Redbeds (Siltstone, Sandstone, Gypsum) Sparse Vegetation

COMMON NAME	Redbeds (Siltstone, Sandstone, Gypsum) Sparse Vegetation
SYNONYM	Redbeds 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 Sparsely Vegetated Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 3

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Upland

RANGE
Globally
This association has been derived based on data from the Black Hills. Rangewide information has not yet been compiled.

Wind Cave National Park
The redbeds sparse vegetation type is uncommon and restricted to the Red Valley in the eastern part of the Park.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION
Globally
This association has been derived based on data from the Black Hills. Rangewide information has not yet been compiled.

Wind Cave National Park
Redbeds sparse vegetation is found in areas underlain by red sandstones and siltstones of the Spearfish Formation. Gypsum lenses are common, and form resistant bands and caps. Soils are poor, loose, and easily eroded. This type is found on level sites and slopes of varied steepness and aspect.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES
Globally

Stratum	Species
Information not available.	

Wind Cave National Park

Stratum	Species
Herbaceous	Variable

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES
Globally
Information not available.

Wind Cave National Park
Heterotheca villosa, Paronychia depressa, Eriogonum pauciflorum

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION
Globally
This association has been derived based on data from the Black Hills. Rangewide information has not yet been compiled.

Wind Cave National Park
The redbeds sparse vegetation type typically has less than 10% vegetative cover. Species that are often present include sand cherry (*Prunus pumila*), prairie sagebrush (*Artemisia frigida*), needle-and-thread (*Stipa comata*), little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), hairy golden-aster (*Heterotheca villosa*), Rocky Mountain nail-wort (*Paronychia depressa*) and wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum pauciflorum*).

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

CONSERVATION RANK G?

DATABASE CODE CEGL005261

MAP UNITS
Redbeds sparse vegetation corresponds to map unit 3, gypsum rock outcrop/redbeds sparse vegetation, on the Wind Cave vegetation map.

COMMENTS
Wind Cave National Park
Redbeds sparse vegetation develops on naturally eroded sites underlain by the Spearfish Formation. They occur as small inclusions in grassland vegetation. Gypsum zones within the redbeds also are sparsely vegetated, with the same species commonly found.

The redbeds sparse vegetation type is uncommon and restricted to the Red Valley. Many of these stands were visited during vegetation mapping.

REFERENCES