

LEGEND FOR ECOLOGICAL SITES 10-14" Northern Plains

Ecological sites are native rangeland sites that differ from each other in their ability to produce different kinds and/or amounts of vegetation. Soils, precipitation, and geographical location are combined to designate a specific ecological site. The sites are listed in alphabetical order according to the site name.

Names of the ecological sites occurring on your ranch operation are underlined, and these sites are separated by solid lines on your conservation plan and/or range inventory map.

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Site Name</u>	<u>Production</u>	<u>Brief Description for the 10-14" P.Z. Northern Plains (10-14NP)</u>
Cy	Clayey	600-1400	These are deep, silty clay loam to clay soils with slow permeability that occur in an upland position. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - green needlegrass, needleandthread and western wheatgrass; increaseers - blue grama and Wyoming big sagebrush.
CyO	Clayey Overflow	1200-2200	These are clay loam soils that are found along drainageways and in playa areas. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - basin wildrye, Canby bluegrass and green needlegrass; increaseers - blue grama, Sandberg bluegrass, snowberry and basin big sagebrush.
DC	Dense Clay	450-1000	These are deep, heavy clay soils with slow permeability that occur on relatively flat topography. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - green needlegrass, rhizomatous wheatgrasses and winterfat; increaseers - Sandberg bluegrass, bottlebrush squirreltail, birdfoot sagebrush and greasewood.
Ly	Loamy	700-1500	These are deep, loam to clay loam soils that occur in an upland position. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - green needlegrass, needleandthread and rhizomatous wheatgrasses; increaseers - blue grama, Sandberg bluegrass, needleleaf sedge and Wyoming big sagebrush.
LL	Lowland	1600-3000	These are well-drained soils along streams with a water table below 3 feet, but within rooting depth of woody plants. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - basin wildrye, green needlegrass and slender wheatgrass; increaseers - rhizomatous wheatgrasses, wild rose, snowberry and silver sagebrush.
Ov	Overflow	1200-2400	These are loamy soils that are found along drainageways and in playa areas. They receive extra water from overflow of streams or from adjacent slopes. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - basin wildrye and green needlegrass; increaseers - blue grama, Sandberg bluegrass and silver sagebrush.
SL	Saline Lowland	1400-2200	These are deep saline soils that receive extra water from overflow of streams or from adjacent slopes. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - alkali sacaton, rhizomatous wheatgrasses, Nuttall's alkaligrass and fourwing saltbush; increaseers - inland saltgrass, alkali bluegrass, bottlebrush squirreltail and greasewood.
SS	Saline Subirrigated	2500-3500	These are saline soils with a water table near the surface most of the growing season. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - alkali sacaton and Nuttall's alkaligrass; increaseers - alkali bluegrass, inland saltgrass and greasewood.
SU	Saline Upland	250-650	These are deep, saline soils usually in a low or flat position, but with no associated water table. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - Gardner's saltbush, winterfat, alkali sacaton and Indian ricegrass; increaseers - greasewood and woody aster.
Sa	Sands	900-1700	These are coarse textured soils that sometimes form dunes. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - sand bluestem, prairie sandreed and Indian ricegrass; increaseers - threadleaf sedge, sand dropseed and silver sagebrush.
Sy	Sandy	750-1600	These are deep, sandy loam soils that occur in an upland position. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - Indian ricegrass, prairie sandreed and little bluestem; increaseers - threadleaf sedge, needleandthread, blue grama, fringed sagewort and silver sagebrush.
Sh	Shale	200-500	These are very shallow, often salt influenced soils with areas of exposed clay shale bedrock. Runoff is rapid and erosion often severe. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - rhizomatous wheatgrasses, bluebunch wheatgrass, Indian ricegrass and winterfat; increaseers - Sandberg bluegrass, juniper and birdfoot sage.
SwCy	Shallow Clayey	450-1000	These are shallow, or shallow acting, clayey soils usually overlying clay shale bedrock, but sometimes with heavy clay increase in top 20 inches. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - green needlegrass, bluebunch wheatgrass, rhizomatous wheatgrasses and winterfat; increaseers - Sandberg bluegrass, blue grama and big sagebrush.

SwLy	Shallow Loamy	450-1200	These are shallow, or shallow acting, loamy soils. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - bluebunch wheatgrass, needleandthread and rhizomatous wheatgrasses; increaseers - blue grama, Fendler threeawn, Sandberg bluegrass, and Wyoming big sagebrush.
SwSy	Shallow Sandy	600-1300	These are shallow, or shallow acting, sandy soils that usually occur on steep slopes and ridge tops. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - little bluestem and prairie sandreed; increaseers - threadleaf sedge, sand dropseed and fringed sagewort.
Sb	Subirrigated	3500-4500	These are deep, highly organic soils that have a water table near the surface for part or most of the growing season. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - basin wildrye, tufted hairgrass, Nebraska sedge, and slender wheatgrass; increaseers - inland sedge, rhizomatous wheatgrasses, spike sedge and Baltic rush.
VS	Very Shallow	250-500	These are very shallow soils with areas of exposed bedrock. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - bluebunch wheatgrass and rhizomatous wheatgrasses; increaseers - blue grama and Wyoming big sagebrush.
WL	Wetland	4000-6000	These are poorly drained soils that have a water table above the surface for part of the growing season. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - Nebraska sedge, tufted hairgrass, northern reedgrass, and bluejoint reedgrass; increaseers - spike sedge, Baltic rush and weedy forbs.