

LEGEND FOR ECOLOGICAL SITES 15-19" 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 15-19" P.Z. Northern Plains (15-19NP)</u>
Cy	Clayey	1400-2900	These are deep, silty clay loam to clay soils with slow permeability that occur in an upland position. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - green needlegrass and western wheatgrass; increaseers - blue grama, big sagebrush and birdfoot sagebrush.
CU	Coarse Upland	600-1100	These are deep soils with a very bouldery surface on rough topography. Water intake is fairly rapid. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - bluebunch wheatgrass, spikefescue, Idaho fescue and Columbia needlegrass; increaseers - rhizomatous wheatgrasses, Sandberg bluegrass, spike trisetum, threetip sagebrush and big sagebrush.
Ly	Loamy	1500-3000	These are deep, loam to clay loam soils that occur in an upland position. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - green needlegrass and western wheatgrass; increaseers - blue grama, Sandberg bluegrass and big sagebrush.
LL	Lowland	2000-4000	These are well-drained soils along streams with a water table below 3 feet, but within rooting depth of woody plants. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - western wheatgrass and green needlegrass; increaseers - Sandberg bluegrass, snowberry and silver sagebrush.
Ov	Overflow	2000-4000	These are loamy soils that are found along drainageways and in playa areas. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - basin wildrye, western wheatgrass and green needlegrass; increaseers - blue grama and silver sagebrush.
RH	Rocky Hills	600-1000	These are shallow, sandy and loamy soils over soft calcareous material with outcroppings of sedimentary bedrock. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - bluebunch wheatgrass, spikefescue, Columbia needlegrass, western wheatgrass and mountain mahogany; increaseers - Sandberg bluegrass and bare ground.
Sy	Sandy	1500-3000	These are deep, sandy loam soils that occur in an upland position. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - Indian ricegrass and prairie sandreed; increaseers - threadleaf sedge, needleandthread, fringed sagewort and silver sagebrush.
SwCy	Shallow Clayey	900-1800	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 and rhizomatous wheatgrasses; increaseers - blue grama, Sandberg bluegrass and big sagebrush.
SwLy	Shallow Loamy	900-1800	These are shallow, or shallow acting, loamy soils usually overlying shale. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - bluebunch wheatgrass, western wheatgrass, green needlegrass and Idaho fescue; increaseers - blue grama and big sagebrush.
SwSy	Shallow Sandy	900-1800	These are shallow, or shallow acting, sandy soils usually overlying sandstone or shale. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - little bluestem, sand bluestem and prairie sandreed; increaseers - threadleaf sedge and sand dropseed.
Sb	Subirrigated	3500-6000	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 - tufted hairgrass, Nebraska sedge, northern reedgrass and bluejoint reedgrass; increaseers - baltic rush and spike sedge.
VS	Very Shallow	400-900	These are very shallow soils with areas of exposed bedrock. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - bluebunch wheatgrass, spikefescue, Idaho fescue and rhizomatous wheatgrasses; increaseers - blue grama, big sagebrush and juniper.
WL	Wetland	4500-7000	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 - Baltic rush and spike sedge.