

## **Western Great Plains Shortgrass Prairie**

Found primarily in the rain shadow of the Rocky Mountains, and dominated by *Bouteloua gracilis*. Associated graminoids may include *Aristida purpurea*, *Bouteloua sp.*, *Buchloe dactyloides*, *Hesperostipa comata*, *Koeleria macrantha* (= *Koeleria cristata*), *Pascopyrum smithii* (= *Agropyron smithii*), *Pleuraphis jamesii*, and *Sporobolus spp.* Mid-height grass species may be present on more mesic land positions and soils, but are secondary in importance to the sod-forming short grasses.. Scattered shrub and dwarf-shrub species include *Artemisia filifolia*, *Artemisia frigida*, *Artemisia tridentata*, *Atriplex canescens*, *Eriogonum effusum*, *Gutierrezia sarothrae*, and *Lycium palida*.

Poor = very low cover, much bare ground, very low species diversity, some invasives

Fair = moderate cover, some diversity including forbs

Good = diverse structure and nearly 100% native grasses and forbs, scattered shrubs present