

# Reference Sheet

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**Date:** *24 May 02* **MLRA:** *High Plateau* **Sub-MLRA:** *25 Owyhee* **Ecological Site:** *Gravelly Loam* This *must* be verified based on soils and climate (see Ecological Site Description). Current plant community *cannot* be used to identify the ecological site.

**Composition (Indicators 10 and 12) based on:** ☐ Annual Production, ☐ Foliar Cover, ☒ Biomass

**Indicators.** For each indicator, describe the potential for the site. Where possible, (1) use numbers, (2) include expected range of values for above- and below-average years and natural disturbance regimes for **each** community within the reference state, when appropriate and (3) cite data. Continue descriptions on separate sheet.

1. Number and extent of rills:  
*Rills are not evident or expected on this nearly level site*
2. Presence of water flow patterns:  
*Flow patterns exist and appear normal*
3. Number and height of erosional pedestals or terracettes:  
*Pedestals apparent around bunchgrasses*
4. Bare ground from Ecological Site Description or other studies (rock, litter, lichen, moss, plant canopy are **not** bare ground):  
*Cheatgrass provides some litter, but bare ground is still abundant*
5. Number of gullies and erosion associated with gullies:  
*Site is relatively level and gullies are not apparent*
6. Extent of wind scoured, blowouts and/or depositional areas:  
*Blowouts and deposition areas not apparent*
7. Amount of litter movement (describe size and distance expected to travel):  
*Cheatgrass litter is light and is blows across site.*
8. Soil surface (top few mm) resistance to erosion (stability values are averages – most sites will show a range of values):  
*Soil surface measurements not conduct*
9. Soil surface structure and SOM content (include type of structure and A-horizon color and thickness):  
*Ecological site description indicates little Soil Organic Matter Expected*
10. Effect of plant community composition (relative proportion of different functional groups) and spatial distribution on infiltration and runoff: *Much greater abundance of cheatgrass and other annuals than expected or desirable for this site.*
11. Presence and thickness of compaction layer (usually none; describe soil profile features which may be mistaken for compaction on this site): *None apparent*
12. Functional/Structural Groups (list in order of descending dominance by above-ground production or live foliar cover (specify using symbols: >>, >, = to indicate much greater than, greater than, and equal to; place dominants, subdominants and "others" on separate lines):  
Dominants: *Annual Grasses*  
Sub-dominants: *Perennial Grasses & shrubs*  
Other:
13. Amount of plant mortality and decadence (include which functional groups are expected to show mortality or decadence):  
*Shadscale and other shrubs show mortality, but evidence of recovery.*
14. Average percent litter cover ( *12* %) and depth ( *< .25* inches).
15. Expected annual production (this is TOTAL above-ground production, not just forage production):  
*700* - *850* lbs./acre or kg/ha (choose one)
16. Potential invasive (including noxious) species (native and non-native). List species which BOTH characterize degraded states and have the potential to become a dominant or co-dominant species on the ecological site if their future establishment and growth is not actively controlled by management interventions. Species that become dominant for only one to several years (e.g., short-term response to drought or wildfire) are not invasive plants. Note that unlike other indicators, we are describing what is NOT expected in the reference state for the ecological site.: *Cheatgrass is the biggest problem here*
17. Perennial plant reproductive capability:  
*Perennial plants present are capable of reproducing*