

United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service

Ecological Site Description

Site Type: Rangeland

Site Name: Subirrigated

Site ID: R102BY003SD

Major Land Resource Area (MLRA): 102B – Till Plains

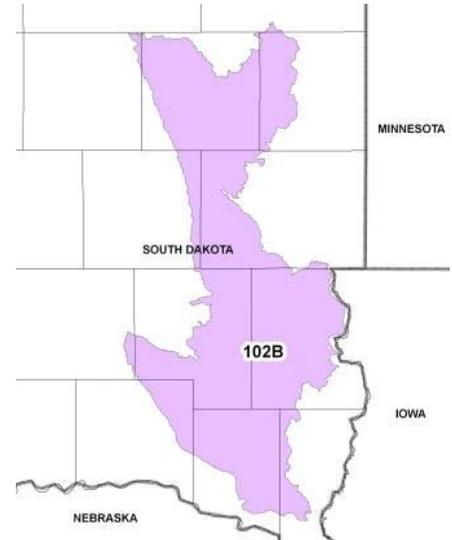
Physiographic Features

This site occurs on nearly level floodplains or swales.

Landform: floodplain, outwash plain

Aspect: N/A

	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Elevation (feet):	1,100	1,900
Slope (percent):	1	2
Water Table Depth (inches):	18	80
Flooding:		
Frequency:	Occasional	Frequent
Duration:	Brief	Long
Ponding:		
Depth (inches):	None	None
Frequency:	None	None
Duration:	None	None
Runoff Class:	Low	Medium



Climatic Features

MLRA 102B is considered to have a continental climate – cold winters and relatively hot summers, low to moderate humidity, light rainfall, and much sunshine. Extremes in temperature may also abound. The climate is the result of this MLRA's location near the geographic center of North America. There are few natural barriers on the Northern Great Plains and air masses move freely across the plains and account for rapid changes in temperature.

Annual precipitation typically ranges from 24 to 26 inches per year. The average annual temperature is about 46°F. January is the coldest month with average temperatures ranging from about 14°F (Wentworth 2 WNW, South Dakota (SD)), to about 18°F (Canton 4 WNW, SD). July is the warmest month with temperatures averaging from about 72°F (Wentworth 2 WNW, SD), to about 73°F (Canton 4 WNW, SD). The range of normal average monthly temperatures between the coldest and warmest months is about 57°F. This large annual range attests to the continental nature of this area's climate. Hourly winds are estimated to average about 11 miles per hour (mph) annually, ranging from about 13 mph during the spring to about 10 mph during the summer. Daytime winds are generally stronger than nighttime and occasional strong storms may bring brief periods of high winds with gusts to more than 50 mph.

Growth of cool-season plants begins in early to mid-March, slowing or ceasing in late June. Warm-season plants begin growth about mid-May and continue to early or mid-September. Greenup of cool-season plants may occur in September and October when adequate soil moisture is present.

	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Frost-free period (days):	145	147
Freeze-free period (days):	162	165
Mean Annual Precipitation (inches):	24	26

Average Monthly Precipitation (inches) and Temperature (°F):

	Precip. Min.	Precip. Max	Temp. Min.	Temp. Max.
January	0.51	0.52	4.0	28.3
February	0.58	0.69	7.0	31.6
March	1.13	1.71	20.1	45.0
April	2.36	3.05	33.2	60.3
May	3.25	3.85	44.4	72.2
June	3.86	4.28	54.5	81.1
July	2.97	3.16	59.2	85.8
August	3.02	3.03	57.2	84.4
September	2.55	2.77	48.4	76.2
October	1.63	2.19	36.0	63.8
November	0.96	1.33	21.6	44.9
December	0.48	0.54	9.7	31.3

Climate Stations		Period	
Station ID	Location or Name	From	To
SD1392	Canton 4 WNW	1896	2009
SD1579	Centerville 6 SE	1897	2009
SD7667	Sioux Falls WSFO	1948	2009
SD9042	Wentworth 2 WNW	1893	2006

For local climate stations that may be more representative, refer to <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov>.

Riparian and Wetland Features

This ecological site has a combination of physical and hydrological features that: 1) typically provides ground water within 2 feet of the surface for most of the season, 2) allows relatively free movement of water and air in the upper part of the soil, and 3) are rarely to frequently flooded.

Wetland Description:	System	Subsystem	Class	Sub-class
Cowardin, et al., 1979	Palustrine	N/A	Emergent Wetland	Persistent

Representative Soil Features

The soils in this site are poorly to somewhat poorly drained and formed in alluvium and beach sand. The loam to clay loam surface layer (occasionally loamy sand) is 9 to 27 inches thick and typically has a granular structure. Dark colors are very deep in these soils. The soils have a slow to moderately slow infiltration rate. This site should show no evidence of rills, wind scoured areas, or pedestalled plants. If present, water flow paths are broken, irregular in appearance, or discontinuous. The soil surface is stable and intact. These soils are mainly susceptible to water erosion. The hazard of water erosion increases where vegetative cover is not adequate. A drastic loss of the soil surface layer on this site can result in a shift in species composition and/or production.

Access Web Soil Survey (<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm>) for specific local soils information.

Parent Material Kind: alluvium, beach sand
Parent Material Origin:
Surface Texture: silty clay loam, clay loam, silt loam
Surface Texture Modifier: none
Subsurface Texture Group: loamy
Surface Fragments ≤3” (% Cover): 0-5
Surface Fragments >3” (%Cover): 0
Subsurface Fragments ≤3” (% Volume): 0-34
Subsurface Fragments >3” (% Volume): 0-2

	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Drainage Class:	poorly	somewhat poorly
Permeability Class:	slow	moderately slow
Depth (inches):	80	80
Electrical Conductivity (mmhos/cm)*:	0	4
Sodium Absorption Ratio*:	0	4
Soil Reaction (1:1 Water)*:	6.6	8.4
Soil Reaction (0.1M CaCl₂)*:	NA	NA
Available Water Capacity (inches)*:	6	8
Calcium Carbonate Equivalent (percent)*:	0	20

*These attributes represent from 0-40 inches or to the first restrictive layer.

Plant Communities

Ecological Dynamics of the Site

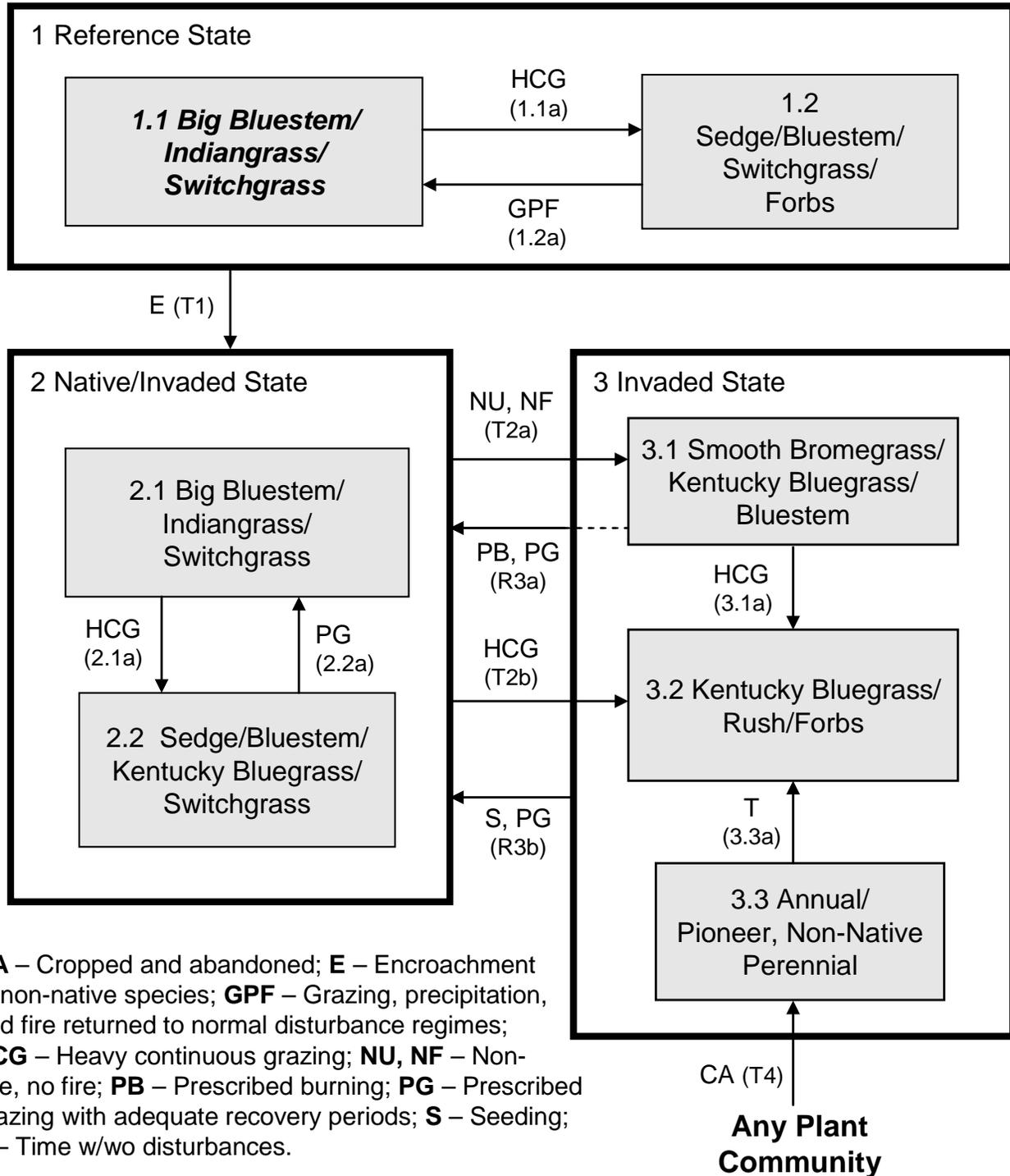
This site developed under Northern Great Plains climatic conditions, light to severe grazing by bison and other large herbivores, sporadic natural or man-caused wildfire (often of light intensities), and other biotic and abiotic factors that typically influence soil/site development. Changes will occur in the plant communities due to short-term weather variations, impacts of native and/or exotic plant and animal species, and management actions. While the following plant community descriptions describe more typical transitions that will occur, severe disturbances, such as periods of well below average precipitation, can cause significant shifts in plant communities and/or species composition that may not be described within this document.

Heavy continuous grazing without adequate recovery periods following each grazing occurrence over several years causes this site to depart from the interpretive plant community. Species such as little bluestem and sedge will initially increase. Big bluestem, Indiangrass, and switchgrass will decrease in frequency and production. Heavy continuous grazing causes Kentucky bluegrass to invade and eventually develop into a sod condition. Extended periods of nonuse and no fire will result in a plant community having high litter levels, which favors an increase in Kentucky bluegrass and smooth brome grass. In time, shrubs such as western snowberry will also increase.

Interpretations are primarily based on the 1.1 Big Bluestem/Indiangrass/Switchgrass Plant Community Phase. It has been determined by study of rangeland relic areas, areas protected from excessive disturbance, and areas under long-term rotational grazing regimes. Trends in plant community dynamics ranging from heavily grazed to lightly grazed areas, seasonal use pastures, and historical accounts also have been used. Plant community phases, states, transitional pathways, and thresholds have been determined through similar studies and experience.

The following is a diagram that illustrates the common plant community phases that can occur on the site and the transition pathways between communities. These are the most common plant community phases based on current knowledge and experience, and changes may be made as more data is collected. Narratives following the diagram contain more detail pertaining to the ecological processes.

Plant Communities and Transitional Pathways



Plant Community Composition and Group Annual Production

COMMON/GROUP NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	SYMBOL	1.1 Big Bluestem/Indiangrass/ Switchgrass			
			Group	lbs./acre	% Comp	
GRASSES & GRASS-LIKES				4480 - 5040	80 - 90	
TALL WARM-SEASON GRASSES			1	1400 - 3360	25 - 60	
big bluestem	Andropogon gerardii	ANGE	1	560 - 2520	10 - 45	
Indiangrass	Sorghastrum nutans	SONU2	1	560 - 2520	10 - 45	
switchgrass	Panicum virgatum	PAVI2	1	112 - 1120	2 - 20	
prairie cordgrass	Spartina pectinata	SPPE	1	56 - 560	1 - 10	
COOL-SEASON GRASSES			2	280 - 840	5 - 15	
Canada wildrye	Elymus canadensis	ELCA4	2	56 - 560	1 - 10	
slender wheatgrass	Elymus trachycaulus	ELTR7	2	56 - 280	1 - 5	
northern reedgrass	Calamagrostis stricta ssp. inexpansa	CASTI3	2	56 - 168	1 - 3	
whitetop	Scolochloa festucacea	SCFE	2	56 - 168	1 - 3	
plains bluegrass	Poa arida	POAR3	2	56 - 168	1 - 3	
prairie wedgescale	Sphenopholis obtusata	SPOB	2	0 - 168	0 - 3	
MID WARM-SEASON GRASSES			3	280 - 840	5 - 15	
little bluestem	Schizachyrium scoparium	SCSC	3	280 - 840	5 - 15	
sidecoats grama	Bouteloua curtipendula	BOCU	3	56 - 280	1 - 5	
prairie dropseed	Sporobolus heterolepis	SPHE	3	56 - 280	1 - 5	
GRASS-LIKES			4	280 - 840	5 - 15	
clustered field sedge	Carex praegracilis	CAPR5	4	56 - 560	1 - 10	
manyhead sedge	Carex sychnocephala	CASY	4	56 - 560	1 - 10	
Sartwell's sedge	Carex sartwellii	CASA8	4	56 - 560	1 - 10	
rush	Juncus spp.	JUNCU	4	56 - 280	1 - 5	
other grass-likes		2GL	4	0 - 168	0 - 3	
OTHER NATIVE GRASSES			5	56 - 280	1 - 5	
Scribner panicum	Dichanthelium oligosanthes var. scribnerianum	DIOLS	5	0 - 56	0 - 1	
Wilcox panicum	Dichanthelium wilcoxianum	DIW15	5	0 - 56	0 - 1	
other grasses		2GRAM	5	0 - 280	0 - 5	
FORBS				280 - 840	5 - 15	
American licorice	Glycyrrhiza lepidota	GLLE3		0 - 112	0 - 2	
black-eyed Susan	Rudbeckia hirta	RUH12		0 - 56	0 - 1	
bluebell bellflower	Campanula rotundifolia	CARO2		0 - 56	0 - 1	
blue-eyed grass	Sisyrinchium spp.	SISYR		0 - 56	0 - 1	
closed bottle gentian	Gentiana andrewsii	GEAN		0 - 56	0 - 1	
cudweed sagewort	Artemisia ludoviciana	ARLU		56 - 112	1 - 2	
downy gentian	Gentiana puberulenta	GEPU5		0 - 56	0 - 1	
goldenrod	Solidago spp.	SOLID		56 - 112	1 - 2	
heartleaf Alexanders	Zizia aptera	ZIAP		0 - 56	0 - 1	
heath aster	Symphotrichum ericoides	SYER		56 - 112	1 - 2	
horsetail	Equisetum laevigatum	EQLA		0 - 56	0 - 1	
Indian hemp	Apocynum cannabinum	APCA		56 - 112	1 - 2	
Maximilian sunflower	Helianthus maximiliani	HEMA2		56 - 168	1 - 3	
meadow anemone	Anemone canadensis	ANCA8		56 - 112	1 - 2	
milkweed	Asclepias spp.	ASCLE		0 - 56	0 - 1	
New England aster	Symphotrichum novae-angliae	SYNO2		56 - 112	1 - 2	
Norwegian cinquefoil	Potentilla norvegica	PONO3		0 - 56	0 - 1	
palespike lobelia	Lobelia spicata	LOSP		0 - 56	0 - 1	
prairie coneflower	Ratibida columnifera	RACO3		0 - 56	0 - 1	
prairie violet	Viola pedatifida	VIPE2		0 - 56	0 - 1	
purple prairie clover	Dalea purpurea	DAPU5		56 - 112	1 - 2	
rough bugleweed	Lycopus asper	LYAS		0 - 56	0 - 1	
tall gayfeather	Liatris aspera	LIAS		56 - 112	1 - 2	
western ragweed	Ambrosia psilostachya	AMPS		0 - 56	0 - 1	
western yarrow	Achillea millefolium var. occidentalis	ACMIO		56 - 112	1 - 2	
wild strawberry	Fragaria virginiana	FRVI		0 - 56	0 - 1	
yellow stargrass	Hypoxis hirsuta	HYHI2		0 - 56	0 - 1	
native forbs		2FN		56 - 168	1 - 3	
SHRUBS				112 - 280	2 - 5	
false indigo	Amorpha fruticosa	AMFR		0 - 112	0 - 2	
leadplant	Amorpha canescens	AMCA6		56 - 168	1 - 3	
rose	Rosa spp.	ROSA5		56 - 112	1 - 2	
willow	Salix spp.	SALIX		0 - 112	0 - 2	
other shrubs		2SHRUB		0 - 112	0 - 2	
Annual Production lbs./acre				LOW	RV	HIGH
GRASSES & GRASS-LIKES				4260	4844	-5320
FORBS				240	560	-960
SHRUBS				100	196	-320
TOTAL				4600	5600	-6600

This list of plants and their relative proportions are based on near normal years. Fluctuations in species composition and relative production may change from year to year dependent upon precipitation or other climatic factors. RV = Representative value.

Plant Community Composition and Group Annual Production

COMMON/GROUP NAME	SYMBOL	1.1 Big Bluestem/Indiangrass/ Switchgrass			2.2 Sedge/Bluestem/Kentucky Bluegrass/Switchgrass			3.1 Smooth Bromegrass/ Kentucky Bluegrass/Bluestem			3.2 Kentucky Bluegrass/Rush/ Spikerush/Forbs		
		Grp	lbs./acre	% Comp	Grp	lbs./acre	% Comp	Grp	lbs./acre	% Comp	Grp	lbs./acre	% Comp
GRASSES & GRASS-LIKES			4480 - 5040	80 - 90		3600 - 4050	80 - 90		4335 - 4845	85 - 95		2560 - 2880	80 - 90
TALL WARM-SEASON GRASSES		1	1400 - 3360	25 - 60	1	450 - 1350	10 - 30	1	0 - 510	0 - 10	1	0 - 96	0 - 3
big bluestem	ANGE	1	560 - 2520	10 - 45	1	225 - 1125	5 - 25	1	0 - 510	0 - 10	1	0 - 96	0 - 3
Indiangrass	SONU2	1	560 - 2520	10 - 45	1	0 - 450	0 - 10						
switchgrass	PAVI2	1	112 - 1120	2 - 20	1	225 - 900	5 - 20	1	0 - 255	0 - 5	1	0 - 96	0 - 3
prairie cordgrass	SPPE	1	56 - 560	1 - 10	1	0 - 225	0 - 5	1	0 - 255	0 - 5			
COOL-SEASON GRASSES		2	280 - 840	5 - 15	2	90 - 450	2 - 10	2	51 - 765	1 - 15	2	0 - 224	0 - 7
Canada wildrye	ELCA4	2	56 - 560	1 - 10	2	0 - 225	0 - 5	2	0 - 102	0 - 2			
slender wheatgrass	ELTR7	2	56 - 280	1 - 5	2	0 - 315	0 - 7	2	0 - 510	0 - 10	2	0 - 160	0 - 5
northern reedgrass	CASTI3	2	56 - 168	1 - 3	2	0 - 45	0 - 1						
whiteweed	SCFE	2	56 - 168	1 - 3									
plains bluegrass	POAR3	2	56 - 168	1 - 3	2	90 - 360	2 - 8	2	51 - 510	1 - 10	2	0 - 160	0 - 5
prairie wedgescale	SPOB	2	0 - 168	0 - 3									
MID WARM-SEASON GRASSES		3	280 - 840	5 - 15	3	0 - 450	0 - 10	3	0 - 510	0 - 10	3	0 - 96	0 - 3
little bluestem	SCSC	3	280 - 840	5 - 15	3	0 - 450	0 - 10	3	0 - 408	0 - 8	3	0 - 96	0 - 3
sideoats grama	BOCU	3	56 - 280	1 - 5	3	0 - 135	0 - 3	3	0 - 153	0 - 3			
prairie dropseed	SPHE	3	56 - 280	1 - 5									
GRASS-LIKES		4	280 - 840	5 - 15	4	225 - 1350	5 - 30	4	255 - 1020	5 - 20	4	160 - 640	5 - 20
clustered field sedge	CAPR5	4	56 - 560	1 - 10	4	45 - 900	1 - 20	4	0 - 765	0 - 15	4	0 - 160	0 - 5
manyhead sedge	CASY	4	56 - 560	1 - 10	4	45 - 900	1 - 20	4	0 - 765	0 - 15	4	0 - 160	0 - 5
Sartwell's sedge	CASA8	4	56 - 560	1 - 10	4	45 - 900	1 - 20	4	0 - 765	0 - 15	4	0 - 160	0 - 5
rush	JUNCU	4	56 - 280	1 - 5	4	45 - 360	1 - 8	4	0 - 357	0 - 7	4	64 - 480	2 - 15
other grass-likes	ZGL	4	0 - 168	0 - 3	4	0 - 135	0 - 3	4	0 - 255	0 - 5	4	0 - 96	0 - 3
OTHER NATIVE GRASSES		5	56 - 280	1 - 5	5	0 - 225	0 - 5	5	0 - 255	0 - 5	5	0 - 160	0 - 5
Scribner panicum	DIOLS	5	0 - 56	0 - 1	5	0 - 45	0 - 1	5	0 - 51	0 - 1	5	0 - 32	0 - 1
Wilcox panicum	DIWI5	5	0 - 56	0 - 1	5	0 - 45	0 - 1	5	0 - 51	0 - 1	5	0 - 32	0 - 1
other grasses	ZGRAM	5	0 - 280	0 - 5	5	0 - 225	0 - 5	5	0 - 255	0 - 5	5	0 - 160	0 - 5
NON-NATIVE GRASSES		6			6	450 - 1125	10 - 25	6	1020 - 2805	20 - 55	6	640 - 2240	20 - 70
Kentucky bluegrass	POPR				6	225 - 900	5 - 20	6	255 - 1275	5 - 25	6	320 - 1920	10 - 60
redtop	AGST2				6	0 - 360	0 - 8	6	0 - 510	0 - 10	6	0 - 480	0 - 15
timothy	PHPR3				6	0 - 360	0 - 8	6	0 - 510	0 - 10	6	0 - 480	0 - 15
smooth bromegrass	BRIN2				6	45 - 450	1 - 10	6	765 - 2550	15 - 50	6	0 - 256	0 - 8
FORBS		7	280 - 840	5 - 15	7	225 - 675	5 - 15	7	255 - 510	5 - 10	7	160 - 640	5 - 20
American licorice	GLLE3	7	0 - 112	0 - 2	7	0 - 135	0 - 3	7	0 - 153	0 - 3	7	0 - 32	0 - 1
black-eyed Susan	RUHI2	7	0 - 56	0 - 1									
bluebell bellflower	CARO2	7	0 - 56	0 - 1				7	0 - 51	0 - 1			
blue-eyed grass	SISYR	7	0 - 56	0 - 1									
closed bottle gentian	GEAN	7	0 - 56	0 - 1									
cudweed sagewort	ARLU	7	56 - 112	1 - 2	7	45 - 180	1 - 4	7	51 - 153	1 - 3	7	32 - 256	1 - 8
downy gentian	GEPU5	7	0 - 56	0 - 1									
goldenrod	SOLID	7	56 - 112	1 - 2	7	45 - 180	1 - 4	7	51 - 102	1 - 2	7	32 - 256	1 - 8
heartleaf Alexanders	ZIAP	7	0 - 56	0 - 1									
heath aster	SYER	7	56 - 112	1 - 2	7	45 - 180	1 - 4	7	51 - 102	1 - 2	7	32 - 160	1 - 5
horsetail	EQLA	7	0 - 56	0 - 1	7	0 - 90	0 - 2	7	0 - 51	0 - 1	7	32 - 0	1 - 0
Indian hemp	APCA	7	56 - 112	1 - 2	7	45 - 180	1 - 4	7	51 - 153	1 - 3	7	0 - 32	0 - 1
Maximilian sunflower	HEMA2	7	56 - 168	1 - 3	7	0 - 45	0 - 1						
meadow anemone	ANCA8	7	56 - 112	1 - 2	7	0 - 45	0 - 1						
milkweed	ASCLE	7	0 - 56	0 - 1	7	0 - 90	0 - 2	7	0 - 51	0 - 1			
New England aster	SYNO2	7	56 - 112	1 - 2	7	45 - 135	1 - 3	7	51 - 102	1 - 2	7	32 - 160	1 - 5
Norwegian cinquefoil	PONO3	7	0 - 56	0 - 1	7	0 - 45	0 - 1						
palespike lobelia	LOSP	7	0 - 56	0 - 1									
prairie coneflower	RACO3	7	0 - 56	0 - 1	7	0 - 45	0 - 1	7	0 - 51	0 - 1			
prairie violet	VIPE2	7	0 - 56	0 - 1									
purple prairie clover	DAPU5	7	56 - 112	1 - 2	7	45 - 90	1 - 2	7	0 - 51	0 - 1			
rough bugleweed	LYAS	7	0 - 56	0 - 1				7	0 - 51	0 - 1			
tall gayfeather	LIAS	7	56 - 112	1 - 2	7	0 - 90	0 - 2	7	0 - 51	0 - 1			
western ragweed	AMPS	7	0 - 56	0 - 1	7	45 - 135	1 - 3	7	51 - 153	1 - 3	7	32 - 224	1 - 7
western yarrow	ACMO	7	56 - 112	1 - 2	7	45 - 135	1 - 3	7	51 - 102	1 - 2	7	32 - 224	1 - 7
wild strawberry	FRVI	7	0 - 56	0 - 1									
yellow stargrass	HYHI2	7	0 - 56	0 - 1									
native forbs	ZFN	7	56 - 168	1 - 3	7	45 - 135	1 - 3	7	0 - 153	0 - 3	7	0 - 64	0 - 2
introduced forbs	ZFI				7	0 - 225	0 - 5	7	51 - 204	1 - 4	7	32 - 320	1 - 10
SHRUBS		8	112 - 280	2 - 5	8	45 - 225	1 - 5	8	51 - 255	1 - 5	8	0 - 64	0 - 2
false indigo	AMFR	8	0 - 112	0 - 2	8	0 - 45	0 - 1	8	0 - 51	0 - 1			
leadplant	AMCA6	8	56 - 168	1 - 3	8	0 - 90	0 - 2	8	0 - 51	0 - 1			
rose	ROSA5	8	56 - 112	1 - 2	8	45 - 90	1 - 2	8	0 - 102	0 - 2	8	0 - 64	0 - 2
willow	SALIX	8	0 - 112	0 - 2	8	0 - 45	0 - 1	8	0 - 153	0 - 3			
other shrubs	ZSHRUB	8	0 - 112	0 - 2	8	0 - 90	0 - 2	8	0 - 102	0 - 2	8	0 - 64	0 - 2
Annual Production lbs./acre			LOW RV HIGH		LOW RV HIGH		LOW RV HIGH		LOW RV HIGH		LOW RV HIGH		LOW RV HIGH
GRASSES & GRASS-LIKES			4260 - 4844 - 5320		3265 - 3915 - 4435		3830 - 4565 - 5200		2255 - 2768 - 3165				
FORBS			240 - 560 - 960		195 - 450 - 810		220 - 383 - 610		145 - 400 - 770				
SHRUBS			100 - 196 - 320		40 - 135 - 255		50 - 153 - 290		0 - 32 - 65				
TOTAL			4600 - 5600 - 6600		3500 - 4500 - 5500		4100 - 5100 - 6100		2400 - 3200 - 4000				

This list of plants and their relative proportions are based on near normal years. Fluctuations in species composition and relative production may change from year to year dependent upon precipitation or other climatic factors. RV = Representative value. Refer to PLANTS database for scientific names and codes: <http://plants.usda.gov>

Plant Community and Vegetation State Narratives

Reference State (State 1)

This state represents the natural range of variability that dominated the dynamics of this ecological site (ES). This state was dominated by warm-season grasses. In pre-European times, the primary disturbance mechanisms for this site in the reference condition included periods of below and/or above average precipitation, periodic fire, and herbivory by insects and large ungulates. Timing of fires and herbivory coupled with weather events dictated the dynamics that occurred within the natural range of variability. In some locations, this site likely received relatively heavy grazing pressure. Tall warm-season grasses would have declined and shorter statured grass and grass-likes would have increased. Today, a similar state (State 2) can be found on areas that are properly managed with grazing and/or prescribed burning and sometimes on areas receiving occasional short periods of rest.

1.1 Big Bluestem/Indiangrass/Switchgrass Plant Community Phase

Interpretations are based primarily on the Big Bluestem/Indiangrass/Switchgrass Plant Community Phase (this is also considered to be climax). The potential vegetation was about 80 percent grasses or grass-like plants, 15 percent forbs, and 5 percent shrubs. The community was dominated by warm-season grasses. The major grasses included big bluestem, Indiangrass, and switchgrass. Other grass or grass-like species included little bluestem, prairie cordgrass, Canada wildrye, sideoats grama, prairie dropseed, slender wheatgrass, and sedge. This plant community was resilient and well adapted to the Northern Great Plains climatic conditions. The diversity in plant species allowed for high drought tolerance. This was a sustainable plant community in regards to site/soil stability, watershed function, and biologic integrity.

The following growth curve is an estimate of the monthly percentages of total annual growth of the dominant species expected during an average year:

Growth curve number: SD0220

Growth curve name: Till Plains, lowland warm-season dominant.

Growth curve description: Warm-season dominant, lowland.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
0	0	2	8	15	21	26	15	8	5	0	0

Transitions or pathways leading to other plant communities were as follows:

- 1.1a – Heavy continuous grazing which included herbivory at moderate to heavy levels at the same time of year each year without adequate recovery periods, or a combination of disturbances such as extended periods of below average precipitation coupled with periodic or chronic heavy grazing would have shifted this community to the *1.2 Sedge/Bluestem/Switchgrass/Forbs Plant Community Phase*.

1.2 Sedge/Bluestem/Switchgrass/Forbs Plant Community Phase

This plant community evolved under heavy continuous grazing or from over utilization during extended drought periods. The potential plant community was made up of approximately 80 percent grasses and grass-like species, 15 percent forbs, and 5 percent shrubs. Dominant grass and grass-like species included sedge, big bluestem, and switchgrass. Grass and grass-like species of secondary importance included Indiangrass, slender wheatgrass, plains bluegrass, little bluestem, rush, and Canada wildrye. Forbs commonly found in this plant community included goldenrod, cudweed sagewort, heath aster, Indian hemp, and western yarrow. This plant community had similar plant composition to the 2.2 Sedge/Bluestem/Kentucky Bluegrass/Switchgrass Plant Community Phase (refer to the plant composition tables). The main difference is that this plant community phase did not have the presence of non-native invasive grass species.

When compared to the Big Bluestem/Indiangrass/Switchgrass Plant Community Phase (1.1), sedge, plains bluegrass, and grass-like species increased. Production of tall warm-season grasses was reduced. This plant community was moderately resistant to change. The herbaceous species present were well adapted to grazing; however, species composition could be altered through long-term overgrazing. If the herbaceous component was intact, it tended to be resilient if the disturbance was not long-term. Most of the components of the ecological processes would have been functioning at optimum levels. However, the vigor and reproductive capability of the tall warm-season grasses would have been reduced due to grazing pressure or a combination of stressors. A reduction of this dominant functional group allowed for an increase in shorter-statured (and shallower rooted) species.

The following growth curve is an estimate of the monthly percentages of total annual growth of the dominant species expected during an average year:

Growth curve number: SD0219

Growth curve name: Till Plains, warm-season dominant, cool-season subdominant.

Growth curve description: Warm-season dominant, cool-season subdominant, lowland.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
0	0	3	10	16	22	23	14	7	5	0	0

Transitions or pathways leading to other plant communities are as follows:

- 1.2a – Grazing, precipitation, and/or fire returned to normal disturbance regime levels and frequencies or periodic light to moderate grazing possibly including periodic rest would have converted this plant community to the *1.1 Big Bluestem/Indiangrass/Switchgrass Plant Community Phase*.

Transition from the Reference State (State 1) to the Native/Invaded State (State 2)

- T1 – Encroachment of nonnative grasses such as Kentucky bluegrass and smooth brome grass, and disruption of natural disturbance regimes (typically as a result of fire suppression following settlement) led this state over a threshold to the *Native/Invaded State (State 2)*.

Native/Invaded State (State 2)

This state represents the more common range of variability that exists with higher levels of grazing management but in the absence of periodic fire due to fire suppression. This state is dominated by warm-season grasses. It can be found on areas that are properly managed with grazing and/or prescribed burning, and sometimes on areas receiving occasional short periods of rest. Taller warm-season species can decline and a corresponding increase in short statured grass will occur.

2.1 Big Bluestem/Indiangrass/Switchgrass Plant Community Phase

This plant community phase is similar to the 1.1 Big Bluestem/Indiangrass/Switchgrass Plant Community Phase, but it also contains minor amounts of nonnative invasive grass species such as Kentucky bluegrass and smooth brome grass (up to about 10 percent by air-dry weight). The potential vegetation is about 80 percent grasses or grass-like plants, 15 percent forbs, and 5 percent shrubs. The community is dominated by warm-season grasses. The major grasses include big bluestem, Indiangrass, and switchgrass. Other grass or grass-like species include little bluestem, prairie cordgrass, Canada wildrye, sideoats grama, prairie dropseed, slender wheatgrass, and sedge. This plant community is resilient and well adapted to the Northern Great Plains climatic conditions. The diversity in plant species allows for high drought tolerance. This is a sustainable plant community in regards to site/soil stability, watershed function, and biologic integrity.

The following growth curve is an estimate of the monthly percentages of total annual growth of the dominant species expected during an average year:

Growth curve number: SD0220

Growth curve name: Till Plains, lowland warm-season dominant.

Growth curve description: Warm-season dominant, lowland.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
0	0	2	8	15	21	26	15	8	5	0	0

Transitions or pathways leading to other plant communities are as follows:

- 2.1a – Heavy continuous grazing (stocking levels well above carrying capacity for extended portions of the growing season, and often at the same time of year each year), or a combination of disturbances such as extended periods of below average precipitation coupled with periodic heavy grazing will shift this community to the 2.2 Sedge/Bluestem/Kentucky Bluegrass/Switchgrass Plant Community Phase.

2.2 Sedge/Bluestem/Kentucky Bluegrass/Switchgrass Plant Community Phase

This plant community is a result of heavy continuous grazing or from over utilization during extended drought periods. The potential plant community is made up of approximately 80 percent grasses and grass-like species, 15 percent forbs, and 5 percent shrubs. Dominant grass and grass-like species include sedge, big bluestem, switchgrass, and sedge. Grass and grass-like species of secondary importance include Indiangrass, slender wheatgrass, plains bluegrass, little bluestem, Kentucky bluegrass, rush, and Canada wildrye. Forbs commonly found in this plant community included goldenrod, cudweed sagewort, heath aster, Indian hemp, and western yarrow.

When compared to the Big Bluestem/Indiangrass/Switchgrass Plant Community Phase (1.1), sedge, plains bluegrass, and grass-like species increased. Kentucky bluegrass has also invaded. Production of tall warm-season grasses was reduced. This plant community is moderately resistant to change. The herbaceous species present are well adapted to grazing; however, species composition can be altered through long-term overgrazing. If the herbaceous component is intact, it tends to be resilient if the disturbance is not long-term. Most of the components of the ecological processes are functioning at optimum levels. However, the vigor and reproductive capability of the tall warm-season grasses are reduced due to grazing pressure or a combination of stressors. A reduction of this dominant functional group allows for an increase in shorter-statured (and shallower rooted) species. The introduction of nonnative invasive species such as Kentucky bluegrass and smooth brome grass results in alterations to the soil profile. Organic matter levels tend to decrease and begin to be concentrated more in the surface layers and the structure will begin to be modified. These changes favor the shallow rooted species and hasten their eventual dominance if steps are not taken to reduce these species.

The following growth curve is an estimate of the monthly percentages of total annual growth of the dominant species expected during an average year:

Growth curve number: SD0219

Growth curve name: Till Plains, warm-season dominant, cool-season subdominant.

Growth curve description: Warm-season dominant, cool-season subdominant, lowland.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
0	0	3	10	16	22	23	14	7	5	0	0

Transitions or pathways leading to other plant communities are as follows:

- T2b – Heavy continuous grazing (stocking levels well above carrying capacity for extended portions of the growing season, and at the same time of year each year) will cause a shift across a threshold leading to the *3.2 Kentucky Bluegrass/Rush/Forbs Plant Community Phase* within the *Invaded State (State 3)*.
- 2.2a – Prescribed grazing (alternating season of use and providing adequate recovery periods) or periodic light to moderate grazing possibly including periodic rest will convert this plant community to the *2.1 Big Bluestem/Indiangrass/Switchgrass Plant Community Phase*.

Transition from the Native/Invaded State (State 2) to the Invaded State (State 3)

- T2a – Non-use and no fire for extended periods of time (typically for 10 or more years) will likely lead this state over a threshold resulting in the *3.1 Smooth Bromegrass/Kentucky Bluegrass/Bluestem Plant Community Phase* within the *Invaded State (State 3)*.

Invaded State (State 3)

This state is a result of encroachment mainly by invasive introduced cool-season grasses. The ecological processes are not functioning, especially the biotic processes and the hydrologic functions. The introduced cool-season grasses cause reduced infiltration and increased runoff. Preliminary studies would tend to indicate this threshold may exist when Kentucky bluegrass exceeds 30 percent of the plant community and native grasses represent less than 40 percent of the plant community composition. The opportunity for high intensity spring burns is severely reduced by early greenup and increased moisture and humidity at the soil surface, and grazing pressure cannot cause a reduction in sodgrass dominance. Production is limited to the sod forming species. Infiltration continues to decrease and runoff increases and energy capture into the system is restricted to early season low producing species. Nutrient cycling is limited by root depth of the dominant species.

3.1 Smooth Bromegrass/Kentucky Bluegrass/Bluestem Plant Community Phase

This plant community phase is a result of extended periods of nonuse and no fire or occasionally light levels of grazing over several years. It is characterized by dominance of smooth bromegrass and Kentucky bluegrass. The dominance is at times so complete that other species are difficult to find on the site. A thick duff layer also accumulates at or above the soil surface. Nutrient cycling is greatly reduced and native plants have great difficulty becoming established. When dominated by smooth bromegrass, infiltration is moderately reduced and runoff is moderate. Production can be equal to or higher than the interpretive plant community. However, when dominated by Kentucky bluegrass, infiltration is greatly reduced and runoff is high. Production in this case will likely be significantly less. In either case, the period that palatability is high is relatively short as these cool-season species mature rapidly. Energy capture is also reduced.

The dominance of these introduced species has been shown to alter the biotic component of the soil, as well as, organic matter levels and eventually the soil structure. These alterations perpetuate the dominance of Kentucky bluegrass and smooth bromegrass and tend to make establishment of native species extremely difficult.

The following growth curve is an estimate of the monthly percentages of total annual growth of the dominant species expected during an average year:

Growth curve number: SD0216

Growth curve name: Till Plains, lowland cool-season dominant.

Growth curve description: Cool-season dominant, lowland.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
0	0	6	15	20	26	17	9	4	3	0	0

Transitions or pathways leading to other plant communities are as follows:

- 3.1a – Heavy continuous grazing (stocking levels well above carrying capacity for extended portions of the growing season, and at the same time of year each year) will convert this plant community to the *3.2 Kentucky Bluegrass/Rush/Forbs Plant Community Phase*.
- R3a - Prescribed grazing (moderate stocking levels coupled with adequate recovery periods, or other grazing systems such as high-density, low-frequency intended to treat specific species dominance, or periodic light to moderate stocking levels possibly including periodic rest) coupled with prescribed burning may lead this plant community phase over a threshold to the *Native/Invaded State (State 2)*. Pest management (i.e., herbicide) may also be needed to suppress cool-season invasive grasses. This will likely take a long period of time and recovery may not be attainable. Success depends on whether native reproductive propagules remain intact on the site.

3.2 Kentucky Bluegrass/Rush/Forbs Plant Community Phase

This plant community phase is a result of heavy, continuous seasonal grazing or heavy, continuous season-long grazing. It is characterized by a dominance of Kentucky bluegrass, grass-like species, and forbs. The dominance is at times so complete that other species are difficult to find on the site. A relatively thick duff layer can sometimes accumulate at or above the soil surface. Nutrient cycling is greatly reduced and native plants have great difficulty becoming established. Infiltration is greatly reduced and runoff is high. Production will be significantly reduced when compared to the interpretive plant community. The period that palatability is high is relatively short as Kentucky bluegrass matures rapidly. Energy capture is also reduced. Biological activity in the soil is likely reduced significantly in this phase.

The following growth curve is an estimate of the monthly percentages of total annual growth of the dominant species expected during an average year:

Growth curve number: SD0216

Growth curve name: Till Plains, lowland cool-season dominant.

Growth curve description: Cool-season dominant, lowland.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
0	0	6	15	20	26	17	9	4	3	0	0

Transitions or pathways leading to other plant communities are as follows:

- 3.2a – Prescribed grazing (alternating season of use and providing adequate recovery periods) or periodic light to moderate grazing possibly including periodic rest may convert this plant community to the *3.1 Smooth Bromegrass/Kentucky Bluegrass/Bluestem Plant Community Phase*.

Transition Pathway from Any Plant Community to the 3.3 Annual/Pioneer, Non-Native Perennial Plant Community Phase within the Invaded State (State 3)

- T4 – Encroachment of non-native invasive/noxious species, abandonment of cropping, or seeding of introduced and/or native improved varieties of forage species may lead this plant community phase over a threshold to the *Invaded State (State 3)* and more specifically to the *3.3 Annual/Pioneer, Non-native Perennial Plant Community Phase*. In the case of a seeding, refer to the corresponding Forage Suitability Group (FSG) description for adapted species and expected production (production estimates in the FSG description may be unrealistically high due to the degraded condition of the site at this phase).

3.3 Annual/Pioneer, Non-Native Perennial Plant Community Phase

This plant community developed under continuous heavy grazing or other excessive disturbances. The potential plant community is made up of approximately 40 to 80 percent grasses and grass-like species, 20 to 60 percent forbs, and 0 to 5 percent shrubs. The species present in this phase are highly variable but often include nonnative invasive and/or early seral species. Plant diversity is low (plant richness may be high but areas are often dominated by a few species). The ecological processes are difficult to restore because of the loss of plant diversity and overall soil disturbance. Soil erosion is potentially very high because of the bare ground and shallow rooted herbaceous plant community. Water runoff will increase and infiltration will decrease due to animal related soil compaction and loss of root mass due to low plant diversity and vigor. This plant community will require significant economic inputs and time to move towards another plant community. This movement is highly variable in its succession. This is due to the loss of diversity (including the loss of the seed bank), within the existing plant community, and the plant communities on adjacent sites.

Transitions or pathways leading to other states are as follows:

- 3.3a – This community pathway occurs with the passage of time as successional processes take place and perennial plants gradually begin to establish on the site again. This pathway will lead to the *3.2 Kentucky Bluegrass/Rush/Forbs Plant Community Phase*.

Restoration Pathway from Invaded State (State 3) to the Native/Invaded State (State 2)

- R3b – Seeding followed by prescribed grazing may lead this plant community phase over a threshold to the *Native/Invaded State (State 2)*.

Ecological Site Interpretations

Animal Community – Wildlife Interpretations

-- Under Development --

Big Bluestem/Indiangrass/Switchgrass Plant Community Phases (1.1 & 2.1):

Sedge/Bluestem/Switchgrass/Forbs Plant Community Phase (1.2):

Sedge/Bluestem/Kentucky Bluegrass/Switchgrass Plant Community Phase (2.2):

Smooth Bromegrass/Kentucky Bluegrass/Bluestem Plant Community Phase (3.1):

Kentucky Bluegrass/Rush/Forbs Plant Community Phase (3.2):

Annual/Pioneer, Non-native Perennial Plant Community Phase (3.3):

Animal Preferences (Quarterly – 1,2,3,4[†])

Common Name	Cattle	Sheep	Horses	Deer	Antelope	Bison	Elk
Grasses and Grass-likes							
big bluestem	U D P D	U D U U	U D P D	U D U U	U D U U	U D P D	U D P D
Canada wildrye	U D U U	N U N N	U D U U	N U N N	N U N N	U D U U	U D U U
clustered field sedge	U D U U	U P N D	U D U U	U D U D	U D U D	U D U U	U D U U
Indiangrass	U D P D	U D U U	U D P D	U D U U	U D U U	U D P D	U D P D
little bluestem	U D D U	N D N N	U D D U	N D N N	N D N N	U D D U	U D D U
manyhead sedge	U D U U	U P N D	U D U U	U D U D	U D U D	U D U U	U D U U
northern reedgrass	U P U D	N D N U	U P U D	N D N U	N D N U	U P U D	U P U D
plains bluegrass	U D U D	N D N U	U D U D	U P N D	U P N D	U D U D	U D U D
prairie cordgrass	U D D U	N N N N	U D D U	N N N N	N N N N	U D D U	U D D U
prairie dropseed	N U P U	N U D U	N U P U	N U D U	N U D U	N U P U	N U P U
prairie wedgescale	U U D U	N U U N	U U D U	N U U N	N U U N	U U D U	N U U N
rush	N N N N	N N N N	N N N N	N N N N	N N N N	N N N N	N N N N
Sartwell's sedge	U P D U	U P D U	U P D U	U P D U	U P D U	U P D U	U P D U
Scribner panicum	U U D U	N U N N	U U D U	N U N N	N U N N	U U D U	U U D U
sideoats grama	U D P U	U P D U	U D P U	U P D U	U P D U	U D P U	U D P U
slender wheatgrass	U P U U	N D U N	U P U U	N D U N	N D U N	U P U U	U P U U
switchgrass	U D D U	U D U U	U D D U	N N N N	N N N N	U D D U	U D D U
whitetop	U P U D	N P N U	U P U D	N P N U	N P N U	U P U D	U P U D
Wilcox panicum	U U U U	N U N N	U U U U	N U N N	N U N N	U U U U	U U U U
Forbs							
American licorice	U U D U	N U U N	U U D U	N U U N	N U U N	U U D U	N U U N
black-eyed Susan	U U D U	N U U N	U U D U	N U U N	N U U N	U U D U	N U U N
bluebell bellflower	U U U U	U U D U	U U U U	U U D U	U U D U	U U U U	U U U U
blue-eyed grass	U U U U	U U P U	U U U U	U U P U	U U P U	U U U U	U U P U
closed bottle gentian	N N N N	N N U N	N N N N	N N U N	N N U N	N N N N	N N N N
cudweed sagewort	U U U U	U U D U	U U U U	U U D U	U U D U	U U U U	U U D U
downy gentian	N N N N	N N U N	N N N N	N N U N	N N U N	N N N N	N N N N
goldenrod	U U D U	N U U N	U U D U	N U U N	N U U N	U U D U	N U U N
heartleaf Alexanders	U D P U	U D P U	U D P U	U D P U	U D P U	U D P U	U D P U
heath aster	U U D U	U U P U	U U D U	U U P U	U U P U	U U D U	U U P U
horsetail	T T T T	T T T T	T T T T	T T T T	T T T T	T T T T	T T T T
Indian hemp	T T T T	T T T T	T T T T	T T T T	T T T T	T T T T	T T T T
Maximilian sunflower	U D P U	U D P U	U D P U	U D P U	U D P U	U D P U	U D P U
meadow anemone	U U U U	U U D U	U U U U	U U D U	U U D U	U U U U	U U U U
milkweed	U U U U	U U D U	U U U U	U U D U	U U D U	U U U U	U U U U
New England aster	U U D U	U U P U	U U D U	U U P U	U U P U	U U D U	U U P U
Norwegian cinquefoil	U D P U	U P P U	U D P U	U P P U	U P P U	U D P U	U P P U
palespike lobelia	U U U U	U U D U	U U U U	U U D U	U U D U	U U U U	U U U U
prairie coneflower	U U D U	U P P U	U U D U	U P P U	U P P U	U U D U	U P P U
prairie violet	N U U N	N U U N	N U U N	N U U N	N U U N	N U U N	N U U N
purple prairie clover	U D P U	U P P U	U D P U	U P P U	U P P U	U D P U	U P P U
rough bugleweed	U U U U	N U U N	U U U U	N U U N	N U U N	U U U U	N U U N
tall gayfeather	U U D U	U P P U	U U D U	U P P U	U P P U	U U D U	U P P U
western ragweed	U U U U	N N N N	U U U U	N N N N	N N N N	U U U U	N N N N
western yarrow	U U U U	N U U N	U U U U	N U U N	N U U N	U U U U	N U U N
wild strawberry	U D U U	N U U N	U D U U	N U U N	N U U N	U D U U	N U U N
yellow stargrass	U U U U	U U D U	U U U U	U U D U	U U D U	U U U U	U U U U
Shrubs							
false indigo	N U U N	N U U N	N U U N	N U U N	N U U N	N U U N	N U U N
leadplant	U P D U	U P D U	U P D U	U P D U	U P D U	U P D U	U P D U
rose	U D D U	U D D U	U D D U	U D D U	U D D U	U D D U	U D D U
willow	P U D P	P U D P	P U D P	P U D P	U U U U	P U D P	P U D P

N = not used; **U** = undesirable; **D** = desirable; **P** = preferred; **T** = toxic

[†] Quarters: 1 – Jan., Feb., Mar.; 2 – Apr., May, Jun.; 3 – Jul., Aug., Sep.; 4 – Oct., Nov., Dec.

Animal Community – Grazing Interpretations

The following table lists annual, suggested initial stocking rates with average growing conditions. These are conservative estimates that should be used only as guidelines in the initial stages of conservation planning. Often, the current plant composition does not entirely match any particular plant community (as described in this ES description). Because of this, a resource inventory is necessary to document plant composition and production. More accurate carrying capacity estimates should eventually be calculated using the following stocking rate information along with animal preference data and actual stocking records, particularly when grazers other than cattle are involved. With consultation of the land manager, more intensive grazing management may result in improved harvest efficiencies and increased carrying capacity.

Plant Community	Average Annual Production (lbs./acre, air-dry)	Stocking Rate* (AUM/acre)
Big Bluestem/Indiangrass/Switchgrass (1.1 & 2.1)	5,600	1.48
Sedge/Bluestem/Kentucky Bluegrass/Switchgrass (2.2)	4,500	1.15
Smooth Bromegrass/Kentucky Bluegrass/Bluestem (3.1)	5,100	1.32
Kentucky Bluegrass/Rush/Forbs (3.2)	3,200	0.82
Annual/Pioneer, Non-Native Perennial (3.3)	1,600	0.44

*Based on 912 lbs./acre (air-dry weight) per Animal Unit Month (AUM), and on 25 percent harvest efficiency (refer to United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), National Range and Pasture Handbook).

Grazing by domestic livestock is one of the major income-producing industries in the area. Rangeland, in this area, may provide yearlong forage. During the dormant period, the forage for livestock will likely be lacking protein to meet livestock requirements and added protein will allow ruminants to better utilize the energy stored in grazed plant materials. A forage quality test (either directly or through fecal sampling) should be used to determine the level of supplementation needed.

Hydrology Functions

Water is the principal factor limiting forage production on this site. This site is dominated by soils in hydrologic group B, with some soils in hydrologic group A, C, and D. Infiltration and runoff potential for this site varies from moderate to high depending on soil hydrologic group, slope and ground cover. In many cases, areas with greater than 75 percent ground cover have the greatest potential for high infiltration and lower runoff. An example of an exception would be where shortgrasses form a strong sod and dominate the site. Dominance by bluegrass and/or smooth bromegrass will result in reduced infiltration and increased runoff. Areas where ground cover is less than 50 percent have the greatest potential to have reduced infiltration and higher runoff (refer to Section 4, NRCS National Engineering Handbook for runoff quantities and hydrologic curves).

Recreational Uses

This site provides hunting, hiking, photography, bird watching and other opportunities. The wide varieties of plants that bloom from spring until fall have an esthetic value that appeals to visitors.

Wood Products

No appreciable wood products are typically present on this site.

Other Products

Seed harvest of native plant species can provide additional income on this site.

Supporting Information

Associated Sites

Wet Meadow (R102BY004SD), Loamy Overflow (R102BY020SD), Limy Subirrigated (R102BY006SD)

Similar Sites

(R102BY006SD) – Limy Subirrigated [less big bluestem, more little bluestem; lower production]

Inventory Data References

Information presented here has been derived from NRCS clipping data and other inventory data. Field observations from range-trained personnel were also used. Those involved in developing this site include: Stan Boltz, Range Management Specialist, NRCS.

State Correlation

This site occurs entirely within SD.

Field Offices/Counties

Brookings, SD	Brookings	Howard, SD	Miner	Salem, SD	McCook
Canton, SD	Lincoln	Madison, SD	Lake	Sioux Falls, SD	Minnehaha
Elk Point, SD	Union	Parker, SD	Turner	Vermillion, SD	Clay
Flandreau, SD	Moody	Parkston, SD	Hutchinson	Yankton, SD	Yankton

Relationship to Other Established Classifications

Level IV Ecoregions of the Conterminous United States: 46k – Prairie Coteau; 46n – James River Lowland.

Other References

High Plains Regional Climate Center, University of Nebraska, 830728 Chase Hall, Lincoln, NE 68583-0728. (<http://hpccsun.unl.edu>).

USDA, NRCS. National Water and Climate Center, 101 SW Main, Suite 1600, Portland, OR 97204-3224. (<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov>).

USDA, NRCS. National Range and Pasture Handbook, September 1997.

USDA, NRCS. National Soil Information System, Information Technology Center, 2150 Centre Avenue, Building A, Fort Collins, CO 80526. (<http://nasis.nrcs.usda.gov>).

USDA, NRCS. 2001. The PLANTS Database, Version 3.1 (<http://plants.usda.gov>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.

Site Description Approval

SD, State Range Management Specialist

Date