

Bromus inermis - (Pascopyrum smithii) Semi-natural Herbaceous Vegetation

COMMON NAME Smooth Brome - (Western Wheatgrass) Semi-natural Herbaceous Vegetation
SYNONYM
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS Herbaceous Vegetation (V)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS Perennial graminoid vegetation (V.A)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP Temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP Natural/Semi-natural (V.A.5.N)
FORMATION Medium-tall bunch temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5.N.d)
ALLIANCE BROMUS INERMIS SEMI-NATURAL HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 3

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM

RANGE

Theodore Roosevelt National Park

These grasslands are widespread throughout Theodore Roosevelt NP. They are especially prominent along road right-of-ways.

Globally

This type occurs widely throughout the northern Great Plains, and perhaps more widely in the Midwest, depending on how the type is defined.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Theodore Roosevelt National Park

This grassland can be found in a wide variety of habitats in Theodore Roosevelt NP. It was probably planted for soil stabilization along road right-of-ways in the Park. It is a very aggressive exotic that has expanded into disturbed and undisturbed areas.

Globally

This type can occur in a wide variety of human-disturbed habitats, including highway rights-of-way, jeep trails, etc. It is also widely planted for cover, pasture, and hay, and has escaped into a variety of habitats.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Theodore Roosevelt National Park

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Herbaceous	<i>Bromus inermis</i>

Globally

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Graminoid	<i>Bromus inermis</i>

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Theodore Roosevelt National Park

Globally

Bromus inermis, *Pascopyrum smithii*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Theodore Roosevelt National Park

These grasslands consist of a nearly monotypic stand of *Bromus inermis* that is usually less than 1 m in height. Other exotics such as *B. tectorum* and *B. japonicus*, are often associates. However, in well developed communities foliar cover of native species is usually less than 10% (Trammell and Butler 1995).

Globally

The vegetation is dominated by medium-tall (0.5 - 1 m) graminoids. The dominant grass is *Bromus inermis*, a naturalized species from Europe and Asia. Other weedy species may occur as well, but native species are generally less than 10% cover. Native species may include mixed-grass prairie grasses, such as *Pascopyrum smithii* and *Stipa comata*, as well as others.

CONSERVATION RANK GW. This is a naturalized type from Europe and Asia, widely planted for cover, pasture, and hay, and has escaped into a variety of habitats.

DATABASE CODE CEGL005264

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Theodore Roosevelt National Park

SIMILAR ASSOCIATIONS

COMMENTS

This type could be defined very broadly to include almost any *Bromus inermis* dominated stand, in which case the variability of the minor species associated with the type may be very high.

REFERENCES

Trammel, M.A. and J.L. Butler. 1995. Effects of exotic plants on native ungulate use of habitat. *Journal of Wildlife Management*. 59:804-815.