

## Sandstone Rock Outcrop Sparse Vegetation

COMMON NAME	Sandstone Rock Outcrop Sparse Vegetation
SYNONYM	Rock Outcrop
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Sparse vegetation (VII)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Consolidated rock sparse vegetation (VII.A)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Sparsely vegetated cliffs (VII.A.1)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/semi-natural (VII.A.1.N)
FORMATION	Cliffs with sparse vascular vegetation (VII.A.1.N.a.)
ALLIANCE	Rock Outcrop / Butte Sparse Vegetation

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 3

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Upland

### RANGE

*Globally*

This type has been found only at Fort Laramie. It is likely that further review will identify it in other states as well.

### *Fort Laramie National Historic Site*

The rock outcrop type occurs predominantly on Bureau of Land Management land northwest of the NHS, where it is best developed on the northerly escarpment that drops down to the Laramie River floodplain. Smaller outcrops also occur on BLM lands south of the NHS.

### ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

*Globally*

Information not available.

### *Fort Laramie National Historic Site*

The rock outcrop type consists of whitish, soft sandstone of Miocene age (Love and Christiansen 1985).

### MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

*Globally*

Information not available.

### *Fort Laramie National Historic Site*

Statum

Tree canopy

Short shrub

Species

*Pinus ponderosa*

*Rhus trilobata, Yucca glauca*

### DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

*Globally*

Information not available.

### *Fort Laramie National Historic Site*

No species were sufficiently consistent to be considered diagnostic.

**USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program**  
**Fort Laramie National Historic Site**

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VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

*Globally*

Information not available.

*Fort Laramie National Historic Site*

The rock outcrop type occurs in *Pinus ponderosa* / *Schizachyrium scoparium* Wooded Herbaceous Vegetation, *Stipa comata* - *Bouteloua gracilis* - *Carex filifolia* Herbaceous Vegetation, and *Stipa comata* - *Yucca glauca* Herbaceous Vegetation. Vegetative cover is sparse (less than 10%), and typically includes species from the surrounding community. Common among these are *Pinus ponderosa*, *Rhus trilobata*, *Yucca glauca*, *Schizachyrium scoparium*, and *Bouteloua gracilis*.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES Information not available.

CONSERVATION RANK

RANK JUSTIFICATION

DATABASE CODE

COMMENTS

*Globally*

*Fort Laramie National Historic Site*

REFERENCES

Love, J. D. and A. C. Christiansen. 1985. Geologic Map of Wyoming. U.S. Geologic Survey.