

Major Land Resource Area 042B

Southern Rio Grande Rift

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Ecological site keys

LRU 42BE - Cool Desert Grassland

I. LRU 42BE Cool Desert Grassland. This LRU occurs at 4700-5600ft elevation. It has PZ of 11-12 inches, and has temp. regime of thermic and a moisture regime Typic of aridic. Vegetation is grassland and shrub savanna.

A. Landscape is Hills

- 1 Site is shallow to Limestone bedrock – Limestone Hills ES ... R042BE059NM – Limestone Hills Cool Desert Grassland
- 2 Site is shallow to basalt bedrock – Malpais ... R042BE056NM – Malpais, Cool Desert Grassland
- 3 Site shallow to indurated sediments other than limestone or site shallow to igneous parent material other than basalt – Hill ... R042BE058NM – Hills, Cool Desert Grassland
- 4 Site shallow to moderately deep highly dissected- Mesa Breaks ... R042BE060NM – Mesa Breaks, Cool Desert Grassland

B. Landscape is Piedmont

1 Soils are clayey to sandy loam

- i. Site in a drainageway– Swale ES ... R042BE062NM – Swale, Cool Desert Grassland
- ii. Not in a drainage
 - a. Soils hypergypsic > 15% gypsum with Gypsic or Hypergypsic minerology class- Gyp upland ... R042BE063NM – Gyp Upland, Cool Desert Grassland
 - b. Soil have Clay to Clay loam surface and Clayey subsurface > 35%= Clay, Alkali sacaton is an indicator specie -Clayey ... R042BE061NM – Clayey, Cool Desert Grassland
 - c. Soil is loamy to loamy sand surface with Loamy subsurface, <35% Clay – Burrograss is an indicator specie-Loamy ... R042BE052NM – Loamy, Cool Desert Grassland

iii. Site Basalt, Gravelly to Cobbly-Malpais ES ... R042BE056NM – Malpais, Cool Desert Grassland

iv. Site Loamy and Gravelly- Gravelly Sand ... R042BE053NM – Gravelly Sand, Cool Desert Grassland

2 Soils are sandy to sandy loam or sandy material is over a various soil textures or restrictive soil features

i. Soil not gravelly < 15% gravel

a. Soils sandy to loamy sand eolian Deposits > 3 feet in depth and sandy textures throughout. Site is undulating or dunes, Giant Dropseed is an indicator species - Deep Sand ... R042BE054NM – Deep Sand, Cool Desert Grassland

b. Soils sandy loam deposits 20 -36 in depth, – Sandy ... R042BE051NM – Sandy, Cool Desert Grassland

ii. Soils >15% gravel – Gravelly Sand ES ... R042BE053NM – Gravelly Sand, Cool Desert Grassland

C. Landscape is basin floor. These ES sites occur at the northern most extent of the MLRA 42B and LRU 42BE.

1 Eolian Parent Material consisting of sand and loamy sand textures

i. Soil depth between 20 to 72 inches in depth. Sandy ... R042BE051NM – Sandy, Cool Desert Grassland

ii. Soil depth >72 inches and undulating to dunes. Deep Sand ... R042BE054NM – Deep Sand, Cool Desert Grassland

2 Alluvial Parent Material not sub-irrigated no shallow watertable

- i. Saline soils without salt concentrations at surface salty. Dominant shrub Atriplex sp. Salty Bottomland ES ... R042BE055NM – Salty Bottomland, Cool Desert Grassland
- ii. Non-Saline. Bottomland ES ... R042BE057NM – Bottomland, Cool Desert Grassland

3 Site alluvial has shallow water table, or seasonal shallow watertable

- i. Site Saline. Dominant species inland saltgrass, alkali sacaton, atriplex sp. Salty Bottomland ... R042BE055NM – Salty Bottomland, Cool Desert Grassland
- ii. Site not saline Giant Sacaton. Bottomland ... R042BE057NM – Bottomland, Cool Desert Grassland