

Stop #4 Intact Wyoming Big Sagebrush Community



Site Production Species List:

Thurber's needlegrass
Bottlebrush Squirreletail
Sandberg's bluegrass
Sagebrush phlox
Shaggy fleabane
Buckwheat
Willowherb
Tapertip hawksbeard
Cheatgrass
Wyoming big sagebrush

The similarity of 2006-TH-15a to Wyoming big sagebrush and Thurber's needlegrass community on a Loamy 8-10" ecological site is 57%, or late-seral condition class.

Cover Data for 2006-TH-15a, Collected on 7/17/2006

Species	# of Plants	Percent
Wyoming big sagebrush	26	17.4%
Biotic Crust	14	9.4%
Bare Ground	22	14.8%
Willowherb	2	0.7%
Litter Ground	21	14.1%
Litter Standing	13	8.7%
Sandberg's bluegrass	35	23.5%
Bottlebrush squirreletail	15	10.1%
Thurber's needlegrass	2	1.3%
Total Coverage		100.0%
Grouped Totals		Percent
Shrubs/Trees		17.4%
Grasses		34.9%
Forbs		0.7%
Rocks/Gravel		0.0%



Intact sagebrush communities are an important resource. Native plants are maintained within these communities, and contribute to the diversity of wildlife supported by these systems. Sage-grouse, Brewer's sparrows, pygmy rabbits, mule deer, and a host of other wildlife utilize these areas for cover and food. People use these lands for recreational purposes, such as camping and exploring. Livestock producers use the land for grazing.

Wildfires in these native areas can increase the risk of invasion from cheatgrass and noxious weeds, which in turn decreases the value the land holds for wildlife, recreationists, and livestock. Low annual precipitation levels and erosion following fires join with invasive weeds to create a challenge to rehabilitate these lands after fire.