

Ecological site group DX035X02EESG06

Arizona Strip - Ustic Aridic - Sandy Upland

Last updated: 10/26/2022
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Key Characteristics

- Arizona Strip (E)
- Site is sandy.
- Soils are Ustic Aridic, or precipitation is within a range of 10 to 14 inches
- Site is and/or located in an upland 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 in an upland with slopes <15%. Aspects tend toward northeast except along escarpments.

Climate

Site soils are ustic aridic or within a 10-14" 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. Site consists of limited amounts of gently sloping sheet alluvial or eolian deposits over residuum of plateaus and structural benches.

Vegetation dynamics

Indian ricegrass, black grama, blue grama, galleta, sand sagebrush, fourwing saltbush, Mormon tea

Major Land Resource Area

MLRA 035X
Colorado Plateau

Subclasses

- DX035X03B625–Loamy Upland (PIED, JUOS) 13-17" p.z. (Provisional)
- F035XF619AZ–Limestone Upland 13-17" p.z. (JUOS, PIED)
- R035XC315AZ–Sandy Upland 10-14" p.z.
- R035XF605AZ–Loamy Upland 13-17" p.z.
- R035XF608AZ–Limestone / Sandstone Upland 13-17" p.z.

Correlated Map Unit Components

22338551, 22340979, 22340980, 22394881, 22394862

Stage

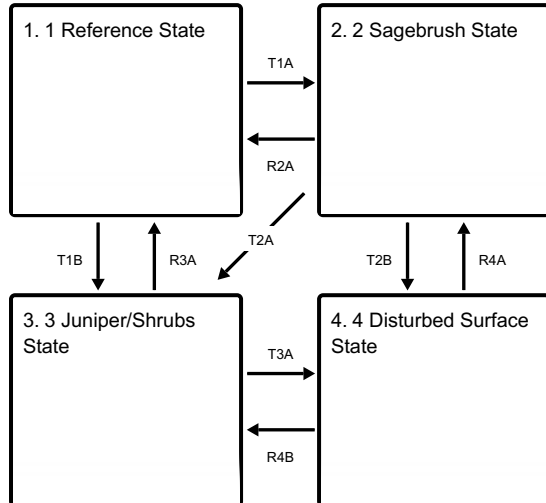
Provisional

Contributors

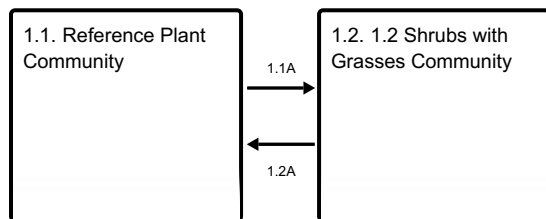
Curtis Talbot

State and transition model

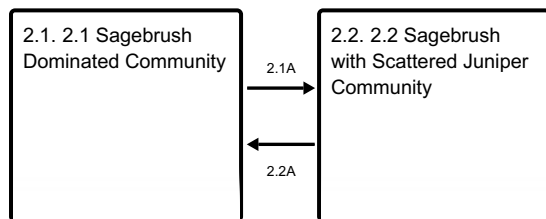
Ecosystem states



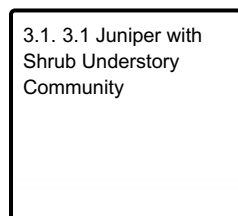
State 1 submodel, plant communities



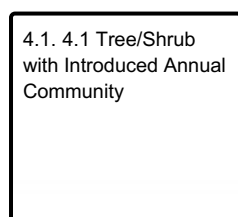
State 2 submodel, plant communities



State 3 submodel, plant communities



State 4 submodel, plant communities



State 1

1 Reference State

Community 1.1

Reference Plant Community

Indian ricegrass, black grama, blue grama, galleta, sand sagebrush, fourwing saltbush, Mormon tea

Community 1.2

1.2 Shrubs with Grasses Community

blue grama, galleta, sand sagebrush big sagebrush, dropseeds, sandhill muhly, snakeweed, rabbitbrush

Pathway 1.1A

Community 1.1 to 1.2

Repetitive high utilization of palatable grass species have given shrubs a competitive advantage.

Pathway 1.2A

Community 1.2 to 1.1

A set back to the shrubs such as fire plus management to improve palatable grass production.

State 2

2 Sagebrush State

Community 2.1

2.1 Sagebrush Dominated Community

big sagebrush, sand sagebrush, Bigelow sagebrush, rubber rabbitbrush, snakeweed, blue grama, indian ricegrass, bottlebrush squirreltail, sandhill muhly, dropseeds

Community 2.2

2.2 Sagebrush with Scattered Juniper Community

big sagebrush, snakeweed, Bigelow sagebrush, rubber rabbitbrush, blue grama, needleandthread, indian ricegrass, sandhill muhly, sand dropseeds, junipers

Pathway 2.1A

Community 2.1 to 2.2

Encroachment of juniper

Pathway 2.2A

Community 2.2 to 2.1

Natural disturbance or treatment of juniper.

State 3

3 Juniper/Shrubs State

Community 3.1

3.1 Juniper with Shrub Understory Community

Junipers, sand sagebrush, snakeweed, Bigelow sagebrush, rubber rabbitbrush, Mormon tea, antelope bitterbrush, blue grama, sand dropseed, indian ricegrass, pinyon pine.

State 4

4 Disturbed Surface State

Community 4.1

4.1 Tree/Shrub with Introduced Annual Community

Junipers, rabbitbrush, snakeweed, big sagebrush, Mormon tea, native and introduced annuals.

Transition T1A

State 1 to 2

Repetitive, high utilization of palatable grass species have give sagebrush a competitive advantage.

Transition T1B

State 1 to 3

Loss of grass cover with an increase of shrubs along with juniper encroachment.

Restoration pathway R2A

State 2 to 1

A disturbance to set the sagebrush back along with management to improve colonization of palatable grass species.

Transition T2A

State 2 to 3

Juniper encroachment

Transition T2B

State 2 to 4

Excessive bare ground causing soil erosion.

Restoration pathway R3A

State 3 to 1

Fire and/or mechanical treatments on juniper and shrubs along with long-term management to promote colonization of grass species.

Transition T3A

State 3 to 4

Increased bare soil and soil erosion.

Restoration pathway R4A

State 4 to 2

Stabilization of soil from improved plant cover and organic matter.

Restoration pathway R4B

State 4 to 3

Improved plant cover and soil health.

Citations

