

# Ecological site DX035X03E003

## Limy

Accessed: 05/13/2025

### General information

**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.



Figure 1. Mapped extent

Areas shown in blue indicate the maximum mapped extent of this ecological site. Other ecological sites likely occur within the highlighted areas. It is also possible for this ecological site to occur outside of highlighted areas if detailed soil survey has not been completed or recently updated.

Table 1. Dominant plant species

Tree	Not specified
Shrub	Not specified
Herbaceous	Not specified

### Legacy ID

R035XB003NM

### Physiographic features

This upland site occurs on river terraces, plateaus, and mesas. There are occasional drainageways. Slopes are generally from 0 to 8 percent; however, the river terrace slopes may be 40 percent. Elevations range from 4,800 to 6,400 feet above sea level.

Table 2. Representative physiographic features

Landforms	(1) Stream terrace (2) Mesa
Elevation	4,800–6,400 ft

Slope	0–40%
Aspect	Aspect is not a significant factor

## Climatic features

This site has an arid, mild, dry climate with distinct seasonal temperature variations and large annual and diurnal temperature changes.

Mean annual precipitation varies from 7 to 10 inches. Deviations of 4 inches or more are quite common. Distribution is 65% during the native-plant growth period, which is from April through September. May and June are the dry months. During July, August, and September, 3.5 inches of precipitation influences the presence and production of warm-season plants. Late-fall and winter moisture is conducive to the production of cool-season plants, which usually begin growth in March and end with plant maturity and seed dissemination. This usually takes place in the early part of June when the moisture deficiency and warmer temperatures occur. The Gulf of Mexico is the principal source of moisture for summer precipitation, which is characterized by brief afternoon thunderstorms. Winter moisture occurs as light rain or snow.

Temperatures vary from a monthly mean of 75 degrees F in July to 27 degrees F in January, and from an annual maximum of 106 degrees F to an annual minimum of -35 degrees F. The average last killing frost in the spring is May 8, and the average first killing frost in the fall is October 10. The frost-free season is approximately 160 days. Temperatures are conducive for native grass and forb growth from April through September. Maximum shrub growth occurs in the spring months.

The wind blows most frequently from an easterly direction; however, a majority of the stronger winds (10 to 25 miles per hour) are from a westerly quadrant. Spring is the windiest season. Average hourly wind velocities are near 6 miles per hour. Spring and summer winds increase transpiration rates of native plants and rapidly dry the surface soil. Small soil particles are often displaced by the wind near the soil surface and often results in structural damage to native plants, especially young seedlings.

Climate data were obtained from <http://www.wrcc.sage.dri.edu/summary/climsmnm.html> web site using 50% probability for freeze-free and frost-free seasons using 28.5 degrees F and 32.5 degrees F, respectively.

**Table 3. Representative climatic features**

Frost-free period (average)	151 days
Freeze-free period (average)	177 days
Precipitation total (average)	10 in

## Influencing water features

This site is not influenced by water from a wetland or stream.

## Soil features

The soils on this site are deep and well-drained. The surface layer is a brown calcareous loam, sandy loam, or gravelly loam about three inches thick. The subsoil is a brown calcareous loam, clay loam, or fine sandy loam about 10 inches thick. The upper substratum is a pinkish white very gravelly clay loam or white sandy clay loam, clay loam, or loam, ranging from 16 to 39 inches thick. It has a calcic horizon. The lower substratum is a loose gravelly or very gravelly sandy loam, sandy loam, loam, or clay loam, ranging from 19 to 53 inches thick.

They formed in calcareous eolian and alluvial material derived from sandstone and shale. Water intake rate is moderate to moderately rapid. Available water-holding capacity ranges from 4.5 to 9.5 inches in a 5-foot profile. Potential for wind and water erosion is low to medium.

**Table 4. Representative soil features**

Surface texture	(1) Gravelly loam (2) Sandy loam
Family particle size	(1) Loamy
Drainage class	Well drained
Permeability class	Moderately slow to moderately rapid
Soil depth	53–72 in
Surface fragment cover <=3"	15–35%
Available water capacity (0–40in)	3–12 in
Electrical conductivity (0–40in)	0–8 mmhos/cm
Soil reaction (1:1 water) (0–40in)	7.9–8.4
Subsurface fragment volume <=3" (Depth not specified)	60%
Subsurface fragment volume >3" (Depth not specified)	35–60%

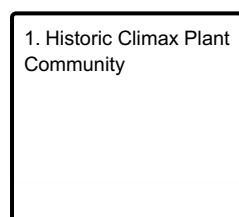
## Ecological dynamics

The vegetative aspect of this site is grassland characterized by short- and mid- grasses. Shrubs and perennial forbs are a relatively small component of the plant community. Annual forbs are always present in varying amounts according to the current growing conditions.

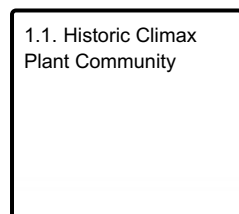
Additional plants which usually grow on this site in varying amounts dependent on current growing season conditions are: slim tridens, fluffgrass, sixweeks fescue, annual brome grasses, sixweeks grama, ring muhly, Russian thistle, cholla cacti, pricklypear cacti, and Rocky Mountain beeplant.

## State and transition model

### Ecosystem states



### State 1 submodel, plant communities



## State 1 Historic Climax Plant Community

### Community 1.1 Historic Climax Plant Community

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Table 5. Annual production by plant type

Plant Type	Low (Lb/Acre)	Representative Value (Lb/Acre)	High (Lb/Acre)
Grass/Grasslike	195	293	390
Forb	45	68	90
Total	240	361	480

Table 6. Ground cover

Tree foliar cover	0%
Shrub/vine/liana foliar cover	0%
Grass/grasslike foliar cover	0%
Forb foliar cover	0%
Non-vascular plants	0%
Biological crusts	0%
Litter	10%
Surface fragments >0.25" and <=3"	0%
Surface fragments >3"	0%
Bedrock	0%
Water	0%
Bare ground	42%

Figure 5. Plant community growth curve (percent production by month). NM0903, R035XB003NM-Limy-HCPC. Mixed mid/short-grassland with minor shrub and forb components..

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	5	7	10	10	25	30	10	3	0	0

Additional community tables

Table 7. Community 1.1 plant community composition

Group	Common Name	Symbol	Scientific Name	Annual Production (Lb/Acre)	Foliar Cover (%)
<b>Grass/Grasslike</b>					
1				90–113	
	needle and thread	HECO26	<i>Hesperostipa comata</i>	90–113	–
	New Mexico feathergrass	HENE5	<i>Hesperostipa neomexicana</i>	90–113	–
2				69–90	
	Indian ricegrass	ACHY	<i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i>	68–90	–
3				23–45	
	James' galleta	PLJA	<i>Pleuraphis jamesii</i>	23–45	–
4				23–45	
	blue grama	BOGR2	<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	23–45	–
5				23–45	
	threeawn	ARIST	<i>Aristida</i>	23–45	–
6				23–45	
	spike dropseed	SPCO4	<i>Sporobolus contractus</i>	23–45	–
	sand dropseed	SPCR	<i>Sporobolus cryptandrus</i>	23–45	–
7				45–68	
	alkali sacaton	SPAI	<i>Sporobolus airoides</i>	45–68	–
<b>Forb</b>					
8				14–23	
	milkweed	ASCLE	<i>Asclepias</i>	14–23	–
	herb sophia	DESO2	<i>Descurainia sophia</i>	14–23	–
	buckwheat	ERIOG	<i>Eriogonum</i>	14–23	–
	woolly plantain	PLPA2	<i>Plantago patagonica</i>	14–23	–
	ragwort	SENEC	<i>Senecio</i>	14–23	–
<b>Shrub/Vine</b>					
9				14–23	
	fourwing saltbush	ATCA2	<i>Atriplex canescens</i>	14–23	–
10				14–23	
	mormon tea	EPVI	<i>Ephedra viridis</i>	14–23	–
11				45–68	
	winterfat	KRLA2	<i>Krascheninnikovia lanata</i>	45–68	–
12				5–14	
	yellow rabbitbrush	CHVI8	<i>Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus</i>	5–14	–
13				14–23	
	black sagebrush	ARNO4	<i>Artemisia nova</i>	14–23	–
	big sagebrush	ARTR2	<i>Artemisia tridentata</i>	14–23	–
14				14–23	
	broom snakeweed	GUSA2	<i>Gutierrezia sarothrae</i>	14–23	–
	soapweed yucca	YUGL	<i>Yucca glauca</i>	14–23	–

## Animal community

Habitat for Wildlife:

This range site provides habitats which support a resident animal community that is characterized by pronghorn antelope, coyote, desert cottontail, white-tailed prairie dog, deer mouse, raven, scaled quail, mourning dove, red-spotted toad, side-blotched lizard, and prairie rattlesnake.

The burrowing owl is a summer resident. While not resident, mule deer will move out of adjacent habitats to feed in these ecological sites.

## Hydrological functions

The runoff curve numbers are determined by field investigations using hydrologic cover conditions and hydrologic soil groups.

### Hydrologic Interpretations

Soil Series-----Hydrologic Group

Atrac-----B

Avalon-----B

Blackston-----B

Aton-----?

Nageesi-----?

## Recreational uses

No Data

## Wood products

No Data

## Other products

Grazing:

This site is suitable for grazing use by cattle, sheep, horses, burros, antelope, deer, and small herbivorous animals. Various birds use this site for food and shelter. Under the pressure of uncontrolled grazing, the potential plant community deteriorates, and there is a marked increase in the amount of shrubs, forbs, cacti, and yucca. Juniper may invade the site.

## Other information

Guide to Suggested Initial Stocking Rate Acres per Animal Unit Month

Similarity Index-----Ac/AUM

100 - 76-----7.0 – 14.0

75 – 51-----9.0 – 18.0

50 – 26-----11.0 – 22.0

25 – 0-----14.0+

## Type locality

Location 1: San Juan County, NM	
Township/Range/Section	T29 N R14 W S33
General legal description	A typical pedon of Nageesi sandy loam in San Juan County, New Mexico, south of Farmington, 1,600 feet north, 264 feet west of the southwest corner of Section 33, T29N, R14W.

## Other references

Data collection for this site was done in conjunction with the progressive soil surveys within the San Juan River Valley, Mesas and Plateaus, Major Land Resource Area 35 of New Mexico. This site has been mapped and

correlated with soils in the following soil surveys: San Juan, McKinley.

Characteristic soils are:

Aton, Nageesi

Other soils included are:

Atrac, Avalon, Blackston

## Contributors

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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.

Author(s)/participant(s)	
Contact for lead author	
Date	
Approved by	
Approval date	
Composition (Indicators 10 and 12) based on	Annual Production

## Indicators

### 1. Number and extent of rills:

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### 2. Presence of water flow patterns:

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### 3. Number and height of erosional pedestals or terracettes:

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### 4. Bare ground from Ecological Site Description or other studies (rock, litter, lichen, moss, plant canopy are not bare ground):

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### 5. Number of gullies and erosion associated with gullies:

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### 6. Extent of wind scoured, blowouts and/or depositional areas:

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7. **Amount of litter movement (describe size and distance expected to travel):**
- 
8. **Soil surface (top few mm) resistance to erosion (stability values are averages - most sites will show a range of values):**
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9. **Soil surface structure and SOM content (include type of structure and A-horizon color and thickness):**
- 
10. **Effect of community phase composition (relative proportion of different functional groups) and spatial distribution on infiltration and runoff:**
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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):**
- 
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:
- Sub-dominant:
- Other:
- Additional:
- 
13. **Amount of plant mortality and decadence (include which functional groups are expected to show mortality or decadence):**
- 
14. **Average percent litter cover (%) and depth ( in):**
- 
15. **Expected annual annual-production (this is TOTAL above-ground annual-production, not just forage annual-production):**
- 
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:**
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17. **Perennial plant reproductive capability:**

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