

Ecological site group DX035X04CESG06

Chaco Mesa LRU Subset - Loamy

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Key Characteristics

- Chaco Mesa. This LRU subset is composed of Cretaceous materials, is generally above 1900 m in elevation, and does not drain directly into the San Juan River. The Chaco Mesa subset is further distinguished from the Bisti Lowlands in that the former receives more monsoonal moisture, harbors more warm-season grasses, and experiences a considerable amount 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.

Physiography

Various upland landforms. Drainageways are excluded. No flooding.

Soil features

Soil particle size classes are fine loamy. Soils are deeper than 50 cm to root-restrictive layer. Soils well-to-excessively well-drained.

Major Land Resource Area

MLRA 035X
Colorado Plateau

Subclasses

- DX035X03A112–Loamy
- DX035X03E001–Loamy
- R035XB020NM–Loamy 6-10" terrace
- 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.
- R035XC317AZ–Sandy Loam Upland 10-14" p.z.

Correlated Map Unit Components

22960365, 23187565, 23187620, 23187689, 23187770, 23187771

Stage

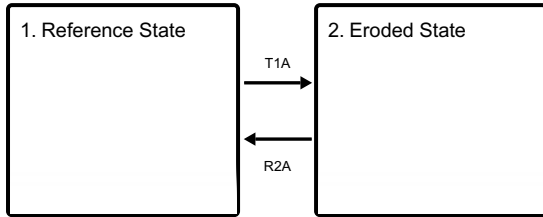
Provisional

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* var. *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.

Conservation practices

Grazing Management Plan - Applied

Citations