

### **Columbia Basin Foothill and Canyon Dry Grassland**

Occurs in the canyons and valleys of the Columbia Basin, particularly along the Snake River canyon, the lower foothill slopes of the Blue Mountains, and along the main stem of the Columbia River in eastern Washington. Found on steep open slopes, from 90 to 1525 m (300-5000 feet) elevation. The vegetation is dominated by patchy graminoid cover, cacti, and some forbs. *Pseudoroegneria spicata*, *Festuca idahoensis*, and *Opuntia polyacantha* are common species. Deciduous shrubs *Symphoricarpos* spp., *Physocarpus malvaceus*, *Holodiscus discolor*, and *Ribes* spp. are infrequent native species that may increase with fire exclusion.

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

Fair = moderate cover, some diversity including forbs

Good = diverse structure and forbs present