

FIELD KEY TO THE PLANT COMMUNITIES OF FORT LARAMIE  
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

1. Sites more than 25% vegetated.
  2. More than 10% of the site covered by woody plants **more than** 3m tall
    3. Broadleaf (dicot) trees predominate; site riverine:  
***Pinus ponderosa* / *Symphoricarpos occidentalis* Woodland**
    3. Needleleaf (conifer) trees predominate; upland sites:  
***Pinus ponderosa* / *Schizachyrium scoparium* Wooded Herbaceous Vegetation**
  2. Less than 10% of site covered by woody plants more than 3m tall
    4. More than 10% of site covered by woody plants less than 3m tall
      5. *Symphoricarpos occidentalis* dominate; site on floodplain: see  
***Populus deltoides* / *Symphoricarpos occidentalis* Woodland** above  
(trees maybe sparse or absent)
      5. not as above
      6. *Salix exigua* or *Populus deltoides* dominate; site riverine:  
***Salix exigua* Shrubland**
      6. *Artemisia filifolia* and occasionally *Yucca glauca* dominate  
shrub stratum; upland sites:  
***Stipa comata* - *Yucca glauca* Herbaceous Vegetation**
    4. Less than 10% of site covered by woody plants **less than** 3m tall (except for  
small inclusions).
      7. Site riverine or palustrine wetland.
        8. *Typha latifolia* dominates:  
***Typha latifolia* Western Herbaceous Vegetation**
        8. *Typha latifolia* not dominate.
          9. *Spartina pectinata* dominates; site riverine:  
***Spartina pectinata* - *Scirpus pungens* Herbaceous  
Vegetation**

9. Intermittently saturated floodplain sites dominated by sedges and rushes; *Esquisetum laevigatum* may dominate in drier areas:  
***Carex nebrascensis* Herbaceous Vegetation**
7. Site upland, never saturated in most years.
10. Vegetation dominated by exotic grasses and/or exotic or native weedy forbs.
  11. *Bromus inermis* dominates:  
***Bromus inermis* Disturbed Community**
  11. Other species dominate:  
**Upland Weedy Community**
10. (*Move to left margin*)
10. Vegetation dominated by native grasses
  12. *Pascopyrum smithii* dominant; *Bouteloua gracilis* often present, but codominants variable or entirely absent (includes seeded stands):***Pascopyrum smithii* Herbaceous Vegetation**
  12. Not as above; *Pascopyrum smithii* occasionally present, but other grass species more abundant.
  13. Dominant species include *Stipa comata*, *Bouteloua gracilis*, and/or *Carex filifolia*:  
***Stipa comata* - *Bouteloua gracilis* - *Carex filifolia* Herbaceous Vegetation**
  13. not as above
  14. *Sporobolus cryptandrus* dominant; *Buchloe dactyloides* sometimes present and locally dominant; *Bromus tectorum* often abundant (not apparent late in season):  
***Sporobolus cryptandrus* Disturbed Community**
  14. Small sites (less than 0.25 ha) dominated by other grass species such as *Poa pratensis*, *Sporobolus airoides* and *Agropyron cristatum* should be treated as inclusions in the surroundings polygons.

1. Site less than 25% vegetated
  15. Riverine sites; may include small stands of *Salix exigua* and young *Populus deltoides*:  
**Riverine Sand Flats - Bars Sparse Vegetation**
  15. Upland sites.
    16. Sandy or gravelly sites on floodplain or in drainage bottoms; *Artemisia campestris* and/or *Opuntia polyacantha* usually dominate:  
**Upland Sand and Gravel Sparse Vegetation**
    16. Sites on ridgetops or slopes.
      17. Forb-rich vegetation on small cobbles capping ridges.  
***Bouteloua gracilis* - *Carex filifolia* Herbaceous Vegetation**
      17. not as above
      18. Pale, soft sandstone with less than 10% vegetative cover.  
**Sandstone Rock Outcrop Sparse Vegetation**
      18. Other sparsely-vegetated small sites (less than 0.25 ha), such as disturbed areas, low escarpments in grassland, and small outcrops in sparse pine woodland should be treated as inclusions in the surroundings polygons.