

Ecological site group DX035X04BESG05

Bisti Lowlands LRU Subset - Loamy Subgroup

Last updated: 11/01/2022
Accessed: 05/02/2024

Key Characteristics

- Bisti Lowlands. This LRU subset is composed of Cretaceous materials, and is generally below 1900 m in elevation. The Bisti Lowlands subset is further distinguished from Chaco Mesa in that the former receives less monsoonal moisture, harbors less warm-season grass, and experiences low amounts of blowing sands.
- Sites that occur on "upland", water-shedding landforms. Elevated terraces are included in this group.
- Soils are > 50 cm to lithic or paralithic contact (root-restrictive bedrock).
- Soils lack both significant salinity and sodicity.
- Soils lack one or both of the following at the surface: Strong or violent response to dilute HCl or $\geq 5\%$ calcareous fragments.
- Sites with soils that have particle size classes of loamy or fine loamy.

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.

Major Land Resource Area

MLRA 035X
Colorado Plateau

Subclasses

- DX035X03A112–Loamy
- DX035X03E001–Loamy
- R035XB021NM–Loamy Upland 7-10
- R035XB210AZ–Loamy Upland 6-10" p.z.
- R035XB275AZ–Loamy Fan 6-10" p.z.
- R035XC313AZ–Loamy Upland 10-14" p.z.

Correlated Map Unit Components

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Stage

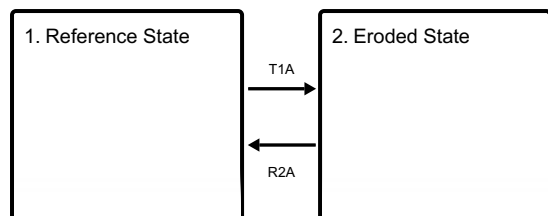
Provisional

Contributors

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State and transition model

Ecosystem states



State 1

Reference State

This state is defined by topsoil that is generally intact. Plant community ranges from grass-dominated to a gras/shrub mix. Some linked ESDs contain community phase data.

Characteristics and indicators. Topsoil remains. Surfaces do not exhibit significant active erosion.

Dominant plant species

- oneseed juniper (*Juniperus monosperma*), tree
- rubber rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa*), shrub
- tree cholla (*Cylindropuntia imbricata*), shrub
- blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), grass
- western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*), grass
- James' galleta (*Pleuraphis jamesii*), grass
- threeawn (*Aristida*), grass
- ring muhly (*Muhlenbergia torreyi*), grass

State 2

Eroded State

This state is characterized by significant degradation of topsoils. Plant communities range from shrublands to very sparsely vegetated grasslands.

Characteristics and indicators. Topsoils are significantly truncated. Active erosion is typically evident.

Dominant plant species

- oneseed juniper (*Juniperus monosperma*), tree
- rubber rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa*), shrub
- tree cholla (*Cylindropuntia imbricata*), shrub
- broom snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*), shrub
- James' galleta (*Pleuraphis jamesii*), grass
- threeawn (*Aristida*), grass
- ring muhly (*Muhlenbergia torreyi*), grass

Transition T1A

State 1 to 2

Prolonged continuous grazing.

Restoration pathway R2A

State 2 to 1

Prescribed/deferred grazing. Shrub control of some sort may be required.

Citations