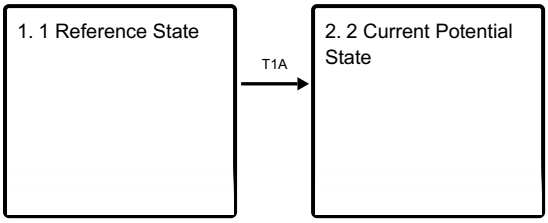
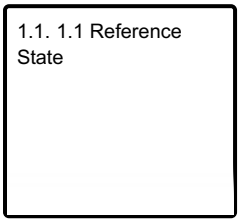
State and transition model

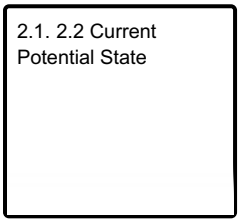
Ecosystem states



State 1 submodel, plant communities



State 2 submodel, plant communities



State 1
1 Reference State

This community phase is characterized by a blackbrush shrub canopy, where perennial native may or may not be present. Commonly seen grasses include Indian ricegrass, galleta, needleandthread, six weeks fescue, and dropseeds, with many occurring solely in the shrub canopy. As grass cover increases, shrub interspaces are filled. Other perennial grasses, shrubs, and forbs may or may not be present and cover is variable. The composition by air dry weight is approximately 10 percent forbs, 20 percent grasses, and 70 percent shrubs. Bare ground is variable (15-60%) depending on biological crust cover, which is also variable (0-40%) and surface rock fragments (0-50%).

Community 1.1
1.1 Reference State

This community phase is characterized by a blackbrush shrub canopy, where perennial native may or may not be present. Commonly seen grasses include Indian ricegrass, galleta, needleandthread, six weeks fescue, and dropseeds, with many occurring solely in the shrub canopy. As grass cover increases, shrub interspaces are filled. Other perennial grasses, shrubs, and forbs may or may not be present and cover is variable. The composition by air dry weight is approximately 10 percent forbs, 20 percent grasses, and 70 percent shrubs. Bare ground is variable (15-60%) depending on biological crust cover, which is also variable (0-40%) and surface rock fragments (0-50%).

State 2
2 Current Potential State

This community phase is characterized by a blackbrush shrub canopy, where perennial native may or may not be present. Some invasive plants are present, especially cheatgrass. Commonly seen grasses include Indian ricegrass, galleta, needleandthread, six weeks fescue, and dropseeds, with many occurring solely in the shrub canopy. As grass cover increases, shrub interspaces are filled. Other perennial grasses, shrubs, and forbs may or may not be present and cover is variable. Bare ground is variable (15-60%) depending on biological crust cover,

which is also variable (0-40%) and surface rock fragments (0-50%).

Community 2.1
2.2 Current Potential State

This community phase is characterized by a blackbrush shrub canopy, where perennial native may or may not be present. Some invasive plants are present. Commonly seen grasses include Indian ricegrass, galleta, needleandthread, six weeks fescue, and dropseeds, with many occurring solely in the shrub canopy. As grass cover increases, shrub interspaces are filled. Other perennial grasses, shrubs, and forbs may or may not be present and cover is variable. Bare ground is variable (15-60%) depending on biological crust cover, which is also variable (0-40%) and surface rock fragments (0-50%).

Transition T1A
State 1 to 2

Introduction and proliferation of cheatgrass.

Citations