

## **Columbia Plateau Steppe and Grassland**

Extensive grasslands, rather than grass-dominated patches within the sagebrush shrub-steppe ecological system. Dominated by perennial bunch grasses and forbs (>25% cover), sometimes with a sparse (<10% cover) shrub layer; *Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus*, *Ericameria nauseosa*, *Tetradymia* spp., or *Artemisia* spp. may be present in disturbed stands. Associated graminoids include *Achnatherum hymenoides*, *Elymus elymoides*, *Elymus lanceolatus* ssp. *lanceolatus*, *Hesperostipa comata*, *Festuca idahoensis*, *Koeleria macrantha*, *Poa secunda*, and *Pseudoroegneria spicata*. Common forbs are *Phlox hoodii*, *Arenaria* spp., and *Astragalus* spp.

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

Fair = moderate cover, some diversity including forbs

Good = diverse structure and forbs and scattered shrubs present