



# Lower Owyhee Watershed Assessment

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## Appendix G. Plant communities identified by different studies in the lower Owyhee subbasin.

Table 1. Plant communities or habitats found in the Owyhee Breaks in 1979 and 1980.<sup>3</sup>

Plant community	Approximate percentage of study area
Wyoming big sagebrush/ bluebunch wheatgrass	36
Wyoming big sagebrush/cheatgrass	16.8
Wyoming big sagebrush/Sandberg's bluegrass	21.8
Low sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass	4.6
Low sagebrush/Sandberg's bluegrass	8.5
Bluebunch wheatgrass	0.8
Cheatgrass	2.2
Alfalfa	0.1
Cliffrock	0.6
Gravel slopes	0.4
Low sagebrush/cheatgrass	< 0.1
Shrub scabland	6.2
Bitterbrush/grass	0.2
Stiff safebrush/Sandberg's bluegrass	0.1
Mountain mahogany/grass	1.4
Silver sagebrush	<0.1
Juniper scabland	0.3

Table 2. Plant associations found in the sagebrush steppe in the southeast portion of the lower Owyhee subbasin and adjacent area in 1962.<sup>2</sup>

big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass	big sagebrush/great basin wildrye
big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass - Idaho fescue	stiff sagebrush/Sandberg's bluegrass
big sagebrush/Idaho fescue	low sagebrush/Idaho fescue
big sagebrush/green rabbit-brush -Thurber's needlegrass	low sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass

Table 3. Plant associations recorded in the Dry Creek GMA of the lower Owyhee subbasin in 2006.<sup>1</sup>

native Wyoming big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass	Wyoming big sagebrush/Sandberg bluegrass
native Wyoming big sagebrush/bunchgrass	greasewood
Wyoming big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass	greasewood/cheatgrass
Wyoming big sagebrush/bunchgrass	salt desert shrub
Wyoming big sagebrush/cheatgrass	mixed shrub
Wyoming big sagebrush/native bunchgrass	

Table 4. Plant communities mentioned in the Dry Creek GMA evaluation / assessment. Bold type items are specifically mentioned as vegetation community types, the other names are referred to that way in the narrative.<sup>1</sup>

**Native Wyoming big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass range site**

**Native Wyoming big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass range site burned in 2000**

**Native Wyoming big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass range site dominated by annual species**

**Native Wyoming big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass range site lacking shrubs**

**Native Wyoming big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass range site with needle-and-thread grass**

**Native Wyoming big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass range site with potential shrubs**

Native Wyoming big sagebrush/bunchgrass vegetation communities

Wyoming big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass

**Wyoming big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass range site seeded to crested wheatgrass**

Wyoming big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass range site seeded to crested wheatgrass and dominated by cheatgrass and other annual species with little or no shrub overstory

Wyoming big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass range site with little loss of native species

Wyoming big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass range site with little loss of native species and near potential shrub composition

Wyoming big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass range site seeded to crested wheatgrass and dominated by cheatgrass and other annual species with little or no shrub overstory

Wyoming big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass range site with a loss of native species

**Wyoming big sagebrush/bunchgrass community**

**Wyoming big sagebrush/bunchgrass community with cheatgrass**

**Wyoming big sagebrush/bunchgrass range site dominated by cheatgrass**

**Wyoming big sagebrush/bunchgrass range site seeded to crested wheatgrass**

Wyoming big sagebrush/bunchgrass and the annual rangeland vegetation communities

Wyoming big sagebrush/bunchgrass range site dominated by cheatgrass and other annual species with some or no sagebrush component in the overstory

Wyoming big sagebrush/bunchgrass vegetation communities

Wyoming big sagebrush/bunchgrass range site, with a high occurrence of annual species including cheatgrass

**Wyoming big sagebrush/cheatgrass vegetation communities**

**Wyoming big sagebrush/native bunchgrass community**

**Wyoming big sagebrush/native bunchgrass community dominated by annual species**

**Wyoming big sagebrush/Sandberg bluegrass vegetation communities**

Wyoming big sagebrush community

Big sagebrush/bunchgrass community

**Greasewood community**

**Greasewood/cheatgrass vegetation communities**

**Salt Desert Shrub Communities**

**Mixed shrub community**

Community dominated by native perennial species

Native upland vegetation communities

Upland rangeland vegetation communities

Rich forb community associated with healthy perennial grasses

1. Bureau of Land Management. 2007. Dry Creek geographic management area evaluation/assessment: Malheur resource area, Vale district. Retrieved 2/19/2007. [http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/vale/plans/files/vdo\\_plan\\_drycreek080306.pdf](http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/vale/plans/files/vdo_plan_drycreek080306.pdf)
2. Culver, Roger N. 1964. An ecological reconnaissance of the *Artemisia* steppe on the east central Owyhee uplands of Oregon. Master of Science thesis in range management, Oregon State University.
3. Ganskopp, David C. 1984. Habitat use and spatial interactions of cattle, wild horses, mule deer, and California bighorn sheep in the Owyhee Breaks of southeast Oregon. Doctor of Philosophy thesis, Oregon State University.