

## Ecological site R030XC002NV DRY MEADOW

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### Rangeland health reference sheet

Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health is a qualitative assessment protocol used to determine ecosystem condition based on benchmark characteristics described in the Reference Sheet. A suite of 17 (or more) indicators are typically considered in an assessment. The ecological site(s) representative of an assessment location must be known prior to applying the protocol and must be verified based on soils and climate. Current plant community cannot be used to identify the ecological site.

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Date	06/22/2006
Approved by	Sarah Quistberg
Approval date	
Composition (Indicators 10 and 12) based on	Annual Production

### Indicators

1. **Number and extent of rills:** Not common due to high vegetative cover.  

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2. **Presence of water flow patterns:** None  

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3. **Number and height of erosional pedestals or terracettes:** None  

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4. **Bare ground from Ecological Site Description or other studies (rock, litter, lichen, moss, plant canopy are not bare ground):** 5 to 20 percent. Mostly covered by vegetation and litter.  

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5. **Number of gullies and erosion associated with gullies:** None  

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6. **Extent of wind scoured, blowouts and/or depositional areas:** None

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7. **Amount of litter movement (describe size and distance expected to travel):** 1 inch or less in size in water flow areas.
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8. **Soil surface (top few mm) resistance to erosion (stability values are averages - most sites will show a range of values):** Soil surface resistance due to vegetation cover and litter. Stability values be 3-5 (not tested).
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9. **Soil surface structure and SOM content (include type of structure and A-horizon color and thickness):** Soils have high organic matter.
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10. **Effect of community phase composition (relative proportion of different functional groups) and spatial distribution on infiltration and runoff:** Plant community composition is approximately 95 percent herbaceous and 5 percent shrubs which aid in snow catchment and infiltration.
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11. **Presence and thickness of compaction layer (usually none; describe soil profile features which may be mistaken for compaction on this site):** None
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12. **Functional/Structural Groups (list in order of descending dominance by above-ground annual-production or live foliar cover using symbols: >>, >, = to indicate much greater than, greater than, and equal to):**
- Dominant: Perennial, cool-season bunchgrasses>>grass-likes
- Sub-dominant: Deep-rooted, perennial forbs>warm-season rhizomatous grasses>deciduous and evergreen shrubs
- Other:
- Additional:
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13. **Amount of plant mortality and decadence (include which functional groups are expected to show mortality or decadence):** Up to 10% mortality and decadence
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14. **Average percent litter cover (%) and depth ( in):**
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15. **Expected annual annual-production (this is TOTAL above-ground annual-production, not just forage annual-production):** Approximately 1000 pounds in a normal year.
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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: Rubber rabbitbrush and conifers are invaders on this site.

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17. **Perennial plant reproductive capability:** All plants should reproduce on a normal year.
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