File: exclosuretransects\_utm\_coordinates\_and\_ecosites.xlsx

Exclosuretransects\_utm\_coordinates\_and\_ecosites.xlsx refers to the Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) coordinates and Ecological Sites designation of the exclosure transects.

This file includes a single X and single Y coordinate recorded for the exclosure transects. Measurements of the UTM coordinates were taken at the start or “0” mark at each transect.  
Typical precision for handheld Global Position System (GPS) devices is 3-5 m.

Horizontal coordinate system definition: NAD\_1983\_UTM\_Zone\_12N is the Projected coordinate system name, and GCS\_North\_American\_1983 is the Geographic coordinate system name.   
Universal Transverse Mercator Zone is 12N.

The Ecological Site designation included in this file refers to Ecological Site Descriptions (ESD) of each transect based on determinations made by Dan Robinett (NRCS, retired) during visits to all transects in winter 2009 and then in 2017.  
Criteria for distinguishing ecological sites include soil traits, geomorphic position on the landscape, and climate variables. Ecological sites are used to organize information about plant species abundance and productivity, as well as expectations about response to management and weather conditions. That information is included in the Ecological Site Description, which is described below. More information about ecological sites is available in Brown, J.R. 2010. Ecological sites: their history, status, and future. Rangelands 32(6):5-8.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) developed and manages the Ecological Site Information System (ESIS), accessible via the following website: https://edit.jornada.nmsu.edu. The ESIS is the repository for the data associated with the collection of forestland and rangeland plot data and the development of ecological site descriptions(ESD). The ESD format in ESIS is web based and was developed to store basic ecological site description information.

The Ecological Site Description (ESD) application provides the capability to produce automated ecological site descriptions from the data stored in its database. ESD is the official repository for all data associated with the development of forestland and rangeland ecological site descriptions by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

exclosuretransects\_utm\_and\_ecosites\_notes.docx

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