

*****THIS SITE WAS DROPPED*****

Trend Study 13A-13-99

Study site name: Beaver Canyon .

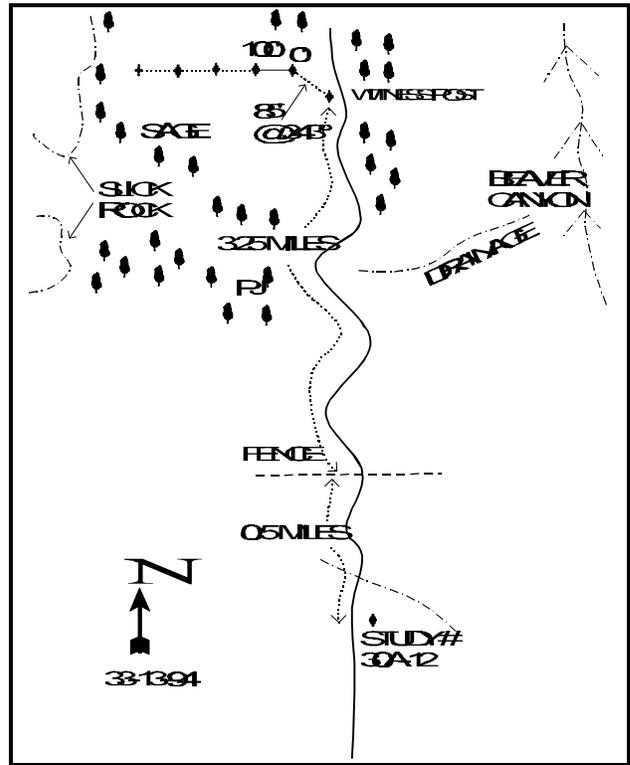
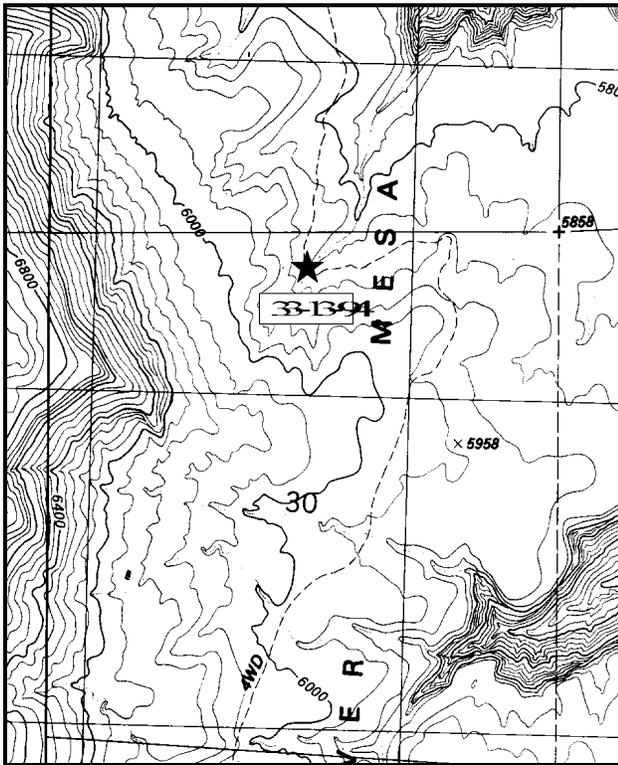
Range type: Big Sagebrush-Grass .

Compass bearing: frequency baseline 278 degrees.

Footmark (first frame placement) 5 feet, footmarks (frequency belts) line 1 (11 & 95ft), line 2 (34ft), line 3 (59ft), line 4 (71ft).

LOCATION DESCRIPTION

From transect 13A-12-94, continue along the North Beaver Mesa Road for 0.5 miles to a gate. Continue 3.25 miles to the transect witness post located just off the left side of the road. The 0-foot baseline stake, a 1-foot tall fence post tagged #7819, is 85 feet from the witness post on a bearing of 343°.



Map Name: Dolores Point North

Diagrammatic Sketch

Township 24S , Range 26E , Section 30

DISCUSSION

Trend Study No. 13A-13 (33-13)

This site has been dropped, however the text is included in case there is some need for this summary of data collected in 1987 and 1994. The study sampled a sagebrush opening in the pinyon-juniper which is representative of the vegetation on the low, northern portion of Beaver Mesa. This area is used by deer and elk in severe winters. There is also some livestock use in the winter.

The study is on a gently east facing slope (5%) with an elevation of 6,100 feet. Soil on the site appears to be moderately deep, loose, and sandy. The soil surface is characterized by small mounds of soil and vegetation, with surrounding soil 3-4 inches lower due to soil loss. Small gullies are common. Patches of cryptogamic soil are effective in holding some of the soil in place. Erosion is especially severe in the surrounding mature pinyon-juniper woodlands which have very little herbaceous cover.

Similar to the rest of North Beaver Mesa, the key browse species is Wyoming big sagebrush. In 1994, it had a moderate stand density of 4,060 plants per acre with a cover value of approximately 10%. A majority of the plants were smaller than normal, but generally appear to be healthy mature plants. Thirty-eight percent of the sagebrush population were classified as decadent in 1987, however, in 1994 this decreased to 32%. Twenty-two percent of the population showed heavy use in the past, now only 11% show heavy use. Overall, use appears to be light during the recent winter, but past use appears to have been more heavy. Overall degree of hedging is moderate. Occasional fourwing saltbush plants are heavily hedged, exhibiting vigorous leader growth in 1987. Winterfat is even more uncommon. There are a few conifers in the opening. The commonly encountered increaser species included broom snakeweed and pricklypear cactus.

Grass cover is spotty with a low density. However, perennial species such as needle-and-thread, galleta, crested wheatgrass, blue grama, Sandberg bluegrass, and bottlebrush squirreltail were the perennial species most often encountered on this site. The annual grasses on the site (cheatgrass and sixweeks fescue) made up 21% of the total grass cover. These annuals appear mostly as randomly associated patches. Small desert forbs are fairly numerous, but provide very little forage as together they only contribute 2% of the cover.

The presence of soil-stabilizing cryptogams is reflected in their 5% cover value. Vegetative cover is fair at 31%, with 64% of this cover coming from herbaceous species. Litter cover is quite low at only 21%, although percent bare ground has decreased from 56% to 45%.

1994 TREND ASSESSMENT

The trend for soils is improving, but they are still only in fair condition. An improvement in percentage of herbaceous cover would greatly improve the soil trend. The slight decline in density of Wyoming big sagebrush is more reflective of the larger sample size used during the 1994 reading. Percent decadency of sagebrush has decreased and proportion classified as heavily hedged have also declined. However, those plants expressing poor vigor have increased. Overall, the browse trend is stable. The poor vigor of sagebrush will improve with an end to the extended drought especially hard felt in the southeastern part of the state. The herbaceous understory is stable as perennial grasses have slightly increased. Forbs have slightly decreased nested frequency values, but the forbs only make up about 10% of the total herbaceous cover.

TREND ASSESSMENT

soil - improving, but still only in fair condition because percent bare ground is still high at 45%

browse - stable

herbaceous understory - stable