

Riverine Sand Flats - Bars Sparse Vegetation

COMMON NAME Riverine Sand Flats - Bars Sparse Vegetation

SYNONYM River Sand and Gravel Bars

PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS Sparse vegetation (VII)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS Unconsolidated material sparse vegetation (VII.C)

PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP Sparsely vegetated sand flats (VII.C.2)

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP Natural/semi-natural (VII.C.2.N)

FORMATION Temporarily flooded sand flats (VII.C.2.N.c.)

ALLIANCE Sand Flats Temporarily Flooded Sparse Vegetation

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 3

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Palustrine

RANGE

Globally

This community occurs in Illinois, Missouri, Minnesota, Nebraska, eastern Wyoming, southern Saskatchewan, southern Manitoba, southern Ontario, and possibly Indiana and North Dakota.

Fort Laramie National Historic Site

This community occurs adjacent to the Laramie and Platte Rivers.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

This community is found on rivers and streams where frequent flooding changes the substrate. Soil is absent or sometimes poorly developed. Soil that is above the water table is prone to drought due to poor water retaining capability. Parent material is sand or gravel.

Fort Laramie National Historic Site

This community occurs on sandy, gravelly and small-cobble soils adjacent to rivers. Soil type can change relatively rapidly (over several years?) with flood events.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

Statum

Herbaceous

Species

Cenchrus longispinus, *Cyperus* spp., *Eragrostis trichodes*, *Polygonum lapathifolium*,
Sporobolus cryptandrus

Fort Laramie National Historic Site

Statum

Shrub

Herbaceous

Species

Salix exigua, *Populus deltoides*

Sporobolus cryptandrus, *Melilotus* spp., *Artemisia campestris*

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

Information not available.

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Fort Laramie National Historic Site

Fort Laramie National Historic Site

No species sufficiently constant to be diagnostic.

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

Vegetation cover is sparse to sometimes moderate in this community. Ground cover is in the range of 5-20%. The predominant vegetation is herbaceous although some young shrubs and trees may become established. Species composition is variable from site to site and on the same site due to frequent flooding and recolonization from nearby seed sources. Species commonly found in the herbaceous layer include *Cenchrus longispinus*, *Cyperus* spp., *Eragrostis trichodes*, *Equisetum* spp., *Juncus* spp., *Polygonum lapathifolium*, and *Sporobolus cryptandrus*. Small *Populus deltoides* and *Salix* spp. are the most common woody species.

Fort Laramie National Historic Site

This community is characterized by sparse herbaceous and shrub cover, typically 1-10%. The vegetation composition and structure can change rapidly as a result of flooding. *Salix exigua* and small *Populus deltoides* are the most abundant shrubs while *Sporobolus cryptandrus*, *Artemisia campestris*, and *Melilotus* spp. are typically found in the herbaceous layer. Small patches of *Spartina pectinata* sometime occurs in wet areas near the river.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES Information not available.

CONSERVATION RANK G?

RANK JUSTIFICATION

DATABASE CODE C EGL002049

COMMENTS

Globally

This is a primary community that develops on recently deposited or disturbed alluvial sand and gravel. It is a short lived community. Either subsequent flooding destroys the plants or secondary communities develop on the site.

Fort Laramie National Historic Site

Succession to and from *Salix exigua* Shrubland may occur rapidly (within a few years) depending on the extent of seasonal flooding.

REFERENCES