

Major Land Resource Area 042B

Southern Rio Grande Rift

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Ecological site group keys

MLRA 42.2 Ecological Site Group Key

I. Flooded (low-lying landscape position, evidence of water flow and/or high production, narrow inset fans, bottomlands, river flood plains or meadows; Flooded soils group)

A. In a river floodplain ... ESG10 – Riparian

B. Not in a river floodplain

1 Level lake plains occupying lowest part of closed depressions in which flood waters persist long enough to prevent perennial vegetation in most areas ... ESG9 – Playas and lakebeds

2 Swales and depressions within upland landforms or at the margins of playas featuring highly productive vegetation ... ESG8 – Bottomlands

II. Not flooded (hills, convex portions of piedmont slopes, broad basin floors)

A. Exposed bedrock absent and few if any cobbles and stones

1 Soil surface texture loamy sand to medium sandy loam, subsoil non gravelly, gypsum absent

i. Soil is shallow (< 50 cm) or has a calcic, cambic, or argillic horizon within 1 m, dunes may occur but are separated by areas of finer soil texture ... ESG1 – Sandy

ii. Soil is not shallow (\geq 50 cm) and does not have a clear pedogenic horizon, continuous undulating surface or dunes ... ESG2 – Deep sand

2 Soil surface textures are fine sandy loam to clay loam, subsoil non gravelly, gypsum may or may not be present

i. Subsoil moderately to strongly saline, often with visible salt accumulation or crusts ... ESG4 – Saline

ii. Subsoil not moderately to strongly saline

a. Subsoil has a gypsic horizon and/or gypsiferous materials evident at the soil surface ... ESG7 – Gypsic

b. Subsoil lacks a gypsic horizon and gypsum not evident at the surface ... ESG3 – Loamy to clayey

3 Soil surface gravelly, soil profile gravelly to skeletal ... ESG5 – Gravelly

B. Exposed bedrock present or surface cobbles and stones common

1 Rock at lithic contact is basalt, may be a carbonate layer on top of it ... ESG11 – Malpais

2 Rock at lithic contact is not basalt ... ESG6 – Bedrock and colluvium