Ecological site group DX035X02DESG23
Grand Canyon - Typic Aridic - Gypsic Upland

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Key Characteristics

- Grand Canyon (D)
- Gypsum
- Gypsum Uplands, Slopes ≤ 15%
- Gypsum Uplands, slopes ≤ 15%, typic aridic

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 in an upland 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 gypsiferous shale, mudstone or interbedded sediments. Soils are clayey or clay loam. Site consists of limited amounts of gently sloping sheet alluvial or eolian deposits over residuum of plateaus and structural benches.

Vegetation dynamics

Grasses includebig galleta, alkali sacaton, sand dropseed, bush muhly, Indian ricegrass, Parish threeawn, and sixweeks fescue. Shrubs include Fourwing saltbush, Anderson wolfberry, honey mesquite, shadscale saltbush, catclaw acacia. Desert globemallow is a common forb.

Major Land Resource Area

MLRA 035X
Colorado Plateau

Subclasses

- R035XE518AZ–Loamy Upland 6-10" p.z. Gypsiferous

Correlated Map Unit Components

22395003, 22395004, 22395007

Stage

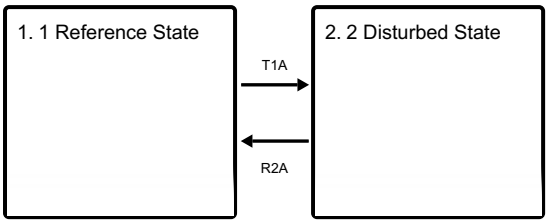
Provisional

Contributors

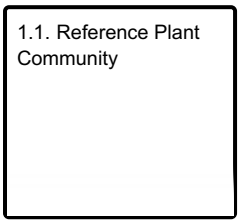
Curtis Talbot

State and transition model

Ecosystem states



State 1 submodel, plant communities



State 1
1 Reference State

A mix of grass, forbs, and shrubs that compete well in dry, clayey soil.

Community 1.1
Reference Plant Community

Grasses includebig galleta, alkali sacaton, sand dropseed, bush muhly, Indian ricegrass, Parish threeawn, and sixweeks fescue. Shrubs include Fourwing saltbush, Anderson wolfberry, honey mesquite, shadscale saltbush, catclaw acacia. Desert globemallow is a common forb.

State 2
2 Disturbed State

Increasers: alkali sacaton, perennial forbs Invaders: Russian thistle, red brome, annual weeds Excessive bare ground and accelerated soil erosion.

Transition T1A
State 1 to 2

Excessive disturbance such as repetitive, high utilization, drought, or disease reducing the grass cover and increasing bare soil.

Restoration pathway R2A
State 2 to 1

Long term restoration of ecosystem health.

Citations