Ecological site group DX035X02DESG13
Grand Canyon - Typic Aridic - Sandstone or Sandy Loam Hills

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Key Characteristics

- Grand Canyon (D)
- Site parent material is sandstone or soil is a sandy loam.
- Site soils are typic aridic or within a 6-10" precipitation zone.
- Site is and/or located on a hill with slopes >15%.

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

Site is and/or located on a hill with slopes >15%. Physiography is complex.

Climate

Site soils are typic aridic or within a 6-10" precipitation zone. Precipitation comes monsoonal patterns during months of July, August, and September, and is supplemented by winter storm patterns from November through March.

Soil features

Parent material is sandstone. Soils are sandy or sandy loams. Site consists of gently dipping shallow residuum weathered from sedimentary rocks eroded into steep cliff faces and canyons.

Vegetation dynamics

The dominant aspect of this site is a shrub-grassland. The major shrubs are blackbrush and Nevada Mormon tea. Dominant grasses include black grama and slim tridens.

Major Land Resource Area

MLRA 035X
Colorado Plateau

Subclasses

- R035XE502AZ–Channery Hills 6-10" p.z.
- R035XE504AZ–Schist Hills 6-10" p.z.

Correlated Map Unit Components

22395086, 22395082, 22395233, 22395227, 22395235, 22395236

Stage

Provisional

Contributors

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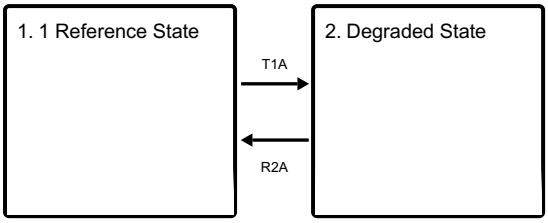
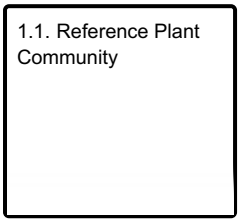
State and transition model

Ecosystem states



State 1 submodel, plant communities



State 1
1 Reference State

Community 1.1
Reference Plant Community

The dominant aspect of this site is a shrub-grassland. The major shrubs are blackbrush and Nevada mormon tea. Dominant grasses include black grama and slim tridens.

State 2
Degraded State

Palatable species such as black grama has been greatly reduced. Bare ground and soil erosion is prominent.

Transition T1A
State 1 to 2

A decrease in palatable species and increase in lesser palatable shrubs.

Restoration pathway R2A
State 2 to 1

Slow restoration of soil health and palatable plant species.

Citations