

## LEGEND FOR ECOLOGICAL SITES

### 5-9" Bighorn Basin

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 5-9" P.Z. Bighorn Basin (5-9BH)</u>
Cy	Clayey	225-600	These are deep, silty clay loam to clay soils with slow permeability that occur in an upland position. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - Indian ricegrass and bluebunch wheatgrass; increaseers - blue grama, Sandberg bluegrass, big sagebrush and birdfoot sagebrush.
CU	Coarse Upland	200-500	These are deep bouldery to cobbly coarse fragment soils. Water intake is fairly rapid. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - bluebunch wheatgrass, needleandthread, and Indian ricegrass; increaseers - threadleaf sedge, blue grama, Sandberg bluegrass and big sagebrush.
Gr	Gravelly	150-350	These are soils with high coarse fragments (>35% by volume) in top 20 inches. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - bluebunch wheatgrass, Indian ricegrass, and needleandthread; increaseers - threadleaf sedge, Sandberg bluegrass, and big sagebrush.
IC	Impervious Clay	100-300	These are heavy clay soils with high amounts of sodium. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - Indian ricegrass; increaseers - bottlebrush squirreltail, Sandberg bluegrass, and birdfoot sagebrush.
Ly	Loamy	225-600	These are deep, loam to clay loam soils that occur in an upland position. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - needleandthread and bluebunch wheatgrass; increaseers - blue grama, Sandberg bluegrass and Wyoming big sagebrush.
LL	Lowland	1400-2400	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, slender wheatgrass and needleandthread; increaseers - wild rose, silver buffaloberry, big sagebrush, and weedy forbs; invaders - Canada thistle and Russianolive.
SL	Saline Lowland	700-1600	These are deep saline soils in a lowland position that receive extra water from run-in. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - alkali sacaton and basin wildrye; increaseers - inland saltgrass and greasewood.
SS	Saline Subirrigated	1800-2600	These are saline soils with a water table near the surface most of the growing season. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - alkali sacaton, basin wildrye, and Nuttall's alkaligrass; increaseers - alkali bluegrass and inland saltgrass.
SU	Saline Upland	200-550	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 and Indian ricegrass; increaseers - blue grama, Sandberg bluegrass and forbs.
Sa	Sands	350-700	These are coarse textured soils that sometimes form dunes. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - Indian ricegrass, needleandthread and prairie sandreed; increaseers - silver sagebrush, green and rubber rabbitbrush and big sagebrush.
Sy	Sandy	225-600	These are deep, sandy loam soils that occur in an upland position. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - Indian ricegrass and needleandthread; increaseers - threadleaf sedge, blue grama and Wyoming big sagebrush.
Sh	Shale	85-250	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 - Indian ricegrass, Gardner's saltbush, and winterfat; increaseers - blue grama, Sandberg bluegrass, woodyaster and birdfoot sagebrush.
SwCy	Shallow Clayey	150-375	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 - bluebunch wheatgrass and Indian ricegrass; increaseers - blue grama, Sandberg bluegrass, big sagebrush and birdfoot sagebrush.
SwLy	Shallow Loamy	150-375	These are shallow, or shallow acting, loamy soils usually over bedrock. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - bluebunch wheatgrass and Indian ricegrass; increaseers - blue grama, Sandberg bluegrass, and Wyoming big sagebrush.

SwSy	Shallow Sandy	200-400	These are shallow, or shallow acting, sandy soils usually overlying sandstone or limestone. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - Indian ricegrass, bluebunch wheatgrass and needleandthread; increaseers - blue grama, threadleaf sedge, and Wyoming big sagebrush.
VS	Very Shallow	100-300	These are very shallow soils with areas of exposed bedrock. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - bluebunch wheatgrass and Indian ricegrass; increaseers - threadleaf sedge, blue grama and Wyoming big sagebrush.
WL	Wetland	3000-6000	These are poorly drained soils that have a water table above the surface for part of the growing season. Principal vegetation: decreaseers - Nebraska sedge and tufted hairgrass; increaseers - inland sedge, Baltic rush, and weedy forbs.