LEGEND FOR ECOLOGICAL SITES
15-17" 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.

Symbol	Site Name	Production	Brief Description for the 15-17" P.Z. Northern Plains (15-17NP)
Cy	Clayey	1500-2300	These are deep, silty clay loam to clay soils with slow permeability that occur in an upland position. Principal vegetation: decreasers - green needlegrass, big bluestem and western wheatgrass; increasers - blue grama and Wyoming big sagebrush.
CyO	Clayey Overflow	2500-3300	These are clay loam soils that are found along drainageways and in playa areas. Principal vegetation: decreasers - slender wheatgrass, rhizomatous wheatgrasses and green needlegrass; increasers - blue grama and basin big sagebrush.
DC	Dense Clay	950-1400	These are deep, heavy clay soils with slow permeability that occur on relatively flat topography. Principal vegetation: decreasers - green needlegrass, rhizomatous wheatgrasses and winterfat; increasers - Sandberg bluegrass, bottlebrush squirreltail and big sagebrush.
Ly	Loamy	1500-2300	These are deep loams that occur in an upland position. Principal vegetation: decreasers - green needlegrass, needleandthread, big bluestem, little bluestem and rhizomatous wheatgrasses; increasers - blue grama, Sandberg bluegrass, threadleaf & needleleaf sedge and Wyoming big sagebrush.
LL	Lowland	2500-3500	These are well-drained soils along streams with a water table within rooting depth of woody plants. Principal vegetation: decreasers - green needlegrass, rhizomatous wheatgrasses and slender wheatgrass; increasers - blue grama, snowberry and silver sagebrush.
Ov	Overflow	2500-3300	These are loamy soils that receive extra water from uplands. They are found along drainageways and in playa areas. They receive extra water from overflow of streams or from adjacent slopes. Principal vegetation: decreasers - big bluestem, green needlegrass, slender wheatgrass and western wheatgrass; increasers - Sandberg bluegrass, threadleaf sedge, needleandthread and silver sagebrush.
PC	Porous Clay	1100-1800	The soils of this site are deep granular clays weathered from acid shale. Principal vegetation: decresers - prairie sandreed, little bluestem, sand bluestem and rhizomatous wheatgrasses; increasers - sedges, weedy forbs and blue grama.
SL	Saline Lowland	2100-2900	These are deep saline soils that receive extra water from overflow of streams or from adjacent slopes. Principal vegetation: decreasers - alkali sacaton, rhizomatous wheatgrasses, Nuttal's alkaligrass and fourwing saltbush; increasers - inland saltgrass, alkali bluegrass, bottlebrush squirreltail and greasewood.
SS	Saline Subirrigated	2850-3650	These are saline soils with a water table near the surface most of the growing season. Principal vegetation: decreasers - alkali sacaton, alkali cordgrass and Nuttall's alkaligrass; increasers - alkali bluegrass, inland saltgrass and greasewood.
SU	Saline Upland	400-800	These are deep, saline soils usually in a low or flat position, but with no associated water table. Principal vegetation: decreasers - Gardner's saltbush, winterfat, alkali sacaton and Indian ricegrass; increasers - greasewood and woody aster.
Sa	Sands	1900-2700	These are coarse textured soils that sometimes form dunes. Principal vegetation: decreasers - sand bluestem, prairie sandreed and Indian ricegrass; increasers - threadleaf sedge, sand dropseed and silver sagebrush.
Sy	Sandy	1600-2400	These are deep, sandy loam soils that occur in an upland position. Principal vegetation: decreasers - Indian ricegrass, prairie sandreed and little bluestem; increasers - threadleaf sedge, needleandthread and silver sagebrush.
Sh	Shale	300-700	These are very shallow, often salt influenced soils with areas of exposed clay shale bedrock. Runoff is rapid and erosion often severe. Principal vegetation: decreasers - rhizomatous wheatgrasses, bluebunch wheatgrass and little bluestem; increasers - Sandberg bluegrass and juniper.

SwCy	Shallow Clayey	1000-1600	These are shallow, or shallow acting, clayey soils usually overlying clay shale bedrock, but sometimes with heavy clay increase in the top 20 inches. Principal vegetation: decreasers - green needlegrass, bluebunch wheatgrass, rhizomatous wheatgrasses and little bluestem; increasers - blue grama and big sagebrush.
SwLy	Shallow Loamy	1000-1600	These are shallow, or shallow acting, loamy soils. Principal vegetation: decreasers - bluebunch wheatgrass, little bluestem, sideoats grama and rhizomatous wheatgrasses; increasers - blue grama, Sandberg bluegrass, and Wyoming big sagebrush.
SwPC	Shallow Porous Clay	700-1200	The soils of this site are shallow granular clays 10" to 20" deep overlying clay shales. Prinicipal vegetation: decreasers - little bluestem, big bluestem and rhizomatous wheatgrasses; increasers - sedges, weedy forbs and blue grama.
SwSy	Shallow Sandy	1000-1600	These are shallow, or shallow acting, sandy soils that usually occur on steep slopes and ridge tops. Principal vegetation: decreasers - little bluestem and prairie sandreed; increasers - 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: decreasers - prairie cordgrass, bluejoint reedgrass, northern reedgrass, Nebraska sedge, and slender wheatgrass; increasers - rhizomatous wheatgrasses, spike sedge and Baltic rush.
VS	Very Shallow	500-900	These are very shallow soils with areas of exposed bedrock. Principal vegetation: decreasers - bluebunch wheatgrass, little bluestem and rhizomatous wheatgrasses; increasers - blue grama and Wyoming big sagebrush.
WL	Wetland	5000-6000	These are poorly drained soils that have a water table above the surface for part of the growing season. Principal vegetation: decreasers - Nebraska sedge, tufted hairgrass, northern reedgrass, and bluejoint reedgrass; increasers - spike sedge, Baltic rush and weedy forbs.