

Field Key to Ecological Systems and Target Alliances of the Colorado Plateau, United States

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....3

Land Use, Unvegetated, Semi-natural and Altered Vegetation.....5

Colorado Plateau, Utah High Plateaus and Uinta Basin Ecological Systems and Target

Alliances 7

 KEY A (Colorado Plateau): Woodland, Savanna, Shrub Steppe or Shrubland 9

 KEY B (Colorado Plateau): Herbaceous Ecological Systems and Alliances..... 17

Introduction

The following keys to NatureServe ecological systems and selected US-NVC vegetation alliances cover the areas found in NLCD map zones: 16, 23, 24 (the Colorado Plateau). The systems and alliances included in these keys are intended to represent the legend that LANDFIRE will be striving to map for existing vegetation in the Colorado Plateau (Figure 1). Some types are in the keys that characteristically occur at small spatial scales (generally <2 ha in size) and hence may not be mappable by the LANDFIRE project. However, we have chosen to be inclusive in the keys, so that the user will have information on these system types for comparison purposes. In some cases they may be important for modeling fire condition class and, given their relative distinctiveness on the landscape, they may indeed be mappable.

Plant names are almost always in Latin and follow the nomenclature of Kartesz (1999). In limited cases, we have included synonyms for some taxa.

The keys are “dichotomous”, which means the user follows the order of the ‘couplets’ and makes a choice between the 2 options represented in the couplet. The ordering of the couplets in each key does matter, and the user should choose the option in each couplet that best fits the data or field situation. A choice leads the user to the next couplet to be utilized in the keying process, via a number at the far right, or else leads to a final result (an ecological system type or an alliance).

If the choice the user makes leads to a “result”, then either an Ecological System is named or a Vegetation Alliance is named. Alliances are recognizable because “alliance” is in the name, and they all start with one or more Latin names (e.g. *Pinus ponderosa* Woodland Alliance).

Systems do not include Latin species names in them, and always start with a Biogeographic region (e.g. Columbia Plateau Steppe and Grassland). If an ecological system is followed by a number in parentheses, then the couplet so numbered is to alliances that are part of the system and which may be mappable.

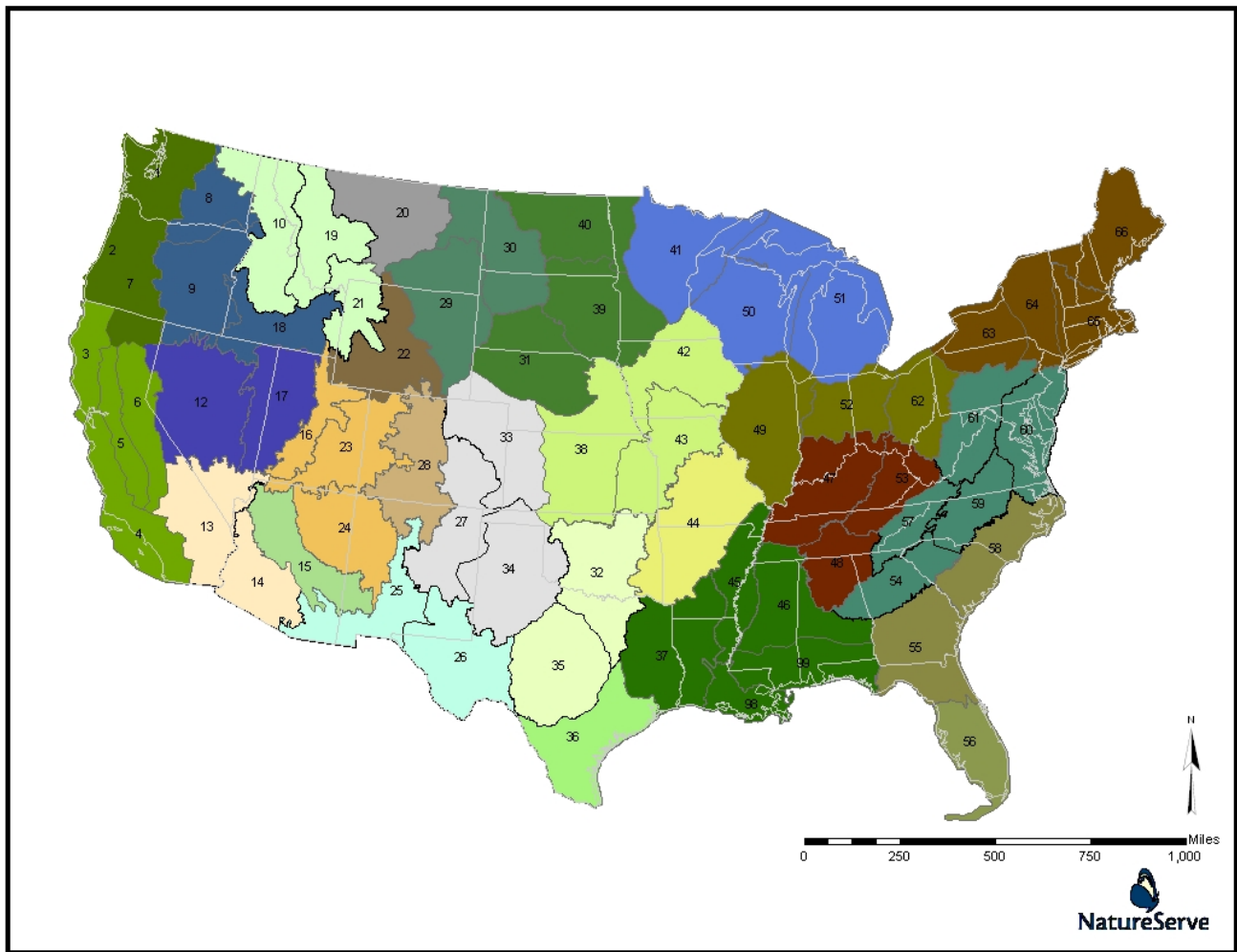


Figure 1. LANDFIRE map zone clusters with keys to ecological systems and selected alliances.

All the keys follow the same logic. First the user determines if the vegetation (or land cover) is ‘sparse’; if not then you go to Key A and are lead into riparian or wetland woodlands or shrublands, then to upland deciduous forest/woodlands, then to upland coniferous forests/woodlands, then savannas, then shrublands and shrub-steppe. The second section of each key (Key B) is for the herbaceous systems and alliances, and keys through wetland/riparian situations first.

Keys are generally based on dominance within vegetation strata, with tree cover generally considered first, then that of shrubs, then the herbaceous component. Codominant species within a given strata are important as well, in some cases a system type or alliances will have 2 or more codominant species, which may or may not be present in all stands. Many ecological systems will have a variable physiognomy; where appropriate these variable systems have been placed into the keys in several places (i.e. some grassland systems have a “shrub-steppe” physiognomy and hence will be in the key both as shrub-steppe and herbaceous). Some terminology is commonly employed throughout the keys that distinguish general spatial characteristics of the vegetation or environmental setting. For example ‘matrix’ types of vegetation are dominant across the majority of a given landscape, while ‘large patch’ types tend to occur as distinctive patches within the larger ‘matrix.’ Elevation-based life zones are

commonly employed, with reference to ‘alpine,’ ‘subalpine,’ ‘montane,’ or ‘foothill’ zones. These zones vary in actual elevational thresholds across multiple map zones, and within individual map zones. More precise definition of these elevation breaks by map zone could be accomplished with additional research.

In the next section of the document we have provided a table showing the LANDFIRE legend units that represent non-natural vegetation and a short description for each of them. They are not formally incorporated into the keys, since they are typically recognizable without the use of a key, or else their floristic composition is so variable as to be not useful in a field key. Our primary purpose was to provide keys for the natural and near-natural vegetation of these zones.

Land Use, Unvegetated, Semi-natural and Altered Vegetation

LAND USE OR UNVEGETATED SURFACES	
Open Water	Open water
Developed	Generally developed lands.
Developed, Open Space	Vegetation (primarily grasses) planted in developed settings for recreation, erosion control, or aesthetic purposes. Impervious surfaces account for less than 20% of total cover. Examples include parks, lawns, golf courses, airport grasses, and industrial site grasses.
Developed, Low Intensity	Includes areas with a mixture of constructed materials and vegetation. Impervious surfaces account for 20-50% of total cover. These areas most commonly include single-family housing units.
Developed, Medium Intensity	Includes areas with a mixture of constructed materials and vegetation. Impervious surfaces account for 50-80% of the total cover. These areas most commonly include single-family housing units
Developed, High Intensity	Includes highly developed areas where people reside in high numbers. Examples include apartment complexes, row houses and commercial/industrial. Impervious surfaces account for 80 to 100% of the total cover.
Agriculture	Generally developed for agricultural uses.
Pasture/Hay	These agriculture lands typically have perennial herbaceous cover (e.g. regularly-shaped plantings) used for livestock grazing or the production of hay. There are obvious signs of management such as irrigation and haying that distinguish it from natural grasslands. Identified CRP lands are included in this land cover type.
Cultivated Crops and Irrigated Agriculture	These areas used for the production of crops, such as corn, soybeans, small grains, sunflowers, vegetables, and cotton, typically on an annual cycle. Agricultural plant cover is variable depending on season and type of farming. Other areas include more stable land cover of orchards and vineyards.
Perennial Ice/Snow	
SEMI-NATURAL / ALTERED VEGETATION	
Ruderal Vegetation	Vegetation resulting from succession following significant anthropogenic disturbance of an area. It is generally characterized by unnatural combinations of species (primarily native species, though they often contain slight or substantial numbers and amounts of species alien to the region as well)
Ruderal Upland - Old Field	
Ruderal Upland - Abandoned Tree Plantation	
Ruderal Wetland	
Introduced Vegetation	Vegetation dominated by introduced species. These are spontaneous, self-perpetuating, and not (immediately) the result of planting, cultivation, or human maintenance. Land occupied by introduced vegetation is generally permanently altered (converted) unless restoration efforts are undertaken.
Introduced Upland Vegetation - Treed	Land cover is significantly altered/disturbed by introduced tree species.
Introduced Upland Vegetation - Shrub	Land cover is significantly altered/disturbed by introduced woody and/or herbaceous vegetation.

Introduced Upland Vegetation - Annual and Biennial Forbland	Land cover is significantly altered/disturbed by introduced annual and biennial forbs. Natural vegetation types are no longer recognizable. Typical species that dominate these areas are <i>Centaurea repens</i> , <i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</i> , <i>Cirsium arvense</i> , <i>C. vulgare</i> , <i>Euphorbia esula</i> , <i>Lepidium latifolia</i> , <i>Cardus nutans</i> , <i>Centaurea spp (difusa, solstitialis)</i> , <i>Salsola kali</i> , <i>Kochia scoparia</i> , <i>Halogeton glomeratus</i> , <i>Melilotus officinalis</i> , <i>M. albus</i> , and <i>Cardaria officinalis</i> .
Introduced Upland Vegetation – Annual Grassland	Land cover is significantly altered/disturbed by introduced annual grasses. Natural vegetation types are no longer recognizable. Typical species include <i>Bromus japonicus</i> , <i>B. rigidus</i> , <i>B. rubens</i> , <i>B. tectorum</i> , <i>Taeniatherum caput-medusae</i> , and/or <i>Schismus barbatus</i> .
California Annual Grassland	Land cover dominated by introduced, non-native annual grasses within the central valley and coastal portions of California. Natural vegetation types are no longer recognizable. Grass and forb species include <i>Bromus spp.</i> (e.g., <i>madritensis</i> , <i>diandris</i> , <i>hordeaceus</i>), <i>Eschschlozia californica</i> , <i>Aira caryophylla</i> , <i>Lasthenia spp.</i> , <i>Castilleja spp.</i> , <i>Avena spp</i> , <i>Mesembryanthemum</i> , <i>Malephora</i> , and/or <i>Carpobrotus</i> , commonly referred to as 'iceplant.' The native shrubs <i>Ambrosia chamissonis</i> , <i>Eriogonum latifolium</i> , and/or <i>Abronia latifolia</i> may be present as emergents. <i>Poa douglasii</i> may also be present.
Introduced Upland Vegetation - Perennial Grassland and Forbland	Land cover is significantly altered/disturbed by introduced, non-native perennial grasses and forbs. Natural vegetation types are no longer recognizable. Grass species include <i>Agropyron cristatum</i> , <i>Poa bulbosa</i> , <i>Bromus inermis</i> , <i>Phleum pratense</i> , and <i>Poa pratensis</i> . Forbs may include: <i>Centarea spp.</i> , <i>Cirsium arvense</i> , <i>Euphorbia esula</i> , <i>Lepidium spp.</i> , <i>Melilotus spp.</i>
Introduced Riparian Vegetation	Land cover is altered/disturbed and dominated by introduced woody vegetation (woodlands and shrublands). Typical riparian trees and shrubs include <i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i> , <i>Tamarix spp.</i> , <i>Triadica sebifera</i> , etc.
Introduced Wetland Vegetation	Land cover is altered/disturbed and dominated by introduced wetland vegetation. Species may include <i>Lythrum salicaria</i> , <i>Phalaris arundancea</i> , <i>Phragmites australis</i> , etc.
Modified/Managed Vegetation	Vegetation resulting from management or modification of natural/near natural; vegetation, but producing a structural and floristic combination not clearly known to have a natural analogue. Modified vegetation may be easily restorable by either management, restoration of ecological processes, and/or succession.
Modified/Managed Upland Vegetation	Land cover is apparently managed/modified and dominated by trees and/or shrubs. Vegetation is a mixture of herbaceous, shrub, and tree species.
Recently Burned Forest and Woodland	Land cover is apparently modified by recent fires which have burned forest and woodland vegetation. Vegetation is a mixture of herbaceous, shrub, and tree species.
Recently Burned Shrubland	Land cover is apparently modified by recent fires which have shrubland vegetation. Vegetation is a mixture of herbaceous and shrub species.
Recently Burned Grassland	Land cover is apparently modified by recent fires which have burned grassland vegetation. Vegetation is a mixture of herbaceous and shrub species.
Managed Tree Plantation	Land cover is apparently modified and appears as a managed tree plantation.
Recently Logged Timberland	Land cover is apparently modified and appears as logged timberland.
Modified/Managed Wetland Vegetation	These areas include created and obviously managed wetlands of varying size resulting from water diversion. Artificial Wetlands will be mapped where obvious built structures may be distinguished from imagery.

Colorado Plateau, Utah High Plateaus and Uinta Basin Ecological Systems and Target Alliances

This key is intended for identifying Ecological Systems and Target Alliances of the Colorado Plateau, Uinta Basin and Utah High Plateau regions (Mapping Zones #16, #23 and #24). Additional alliance couplets are to proposed mappable or target alliances and are not intended to be comprehensive.

Please note the following conventions used to designate the systems and alliances:

- * indicates NS ecological system that has been grouped into a broader LANDFIRE Map Unit (wetland, riparian, and sparsely vegetated circumstances). Included to help clarify key, but crews need to record broader LANDFIRE Map Unit (**)
- ** indicates broader LANDFIRE Map Unit.
- *** typically a small patch ecological system type not being mapped by LANDFIRE.
- **** the alliance is not considered to be mappable for LANDFIRE purposes.

- 1a. Total woody canopy cover generally 10% or more
 **GO TO KEY A: Woodland, Savanna, Shrub Steppe, or Shrubland Systems and Alliances**
- 1b. Total woody canopy cover generally less than 10%2
- 2a. Total canopy cover generally 10% or more.....**GO TO KEY B: Herbaceous Systems and Alliances**
- 2b. Total canopy cover generally less than 10% or annual herbaceous cover dominates vegetation.....
 **Sparse Vegetation (3)**
- 3a. Barren and typically sparsely vegetated alpine substrates4
- 3b. Barren and sparsely vegetated substrates NOT alpine, subalpine or below5
- 4a. Land cover is mostly exposed rock (usually > 90% cover of either bedrock, boulders or scree). Non-vascular cover (lichens) may be significant..... **(Rocky Mountain Alpine Bedrock and Scree*)**
 **Rocky Mountain Alpine/Montane Sparsely Vegetated Systems****
- 4b. Land cover has significant amounts (10-50% cover) of vascular herbaceous vegetation (typically dominated by cushion plants) and exposed rock (50-90% cover). Sites are windswept by prevailing winds and snow does not remain long.....**Rocky Mountain Alpine Fell field**
- 5a. Land cover is bottomland or drainages6
- 5b. Land cover is upland dune, mudstone or shale badlands, volcanic rock outcrop or cinder sites.....9
- 6a. Land cover is a barren to sparsely vegetated playa
 **(Inter-Mountain Basins Playa) ***
 **Inter-Mountain Basins Sparsely Vegetated Systems ****
- 6b. Land cover is a restricted to drainages with a variety of sparse or patchy vegetation including *Sarcobatus vermiculatus*, *Ericameria nauseosa*, *Fallugia paradoxa*, *Artemisia cana ssp. cana* or *Grayia spinosa*. Herbaceous vegetation such as perennial grasses, *Distichlis spicata* or *Sporobolus airoides*, may also dominate wash.....**(Inter-Mountain Basins Wash***)**
 **Inter-Mountain Basins Sparsely Vegetated Systems****
- 7a. Land cover is volcanic in origin (includes lava, cinder, ash deposits)
 **(Inter-Mountain Basins Volcanic Rock and Cinder Land*)**
 **Inter-Mountain Basins Sparsely Vegetated Systems****
- 7b. Land cover is not sparsely vegetated volcanic substrate8

8a. Land cover is non-volcanic, consolidated rock (cliffs, outcrops).....	9
8b. Land cover is unconsolidated material.....	11
9a. Land cover is largely of exposed bedrock (usually sedimentary) and scree largely found within the Colorado Plateau Region. Typically occurs below montane elevation zone (<2000 m).....	
..... (Colorado Plateau Mixed Bedrock Canyon and Tableland*)	
..... Inter-Mountain Basins Sparsely Vegetated Systems**	
9b. Not as above.....	10
10a. Land cover is largely of exposed bedrock and restricted to montane-subalpine zone in Wasatch Mountains (extreme eastern Great Basin), Colorado Plateau and Rocky Mountains.....	
..... (Rocky Mountain Cliff, Canyon and Massive Bedrock*)	
..... Rocky Mountain Alpine/Montane Sparsely Vegetated Systems**	
10b. Land cover is largely exposed bedrock and scree that is widespread across the intermountain western US from foothill to subalpine elevations (outside the Colorado Plateau Region in the lower elevations in the Wasatch Range and Uinta Mountains).....	
..... (Inter-Mountain Basins Cliff and Canyon*)	
..... Inter-Mountain Basins Sparsely Vegetated Systems**	
11a. Land cover is active or partially vegetated dunes or sand sheets.....	
..... (Inter-Mountain Basins Active and Stabilized Dune*)	
..... Inter-Mountain Basins Sparsely Vegetated Systems**	
11b. Land cover is NOT dunes or sand sheets.....	12
12a. Land cover is eroded shale or clay hills.....	
..... (Inter-Mountain Basins Shale Badland*)	
..... Inter-Mountain Basins Sparsely Vegetated Systems**	
12b. Land cover is barren, but not as above (review land use and disturbed classes).....	
..... (Undifferentiated Barren*)	
..... Inter-Mountain Basins Sparsely Vegetated Systems**	

**KEY A (Colorado Plateau): Woodland, Savanna, Shrub Steppe or Shrubland
Ecological Systems and Mappable Alliances
(Woody cover > 10% cover present)**

- 1a. Land cover is restricted to drainages, semi-riparian flats, springs or seeps and areas with high water tables.....2
- 1b. Land cover is upland vegetation without seeps and areas with high water tables.....9

- 2a. Higher elevation woodlands and shrublands generally >2600 m (subalpine-montane)3
- 2b. Middle and lower elevation (generally <2600 m) woodlands and shrublands (lower montane to valley floor).....4

- 3a. Woodlands restricted to drainages, stream terraces, semi-riparian flats and spring or seep fed slopes.....
..... **(Rocky Mountain Subalpine - Montane Riparian Woodland*)**
..... **Rocky Mountain Subalpine/Upper Montane Riparian Systems****
- 3b. Shrublands restricted to drainages, stream terraces, semi-riparian flats and spring or seep fed slopes.
Species of *Salix*, *Alnus* or *Betula* are commonly present.....
..... **(Rocky Mountain Subalpine - Montane Riparian Shrubland*)**
..... **Rocky Mountain Subalpine/Upper Montane Riparian Systems****

- 4a. *Artemisia cana* ssp. *bolanderi* or *A. cana*. ssp. *viscidula* dominated shrubland or steppe occurring along drainages in Great Basin mountain ranges to lowland depressional wetlands or non-alkaline playas in the northern Great Basin and Columbia Basin and may possibly extend into the northern Wasatch Mountains. *Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *tridentatata*, *A. tridentata* ssp. *wyomingensis* or *A. tridentata* ssp. *viscidula* are occasionally co-dominant. The herbaceous layer generally has 25% or more cover of perennials, typically graminoids with *Poa secunda* (= *P. nevadensis*), *P. cusickii*, *Mulhenbergia filiformis*, *M. richardsonis*, and *Leymus cinereus* dominant at the drier sites, *Eleocharis palustris*, *Deschampsia caespitosa* and *Carex* species at the wetter or higher elevation sites.....
..... **Columbia Plateau Silver Sagebrush Seasonally Flooded Shrub Steppe*****
- 4b. Woodlands, shrublands, or steppe NOT dominated by *Artemisia cana*.....5

- 5a. Lower montane and foothill woodlands and shrublands restricted to drainages and semi-riparian flats and basins6
- 5b. Valley bottom shrublands restricted to temporarily flooded drainages and flats8

- 6a. Lower montane and foothill woodlands and shrublands of mountain ranges of the Great Basin and along the western slope of the Wasatch Range within a broad elevation range from about 1220 m (4000 feet) to over 2135 m (7000 feet).
..... **(Great Basin Foothill and Lower Montane Riparian Woodland and Shrubland*)**
..... **Inter-Mountain Basins Montane Riparian Systems** (7)**
- 6b. Lower montane and foothill woodlands and shrublands along the Wasatch Plateau in the extreme eastern Great Basin..... **(Rocky Mountain Lower Montane Riparian Woodland and Shrubland*)**
..... **Rocky Mountain Montane Riparian Systems ** (7)**

- 7a. Woodlands restricted to drainages and semi-riparian flats that are dominated by introduced *Elaeagnus angustifolia*..... **(Elaeagnus angustifolia Semi-Natural Woodland Alliance*)**
..... **Invasive Riparian Woodland and Shrubland****
- 7b. Woodlands and shrublands restricted to drainages and semi-riparian flats that are dominated by *Tamarix* spp **(Tamarix spp. Semi-Natural Temporarily Flooded Shrubland Alliance*)**
..... **Invasive Riparian Woodland and Shrubland****

8a. Open to moderately dense shrublands dominated or codominated by <i>Sarcobatus vermiculatus</i> that are widespread in the Intermountain Basins region. <i>Atriplex canescens</i> , <i>Atriplex confertifolia</i> , or <i>Krascheninnikovia lanata</i> may be present to codominant with patches of <i>Distichlis spicata</i> grasslands. Commonly occurs on saline/alkaline plains and basins, sometimes encircling playas or on stream terraces.....	
	Inter-Mountain Basins Greasewood Flat
8b. Open to moderately dense shrublands dominated by one or more species of <i>Atriplex</i> and/or <i>Krascheninnikovia lanata</i> . <i>Sarcobatus vermiculatus</i> is absent or has low cover. Other shrubs present to codominate including <i>Artemisia tridentata ssp. wyomingensis</i> . Typical of saline basins, alluvial slopes and plains across the Intermountain western U.S and extends into the Great Plains	
	Inter-Mountain Basins Mixed Salt Desert Scrub
9a. Upland forests and woodlands (trees generally with >25% cover)	10
9b. Upland savannas (10-25% cover of trees, generally >3 m tall with a single main stem and >25% cover graminoids), shrublands and shrub-steppe (10-25% cover of shrubs and >25% cover graminoids).....	40
10a. Broadleaf forests and woodlands or mixed conifer-aspen forests and woodlands (deciduous trees make up 25-100% of the tree canopy).	11
10b. Conifer forests and woodlands (deciduous trees may make up less than 25% cover of the tree canopy).....	14
11a. Broadleaf forest or woodland typically dominated or codominated by <i>Populus tremuloides</i>	12
11b. Broadleaf forests and woodlands co-dominated by <i>Acer grandidentatum</i> or Madrean oaks with less than 25% relative tree canopy of each canopy type.	13
12a. Broadleaf forest or woodland typically dominated by <i>Populus tremuloides</i> (and possible inclusions of other broadleaf tree species) with less than 25% total tree canopy cover of conifers.....	
	Rocky Mountain Aspen Forest and Woodland
12b. Mixed conifer-broadleaf forests and woodlands co-dominated by <i>Populus tremuloides</i> and a conifer trees such as <i>Abies concolor</i> or <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> (both broadleaf and conifer tree cover over 25% total tree canopy cover)	Inter-Mountain Basins Aspen - Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland
13a. Broadleaf forest or woodland dominated by <i>Acer grandidentatum</i> , often found in mesic ravines	
	Rocky Mountain Bigtooth Maple Ravine Woodland
13b. Broadleaf woodlands dominated by Madrean oaks such as <i>Quercus arizonica</i> , <i>Q. emoryii</i> , <i>Q. gravesii</i> , <i>Q. grisea</i> , <i>Q. hypoleucoides</i> , <i>Q. mohriana</i> , <i>Q. oblongifolia</i> , and <i>Q. rugosa</i> . May occur in the extreme southern portion of the Colorado Plateau.....	Madrean Encinal
14a. Subalpine conifer forests and woodlands (spruce-fir zone).....	15
14b. Montane and foothills conifer forests and woodlands (Douglas-fir – white fir zone).....	19
15a. Subalpine conifer forests and woodlands dominated or co-dominated by <i>Pinus aristata</i> or <i>P. longaeva</i> and/or <i>P. flexilis</i>	16
15b. Subalpine conifer forests and woodlands NOT dominated or co-dominated by <i>Pinus aristata</i> or <i>P. longaeva</i> and/or <i>P. flexilis</i>	17
16a. Conifer forests and woodlands dominated or co-dominated by <i>Pinus longaeva</i> and/or <i>P. flexilis</i> (restricted to mountains of Nevada and California and southern and central Wasatch and western Uinta mountains of Utah, but Not the northern Wasatch Range).....	
	Inter-Mountain Basins Subalpine Limber-Bristlecone Pine Woodland
16b. Conifer forests and woodlands dominated or co-dominated by <i>Pinus aristata</i> and/or <i>P. flexilis</i> (may not be present in mountains of Colorado Plateau; known from the San Francisco Peaks near Flagstaff, AZ, Southern, Middle and Northern Rocky Mountain, excluding western Uinta Mountains.)	
	RockyMountains Subalpine Limber-Bristlecone Pine Woodland

17a. Conifer forests and woodlands strongly dominated by <i>Pinus contorta</i> or with <i>Populus tremuloides</i> co-dominating (restricted to Uinitas and Northern Wasatch Mountain in these mapping zones.	
.....	Rocky Mountain Lodgepole Pine Forest
17b. Conifer forests and woodlands typically dominated or co-dominated by <i>Abies lasiocarpa</i> and/or <i>Picea engelmannii</i> sometimes with <i>Pinus contorta</i> or <i>Populus tremuloides</i> codominating.....	18
18a. Widespread matrix subalpine conifer forests and woodlands of dryer environments that are dominated or co-dominated by <i>Abies lasiocarpa</i> and/or <i>Picea engelmannii</i>	
.....	Rocky Mountain Subalpine Dry-Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland
18b. Large and small patch subalpine conifer forests and woodlands of mesic environments (north aspect toeslopes) that are dominated or co-dominated by <i>Abies lasiocarpa</i> and/or <i>Picea engelmannii</i> with mesic understory species such as <i>Actaea rubra</i> , <i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i> , <i>Erigeron eximius</i> , <i>Rubus parviflorus</i> , or <i>Trifolium dasyphyllum</i>	Rocky Mountain Subalpine Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland
19a. Montane conifer forests and woodlands.....	20
19b. Foothill conifer forests and woodlands	26
20a. Conifer forests and woodlands dominated by <i>Pinus contorta</i> and sometimes codominated by <i>Populus tremuloides</i> . If present in the Colorado Plateau, this widespread Rocky Mountain forest would be restricted to the the extreme northern portion adjacent to the Uinta Mountains.	
.....	Rocky Mountain Lodgepole Pine Forest
20b. Conifer forests and woodlands NOT dominated <i>Pinus contorta</i> , but may be present with low cover.....	21
21a. Matrix <i>Pinus ponderosa</i> dominated woodlands with inclusions of <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> woodlands on cool aspects. <i>Pinus edulis</i> , <i>Juniperus</i> spp., or <i>Populus tremuloides</i> may be also be present.....	
.....	Southern Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland
21b. Conifer forests and woodlands dominated by <i>Abies concolor</i> or <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> , and sometime co-dominated by <i>Pinus ponderosa</i> or <i>P. contorta</i> and/or <i>Populus tremuloides</i>	22
22a. Conifer forests and woodlands typically with Madrean species in the tree canopy and/or other conifers with understory of Madrean oaks such as <i>Quercus hypoleuroides</i> and <i>Quercus rugosa</i> . Common Submogollon and Sky Island mountain vegetation, but restricted to the extreme southern end of the Colorado Plateau	23
22b. Widespread conifer forests and woodlands that range from Rocky Mountain Cordillera into central New Mexico and Arizona generally above the Mogollon Rim. Stands are dominated by <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> , <i>Picea pungens</i> , or <i>Abies concolor</i> without Madrean oaks such as <i>Quercus hypoleuroides</i> and <i>Quercus rugosa</i>	24
23a. Conifer forests and woodlands composed of Madrean pines (<i>Pinus arizonica</i> , <i>Pinus engelmannii</i> , <i>Pinus leiophylla</i> or <i>Pinus strobiformis</i>) and evergreen oaks (<i>Quercus arizonica</i> , <i>Quercus emoryi</i> , or <i>Quercus grisea</i>) intermingled with patchy shrublands on most mid-elevation slopes (1500-2300 m elevation). Includes <i>Pinus ponderosa</i> stands with Madrean pines or oaks. Other tree species include <i>Cupressus arizonica</i> , <i>Juniperus deppeana</i> , <i>Pinus cembrioides</i> , <i>Pinus discolor</i> , and <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> . Subcanopy and shrub layers may include typical encinal and chaparral species or have moderate cover of perennial graminoids.....	Madrean Pine-Oak Forest and Woodland
23b. Conifer forests and woodlands dominated by <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> , <i>Abies coahuilensis</i> , or <i>Abies concolor</i> and Madrean oaks such as <i>Quercus hypoleuroides</i> and <i>Quercus rugosa</i> . Restricted to the extreme southern end of the Colorado plateau	Madrean Upper Montane Conifer-Oak Forest and Woodland
24a. Matrix montane conifer forests and woodlands of dryer environments that are dominated or co-dominated by <i>Abies concolor</i> or <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> , and sometimes co-dominated by <i>Pinus ponderosa</i> or <i>P. contorta</i> and/or <i>Populus tremuloides</i>	
.....	Southern Rocky Mountain Dry-Mesic Montane Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland (25)
24b. Large and small patch montane conifer forests and woodlands of relative mesic environments (north aspect toeslopes). Dominated or co-dominated by <i>Abies concolor</i> , <i>Picea pungens</i> or <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Southern Rocky Mountain Mesic Montane Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland

- 25a. Conifer woodlands dominated or co-dominated by *Abies concolor*. Other trees species such as *Pseudotsuga menziesii*, *Pinus ponderosa* and/or *Populus tremuloides* may be present. Significant *Abies concolor* understory is present if mature *Abies concolor* are not codominant in tree canopy **Abies concolor Forest Alliance**
- 25b. Conifer woodlands dominated or co-dominated by *Pseudotsuga menziesii* with *Abies concolor* absent **(Pseudotsuga menziesii Forest Alliance****)**
- 26a. Foothill or prairie-breaks conifer woodlands dominated by *Pinus flexilis* and/or *Juniperus scopulorum* or *Juniperus osteosperma*. Common foothills woodland in southern and eastern Wyoming, but restricted to extreme northern portions of Colorado and northeastern Utah (*Pinus flexilis* is often present) **Rocky Mountain Foothill Limber Pine-Juniper Woodland**
- 26b. Foothill conifer woodlands NOT dominated or co-dominated by *Pinus flexilis* **27**
- 27a. Foothill conifer woodlands dominated or co-dominated by *Pinus edulis*, *Pinus monophylla* and/or *Juniperus* spp. with *Pinus ponderosa* codominant **Southern Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland**
- 27b. Foothill conifer woodlands dominated or co-dominated by *Pinus edulis* and/or *Juniperus* spp. If present *Pinus ponderosa* is restricted to mesic microsites. **28**
- 28a. This Madrean Woodland may extend into the extreme southern part of the Colorado Plateau. The presence of *Pinus cembroides*, *Pinus discolor*, or other Madrean trees and shrubs is diagnostic. *Juniperus coahuilensis*, *Juniperus deppeana*, *Juniperus pinchotii*, *Juniperus monosperma*, and/or *Pinus edulis* may be present to dominant. Madrean oaks such as *Quercus arizonica*, *Quercus emoryi*, *Quercus grisea* or *Quercus mohriana* may be codominant. *Pinus ponderosa* is absent or sparse. If present, understory layers are variable and may be dominated by shrubs or graminoids..... **Madrean Pinyon-Juniper Woodland**
- 28b. Foothill conifer woodlands and shrubland NOT dominated or co-dominated by Madrean tree species..... **29**
- 29a. Foothill conifer woodlands dominated or co-dominated by *Pinus monophylla* and/or *Juniperus osteosperma*. Widespread in the Great Basin and restricted in the Colorado Plateau to southwest corner **Great Basin Pinyon-Juniper Woodland**
- 29b. Foothill conifer woodlands and shrublands dominated by *Pinus edulis* and/or *Juniperus* spp. **30**
- 30a. Widespread pinyon-juniper woodlands common in foothills of the Western Slope of Colorado and the Colorado Plateau (usually above 2000 m elevation). Stands are typically is 4-5 m tall, dominated or codominated by *Pinus edulis* and *Juniperus osteosperma* with *J. scopulorum* at higher elevations. In the southern Colorado Plateau transition zone with Rocky Mountain Pinyon -Juniper Woodland, *Juniperus monosperma* may codominate or dominate stands. **(Colorado Plateau Pinyon-Juniper Woodland*)**
..... **Colorado Plateau Pinyon-Juniper Woodland and Shrubland****
- 30b. Stunted (dwarf) woodlands/shrublands that occur on bedrock and shallow soil substrates on Colorado Plateau at lower elevations usually less than 2000 m. Typically is less than 3 m tall and dominated or codominated by *Pinus edulis* and/or *Juniperus osteosperma*. **(Colorado Plateau Pinyon-Juniper Shrubland*)**
..... **Colorado Plateau Pinyon-Juniper Woodland and Shrubland****
- 31a. Savannas with 10-25% cover of trees (generally >3 m tall with a single main stem) over perennial grassland (25% or more herbaceous cover)..... **32**
- 31b. Shrub steppe, shrublands and dwarf-shrublands (trees with less than 10% cover)..... **34**
- 32a. Open tree layer dominated by *Pinus ponderosa*, but may have *Pinus edulis* or *Juniperus* spp. present to codominant. Typically has a strong perennial grass layer (>20% cover). **Southern Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Savanna**
- 32b. Open tree layer NOT dominated or codominated by *Pinus ponderosa* **33**

33a. Open tree layer is typically dominated by <i>Juniperus osteosperma</i> with a strong perennial grass layer (>20% cover). In the southern Colorado Plateau transition zone with Rocky Mountain Juniper Savanna and Woodland, <i>Juniperus monosperma</i> may codominate or dominate stands. <i>Juniperus scopulorum</i> may codominate or dominate at higher elevations.	Inter-Mountain Basins Juniper Savanna
33b. Open tree layer is dominated by <i>Juniperus coahuilensis</i> , <i>Juniperus pinchotii</i> , and/or <i>Juniperus deppeana</i> with a strong perennial grass layer (>20% cover) is diagnostic. <i>Juniperus monosperma</i> may be present to co-dominant. This Madrean system may extend into the extreme southern part of the Colorado Plateau.	Madrean Juniper Savanna
34a. Dwarf or low shrubland or dwarf-shrub steppe.....	35
34b. Shrubland or shrub steppe.....	39
35a. Alpine dwarf-shrublands dominated by <i>Salix arctica</i> , <i>S. nivalis</i> , <i>S. reticulata</i> , and <i>Vaccinium</i> spp. (Uncommon in Colorado Plateau, but may be present on highest mountains of Utah High Plateaus and Wasatch Mountains).....	Rocky Mountain Alpine Dwarf-shrubland
35b. Not as above	36
36a. Low shrubland dominated by <i>Atriplex corrugata</i> or <i>A. gardneri</i> found on shale hill and shaley plains on western slope of Colorado and in Wyoming	Inter-Mountain Basins Mat Saltbush Shrubland
36b. Shrublands and steppe dominated by low stature species of <i>Artemisia</i> , soils are shallow and often rocky	37
37a. Low sagebrush shrubland widespread in the Great Basin and possibly extending into western Colorado Plateau. Stands occur on dry flats and plains, alluvial fans, rolling hills, rocky hill slopes, saddles and ridges at elevations between 1000-2600 m. Vegetation is dominated by <i>Artemisia nova</i> (low to mid elevation) and <i>Artemisia arbuscula</i> (higher elevation), and may be codominated by <i>Artemisia tridentata</i> ssp. <i>wyomingensis</i> or <i>Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus</i> (possibly with <i>A. tridentata</i> spp. <i>vaseyana</i> present, but not co-dominant). Perennial herbaceous layer generally less than 25% cover.	Great Basin Xeric Mixed Sagebrush Shrubland
37b. Dwarf-shrubland or shrub steppe not restricted to the western edge of the Colorado Plateau	38
38a. Low shrubland or shrub steppe dominated or co-dominated by <i>Artemisia nova</i> or <i>Artemisia tripartita</i> ssp. <i>rupicola</i> . Common in dry habitats throughout the basins of central and southern Wyoming, and may extend into northern Colorado and northeastern Utah. Stands typically occur on wind-swept ridges and south and west aspect slopes above 2135 m.....	Wyoming Basins Low Sagebrush Shrubland
38b. Widespread low elevation dwarf shrubland or dwarf shrub steppe dominated or co-dominated by <i>Artemisia nova</i> , <i>A. bigelovii</i> , and/or <i>A. tridentata</i> ssp. <i>wyomingensis</i> . Common on shallow rocky soils at lower elevation in mountains, foothills and breaks in plains from the Colorado Plateau across southern Colorado and northern New Mexico extending out into the plains	Colorado Plateau Mixed Low Sagebrush Shrubland
39a. <i>Cercocarpus ledifolius</i> dominates the shrub (or tree) layer.....	Inter-Mountain Basins Mountain Mahogany Woodland and Shrubland
39b. Other taxa dominate the shrub layer	40
40a. Stunted (dwarf) woodlands/shrublands that occur on bedrock and shallow soil substrates on Colorado Plateau at lower elevations usually less than 2000 m. Typically is less than 3 m tall and dominated or codominated by <i>Pinus edulis</i> and/or <i>Juniperus osteosperma</i>	(Colorado Plateau Pinyon-Juniper Shrubland*)
.....	Colorado Plateau Pinyon-Juniper Woodland and Shrubland**
40b. Other taxa dominate the shrub layer	41
41a. Shrublands found on broad sandy plains and locally in sandy soils derived from sandstone or alluvium	42
41b. Shrublands found on other environments.....	44

- 42a. Open shrublands (10-30 % cover) found in south-central Colorado Plateau on windswept mesas, broad basins and plains at low to moderate elevations (1300-1800m). Substrates are stabilized sandsheets or shallow to moderately deep sandy soils that may form small hummocks or small coppice dunes. Characteristic species include *Ephedra cutleri*, *Ephedra torreyana*, *Ephedra viridis*, and *Artemisia filifolia* with dry grasses. *Coleogyne ramosissima* is typically not present.
.....**Southern Colorado Plateau Sand Shrubland**
- 42b. Open to moderately dense shrublands found on benchlands, colluvial slopes, pediments or bajadas at 560-1600 m elevation. Substrates are shallow, typically calcareous, non-saline and gravelly or sandy soils over sandstone or limestone bedrock, caliche or limestone alluvium. It also occurs in deeper soils on sandy plains where it may have invaded desert grasslands. Vegetation is dominated by *Coleogyne ramosissima* often with *Ephedra viridis*, *Ephedra torreyana*, or *Grayia spinosa*. Sandy portions may include *Artemisia filifolia* as codominant. **Colorado Plateau Blackbrush-Mormon Tea Shrubland (43)**
- 43a. *Coleogyne ramosissima* dominates or co-dominates the shrub layer.
.....***Coleogyne ramosissima* Shrubland Alliance**
- 43b. *Artemisia filifolia* dominates the shrub layer***Artemisia filifolia* Shrubland Alliance******
- 44a. Desert shrublands and scrub vegetation restricted to the extreme southern portions of the Colorado Plateau (both southwest and southeast).....**45**
- 44b. Not as above, widespread shrublands Not restricted to the extreme southern portions of the Colorado Plateau.**53**
- 45a. Upland desert scrub widespread in the Chihuahuan, Sonoran or Mojave Deserts. Stands are typically dominated or codominated by an open shrub canopy of *Larrea tridentata*.**46**
- 45b. Not as above, shrublands not typically dominated by *Larrea tridentata***47**
- 46a. Upland desert scrub widespread in the Mojave Desert. Stands are typically dominated by an open shrub canopy of *Larrea tridentata* and *Ambrosia dumosa* without a xeromorphic wooded layer. This system may be present in lowlands the extreme southwest portion of the Colorado Plateau. Stands typically occur below 750 m. elevation.....**Sonoran-Mojave Creosotebush-White bursage Desert Scrub**
- 46b. Upland desert scrub widespread in the Chihuahuan Desert. Stands are typically dominated or codominated by an open shrub canopy of *Larrea tridentata* mixed with thornscrub and other desert scrub such as *Acacia constricta*, *Acacia neovernicosa*, *Acacia greggii*, *Agave lechuguilla*, *Aloysia wrightii*, *Fouquieria splendens*, *Dasyllirion leiophyllum*, *Flourensia cernua*, *Leucophyllum minus*, *Mimosa aculeaticarpa* var. *biuncifera*, *Mortonia*, *Opuntia engelmannii*, *Parthenium incanum*, *Prosopis glandulosa*, and *Tiquilia greggii*. -dominated thornscrub without *Ambrosia dumosa* This system may be present in lowlands the extreme southeast portion of the Colorado Plateau.
..... **Chihuahuan Mixed Desert and Thorn Scrub**
- 47a. Upland shrublands occur on plains and foothills in the transition zone from desert scrub in the eastern Mojave Desert to the extreme southwestern Colorado Plateau. Elevations range from 700-1800 m. Vegetation is variable, but in the transition zone shrublands are typically dominated by *Coleogyne ramosissima*, *Ephedra nevadensis*, *Grayia spinosa*, or *Menodora spinescens*. Perennial desert grasses are important in some stands.**Mojave Mid-Elevation Desert Scrub (48)**
- 47b. Not as above.....**49**
- 48a. *Coleogyne ramosissima* dominates short shrub layer. Often occurs on sandy soils.....
.....***Coleogyne ramosissima* Shrubland Alliance**
- 48b. *Grayia spinosa* dominates short shrub layer.***Grayia spinosa* Shrubland Alliance**

- 49a. Upland chaparral occurs in foothills, mountain slopes and canyons in dryer habitats below the encinal (evergreen oak) and Pinyon-Juniper woodlands (1000-2200 m elevation) in central and southern Arizona, southern New Mexico, and southwestern Utah. The moderate to dense shrub canopy is dominated by evergreen broadleaved shrubs such as *Quercus turbinella*, *Quercus toumeyii*, *Cercocarpus montanus*, *Canotia holacantha*, *Ceanothus greggii*, *Forestiera pubescens* (= *Forestiera neomexicana*), *Garrya wrightii*, *Juniperus deppeana*, *Purshia stansburiana*, *Rhus ovata*, *Rhus trilobata*, and *Arctostaphylos pungens* and *Arctostaphylos pringlei* at higher elevations. **Mogollon Chaparral (50)**
- 49b. Not as above.....52
- 50a. Upland chaparral vegetation dominated by the shrub *Quercus turbinella*.....**Quercus turbinella Shrubland Alliance**
- 50b. Upland chaparral vegetation Not dominated by the shrub *Quercus turbinella*51
- 51a. Upland chaparral vegetation dominated by the shrub *Arctostaphylos patula*.....**Arctostaphylos patula Shrubland Alliance**
- 51b. Upland chaparral vegetation dominated by the shrub *Cercocarpus montanus***Cercocarpus montanus Shrubland Alliance******
- 52a. Upland shrublands dominated by species of *Prosopis* that occur extensively in the foothills and piedmont in the Chihuahuan Desert extending into the Sky Islands and Mogollon Rim regions, and found in transitional areas in the eastern and northern Sonoran Desert. Stands occur above desert scrub (700-1500 m elevation). Vegetation is typically dominated by *Prosopis glandulosa* or *Prosopis velutina* and succulents. Other shrubs present may include thornscrub (*Acacia neovernicosa*, *Acacia constricta*) and species *Juniperus monosperma*, or *Juniperus coahuilensis*. Perennial grass cover is low (<10%) and *Larrea tridentata* and other desert scrub is absent or occasional (never co-dominant). During the last century, the area occupied by this system has increased through conversion of desert grasslands. (See Chihuahuan - Apacherian Foothills and Piedmont Semi-Desert Grassland and Steppe in herbaceous key if stands have significant perennial graminoid cover).....**Apacherian-Chihuahuan Mesquite Upland Scrub**
- 52b. Broadly defined desert grassland that typically includes an open mixed shrub-succulent or xeromorphic tree layer that may resemble steppe or savanna. It is common in the Borderlands of Arizona, New Mexico and northern Mexico [Apacherian region] and extends out into the Chihuahuan and Sonoran deserts and north into Mogollon Rim area of central Arizona. It is found on gently sloping bajadas, mesas and steeper piedmont and foothill slopes and is characterized by lush (>20% cover) and typically diverse desert grasses, but may have a significant woody component of shrubs, trees and cacti (10-25% cover). Common grass species include *Bouteloua eriopoda*, *B. rothrockii*, *B. curtipendula*, *B. gracilis*, *Eragrostis intermedia*, *Muhlenbergia porteri*, *M. setifolia*, *Pleuraphis jamesii*, *P. mutica*, and *Sporobolus airoides*, succulent species of *Agave*, *Dasylyrion*, and *Yucca*, and tall shrub/short tree species of *Prosopis* and various evergreen oaks (e.g., *Quercus grisea*, *Quercus emoryi*, *Quercus arizonica*).**Apacherian-Chihuahuan Semi-Desert Grassland and Steppe**
- 53a. Other taxa dominate or co-dominate the shrub layer including *Artemisia* spp. and *Quercus gambelii*.....54
- 53b. Shrub layer is dominated or co-dominated by species of *Artemisia*, but NOT with *Quercus gambelii*.57
- 54a. Shrubland or shrub steppe of montane elevations usually dominated or co-dominated by *Quercus gambelii*. *Quercus gambelii* may be locally absent but then stand is mesic and dominated by *Amelanchier* spp. Other shrubs include *Acer grandidentatum*, *Cercocarpus montanus*, or *Symphoricarpos* spp., which may co-dominate some stands. *Artemisia tridentata* may be present to codominant (with *Quercus gambelii*).....**Rocky Mountain Gambel Oak - Mixed Montane Shrubland (55)**
- 54b. Shrubland or shrub steppe of lower montane and foothill elevations (drier) NOT co-dominated by *Quercus gambelii*56
- 55a. *Quercus gambelii* dominates or co-dominate the shrub layer.**Quercus gambelii Shrubland Alliance**
- 55b. *Arctostaphylos patula* dominates or co-dominate the shrub layer..... **Arctostaphylos patula Shrubland Alliance**

- 56a. Shrubland or shrub steppe of lower montane and foothill elevations (drier) with *Quercus gambelii* absent or with low cover (NOT codominant). Shrub layer is dominated or co-dominated by *Amelanchier utahensis*, *Cercocarpus montanus*, *Purshia tridentata*, *Rhus trilobata*, *Ribes cereum*, *Symphoricarpos oreophilus*, and/or *Yucca glauca*. *Artemisia tridentata* may be present, but not co-dominant.
Rocky Mountain Lower Montane-Foothill Shrubland63
- 56b. Shrubland or shrub steppe of basins.....63
- 57a. Montane or subalpine (>2000 m elevations) shrubland or shrub steppe dominated or co-dominated by *Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *vaseyana*, *A. tridentata* ssp. *spiciformis*, non-riparian *A. cana* ssp. *viscidula*, *A. arbuscula* ssp. *arbuscula* and/or *Purshia tridentata*. *Symphoricarpos* spp. may co-dominate some stands.....
Inter-Mountain Basins Montane Sagebrush Steppe (58)59
- 57b. Foothill shrublands.....59
- 58a. *Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *vaseyana* typically dominates shrub layer of 10% or more absolute cover and with typically less than 20% total perennial herbaceous cover.
Artemisia tridentata ssp. vaseyana Shrubland Alliance
- 58b. *Artemisia arbuscula* ssp. *arbuscula* dominated shrubland
Artemisia arbuscula spp. arbuscula Dwarf-Shrubland Alliance
- 59a. Shrubland or shrub steppe dominated or co-dominated by *Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *tridentata* and/or *Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *wyomingensis*. *Symphoricarpos* spp. or *Purshia tridentata* may co-dominate some stands61
- 59b. Lower shrubland or shrub steppe dominated or co-dominated by *Artemisia nova*, *A. bigelovii*, *Artemisia tripartita* and/or *A. tridentata* ssp. *wyominensis*. Found on shallow, rocky soils60
- 60a. Lower elevation dwarf shrubland or dwarf shrub steppe dominated or co-dominated by *Artemisia nova*, *A. bigelovii*, and/or *A. tridentata* ssp. *wyomingensis*. Common on shallow rocky soils at lower elevation in mountains, foothills and breaks in plains from the Colorado Plateau across southern Colorado and northern New Mexico extending out into the plains
Colorado Plateau Mixed Low Sagebrush Shrubland
- 60b. Low shrubland or shrub steppe dominated or co-dominated by *Artemisia nova* or *Artemisia tripartita* ssp. *rupicola*. Common in dry habitats throughout the basins of central and southern Wyoming, and may extend into northern Colorado typically occur on wind-swept ridges and south and west aspect slopes above 2135 m.....
Wyoming Basins Low Sagebrush Shrubland
- 61a. *Artemisia tridentata* dominates relative cover of shrub layer of 10% or more absolute cover and with less than 25% total perennial herbaceous cover
Inter-Mountain Basins Big Sagebrush Shrubland
- 61b. *Artemisia tridentata* dominates or codominates relative cover of shrub layer of 10-40% absolute cover and with at least 25% total perennial herbaceous cover. Some stands *Purshia tridentata* may dominates relative cover of shrub layer. This system is widespread in the Columbia Basin and is restricted to the extreme northern portion of the Colorado Plateau
Inter-Mountain Basins Big Sagebrush Steppe (62)
- 62a. *Purshia tridentata* dominates shrub layer of 10% or more absolute cover and with typically greater than 20% total perennial herbaceous cover. *Artemisia tridentata* may be present, but not codominant.
Purshia tridentata Shrub Herbaceous Alliance****
- 62b. *Purshia tridentata* dominates shrub layer of 10% or more absolute cover and with typically less than 20% total perennial herbaceous cover. *Artemisia tridentata* may be present, but not codominant.....
Purshia tridentata Shrubland Alliance
- 63a. *Atriplex* spp and/or *Krascheninnikovia lanata* dominate the shrub layer. Typically found in basins
Inter-Mountain Basins Mixed Salt Desert Scrub
- 63b. *Ericameria nauseosa* and/or *Gutierrezia sarothrae* dominate an open shrub layer with or without grass understory
Inter-Mountain Basins Semi-Desert Shrub Steppe

KEY B (Colorado Plateau): Herbaceous Ecological Systems and Alliances
(Herbaceous layer dominant > 20% cover with low woody cover < 10%)

1a. Land cover is restricted to drainages, semi-riparian flats, springs or seeps.....2
1b. Land cover is upland vegetation.....4

2a. High elevation herbaceous wetlands (subalpine-montane)3
2b. Middle and lower elevation herbaceous wetlands (lower montane to valley floor).....
..... **North American Arid West Emergent Marsh*****

3a. Alpine to montane wet meadows without a 40 cm deep organic layer.
..... **Rocky Mountain Alpine - Montane Wet Meadow*****
3b. Subalpine to montane wetlands with a 40 cm deep organic layer. This wetland is typically groundwater fed.....
..... **Rocky Mountain Subalpine - Montane Fen*****

4a. Herbaceous cover dominated by annual graminoids or annual and biennial forbs5
4b. Herbaceous cover dominated by perennial species6

5a. Herbaceous cover dominated by annual species of brome grass (typically *Bromus tectorum*, but including
Bromus japonicus, *Bromus rubens*, *Bromus hordeaceus*, *Bromus rigidus*)
..... **Invasive Annual Grassland**

5b. 5a. Herbaceous cover dominated by introduced annual and biennial forbs (including *Ceratocephala*
testiculata, *Halogeton glomeratus*, *Kochia scoparium*, *Lepidium perfoliatum*, *Salsola kali*, etc.)
..... **Invasive Annual and Biennial Forbland**

6a. Herbaceous cover dominated by introduced perennial grasses and forbs (including *Agropyron cristatum*,
Alopecurus geniculatus, *Agrostis stolonifera*, *Bromus inermis*, *Cenntareau sp*, *Cirsium arvense*, *Euphorbia*
esula, *Lepidium latifolium*, *Melilotus spp.*, *Thinopyrum intermedium*, *Poa pratensis*, *Phleum pratense*, and
other introduced forage species **Invasive Perennial Grassland and Forbland**
6b. Herbaceous cover dominated by native species7

7a. Alpine herbaceous vegetation.....8
7b. Subalpine, montane, foothill and basin vegetation.....9

8a. Gound cover dominated by short graminoids and forbs forming a turf **Rocky Mountain Dry Tundra**
8b. Ground cover has significant amounts (10-50%) of vascular herbaceous vegetation (typically dominated by
cushion plants) and exposed rock (>50% cover). Sites are windswept by prevailing winds and snow does
not remain long..... **Rocky Mountain Alpine Fell field**

9a. Subalpine herbaceous vegetation that is typically dominated or codominated by perennial forbs.....
..... **Rocky Mountain Subalpine Mesic Meadow**
9. Montane, foothill and basin herbaceous vegetation10

10a. Montane – subalpine grasslands found between 2200-3000 m elevation on dry flat to rolling plains or
lower side slopes, but may extend up to 3350 m on warm aspects. Vegetation is dominated by bunch
grasses such as *Danthonia spp.*, *Festuca spp.*, *Muhlenbergia filiculmis*, *M. montana* or *Pseudoroegneria*
spicata. **Southern Rocky Mountain Montane - Subalpine Grassland**
10b. Foothill and basin vegetation11

11a. Widespread dry foothill and lower elevation grasslands found on sandy plains, and mesas on the Colorado
Plateau region south to the Mogollon Rim. Typically dominated or codominated by *Bouteloua gracilis*,
Achnatherum hymenoides, *Pleuraphis rigida*, *P. jamesii*, and *Hesperostipa comata* and may include scatter
shrubs and dwarf-shrubs..... **Inter-Mountain Basins Semi-Desert Grassland**
11b. Desert grasslands that are restricted to the southernmost portions of the Colorado Plateau12

- 12a. Broadly defined desert grassland that may include an open mixed shrub-succulent or xeromorphic tree layer and is common of the Borderlands of Arizona, New Mexico and northern Mexico [Apacherian region], but extends out into the Chihuahuan and Sonoran deserts, and north into Mogollon Rim Area of central Arizona and may extend into the southernmost portion of the Colorado Plateau. It found on gently sloping bajadas, mesas and steeper piedmont and foothill slopes. It is characterized by lush (>20% cover) and typically diverse desert grasses, but may have a significant woody component of shrubs, trees and cacti (10-25% cover). Common grass species include *Bouteloua eriopoda*, *B. hirsuta*, *B. rothrockii*, *B. curtipendula*, *B. gracilis*, *Eragrostis intermedia*, *Muhlenbergia porteri*, *M. setifolia*, *Pleuraphis jamesii*, *P. mutica*, and *Sporobolus airoides*, succulent species of *Agave*, *Dasyliirion*, and *Yucca*, and tall shrub/short tree species of *Prosopis* and various evergreen oaks (e.g., *Quercus grisea*, *Q. emoryi*, *Q. arizonica*).
 **Chihuahuan - Apacherian Semi-Desert Grassland and Steppe**13
- 12b. Not as above.....13
- 13b Dry grasslands found on sandy plains and mesas above the Chihuahuan desertscrub elevations. Stands are typically dominated or codominated by *Achnatherum hymenoides*, *Bouteloua eriopoda*, *B. hirsuta*, *Hesperostipa neomexicana*, *Pleuraphis jamesii*, *Sporobolus cryptandrus*, and *S. flexuosus* often with scattered shrubs and stem succulents such as *Ephedra torreyana*, *E. trifurca*, *Fallugia paradoxa*, *Yucca elata*, and *Y. torreyana* **Chihuahuan Sandy Plains Semi-Desert Grassland**
- 13b. Basins grasslands that may occasionally flood, but lack wetland soil characteristics. Vegetation is typically dominated by *Pleuraphis mutica* (tobosa swales) or other mesic graminoids such as *Pascopyrum smithii*, *Panicum obtusum*, *Sporobolus airoides*, or *Sporobolus wrightii*.....
 **Chihuahuan - Sonoran Desert Bottomland and Swale Grassland**