

# Ecological site group DX035X02GESG13

## Marble Canyon - Typic Aridic - Limestone or Loamy Upland 7-11" p.z.

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### Key Characteristics

- Marble Canyon (G)
- Soil at site is sedimentary or loamy.
- Site soils are within a 7-11" precipitation zone.
- 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 Marble Canyon, and more generally, the northeast.

### Climate

Site soils are typic aridic or within a 6-10" precipitation zone and cold desert associated with blackbrush. No clear pattern exists in the seasonal timing of precipitation, generally driest in late spring.

### Soil features

Parent material is limestone. Soils are loamy. Site consists of limited amounts of gently sloping sheet alluvial or eolian deposits over residuum of plateaus and structural benches.

### Vegetation dynamics

This site is a grassland community of mid and short grasses with both cool and warm season species present. Shrubs are interspersed and can be sparse. In the potential plant community there may be a mixture of both cool and warm season grasses. Ground cover is good.

The plant species most likely to increase on this site when it is disturbed are; wolfberry, sand dropseed, burrograss, and threeawn. Russian thistle and cheatgrass are invaders on this site.

### Major Land Resource Area

MLRA 035X  
Colorado Plateau

### Subclasses

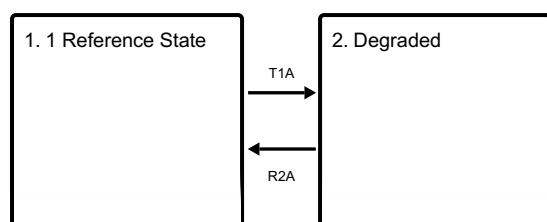
- R035XD409AZ–Loamy Upland 7-11" p.z.
- R035XD415AZ–Shallow Loamy 7-11" p.z.

### Stage

Provisional

## State and transition model

### Ecosystem states



### State 1

#### 1 Reference State

This site is a grassland community of mid and short grasses with both cool and warm season species present. Shrubs are interspersed and can be sparse. In the potential plant community there may be a mixture of both cool and warm season grasses. Ground cover is good.

### State 2

#### Degraded

The plant species most likely to increase on this site when it is disturbed are; wolfberry, sand dropseed, burrograss, and threeawn. Eventually with loss of plant cover and accelerated erosion the site becomes a home for invasive annuals such as Russian thistle and cheatgrass.

### Transition T1A

#### State 1 to 2

Slow drivers such as repetitive, high utilization of plant species, especially during drought, decreases cover, soil organic matter which eventually leads to accelerated erosion.

### Restoration pathway R2A

#### State 2 to 1

A long process of stabilizing soil, colonizing perennial plants, and improving moisture retention. This improves ecological processes and eventually the health of the site.

## Citations