

Northwestern Great Plains Mixedgrass Prairie

Occurs on both glaciated and non-glaciated substrates. Graminoids typically comprising the greatest canopy cover include *Pascopyrum smithii*, *Nassella viridula*, and *Festuca* spp. In Montana these include *Festuca campestris* and *Festuca idahoensis*. Other commonly dominant species in Montana are *Bouteloua gracilis*, *Hesperostipa comata*, and *Carex filifolia*, while *Festuca* spp may be more abundant in the north and foothill/montane grassland transition areas. Shrub species such as *Symphoricarpos* spp and *Artemisia frigida* and *Artemisia cana* also occur.

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