

Siltstone - Clay Butte Sparse Vegetation

COMMON NAME	Siltstone-Clay Butte Sparse Vegetation
SYNONYM	Siltstone-Clay Butte
TNC SYSTEM	Terrestrial
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Sparsely Vegetated
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Consolidated rocks sparse vegetation
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Sparsely vegetated cliff
FORMATION	Cliffs with sparse vascular vegetation
ALLIANCE	Rock Outcrop-Butte Sparse Vegetation

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 3

RANGE

This community has only been described in Scotts Bluff NM in extreme western Nebraska. In the Monument it is best represented in the Mitchell Pass area. It is also in draws on the west and north sides of Scotts Bluff. Similar communities are also found elsewhere in the Wildcat Hills.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Scotts Bluff National Monument

This community occurs on irregularly eroded siltstone outcrops, primarily of the Whitney Member and possibly also the Orella Member of the Brule Formation. It is on the middle to lower slopes of escarpments and on slopes of some ravines. Soils are undeveloped or poorly developed and silty.

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Not applicable

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

<u>Strata</u>	<u>Species</u>
Shrubs	Information not available
Herbaceous	Information not available

Scotts Bluff National Monument

<u>Strata</u>	<u>Species</u>
Shrubs	<i>Ericameria parryi</i> var. <i>parryi</i>
Herbaceous	<i>Arenaria hookeri</i> , <i>Eriogonum pauciflorum</i> , <i>Gutierrezia sarothrae</i> , <i>Lomatium nuttallii</i>

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

Information not available.

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Scotts Bluff National Monument

Scotts Bluff National Monument

Ericameria parryi var. *parryi*, *Eriogonum pauciflorum*, *Gutierrezia sarothrae*, *Lomatium nuttallii*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Scotts Bluff National Monument

This community varies from nearly unvegetated to about 40% cover. *Arenaria hookeri*, *Eriogonum pauciflorum*, *Gutierrezia sarothrae*, *Leptodactylon caespitosum*, and *Lomatium nuttallii* are among the most common species. Shrubs are poorly represented, except for *Ericameria parryi* var. *parryi*, which is frequent. Small inclusions of grassland are also frequent. *Elymus lanceolatus* ssp. *lanceolatus* and other prairie species are typically found in the inclusions.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

Ericameria parryi var. *parryi*, *Lomatium nuttallii*, *Phacelia hastata*, *Physaria brassicoides*, and *Stephanomeria runcinata*, all rare in Nebraska, are mostly restricted to this community at Scotts Bluff NM. The population of *Physaria brassicoides* is the only one known in Nebraska. *Fritillaria atropurpurea*, also rare, is found in prairie associations with this community.

CONSERVATION RANK Information not available

RANK JUSTIFICATION Information not available

COMMENTS

This community might be better treated as a prairie mosaic, since grassland inclusions occur throughout. This community grades into Rock Outcrop - Siltstone/Clay Buttes where the two meet. Inland Siltstone Bluff/Cliffs are very difficult to separate from the Rock Outcrop/Prairie mosaic. Most of the species of the latter are found in this community.

REFERENCES None