

Contestant: _____

Total Score: _____

Division: _____

Form 230
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Key to Montana Range Sites (For Training Purposes Only)*

Range sites are kinds of rangeland differing in plant composition and/or production capability due primarily to moisture availability, soil variances and topography.

To identify a range site, first determine which one of these three questions can be answered “yes,” then go to the correct group.

1. Does the site receive additional moisture from overflow or does it have groundwater closest to the surface (within 40 inches) at least part of the growing season? If yes, go to **Group I**; if no, go to the next sentence.
2. Is the solid depth at least 20 inches from the surface with no sign of significant additional moisture? If yes, go to **Group II**; if no, go to the next sentence.
3. Is the soil depth less than 20 inches to bedrock? If yes, go to **Group III**; if no, start over.

Group I. Range sites that receive additional moisture

	Range Site	1	2	3	4
1. Is the groundwater within 20 to 40 inches of the surface at least during part of the growing season? If Yes , the range site is..... If No , go to the next sentence.	Subirrigated (Sb)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Is there additional moisture from runoff of nearby slopes or-stream overflow? If Yes , the range site is..... If No , go back and see if you are in the right group, and try again	Overflow (Ov)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Group II. Soil at least 20 inches deep—no additional moisture

1. Is the surface layer a gritty, coarse (sandy) texture, not sticky when moist, and does water drain through the soil fairly fast? If Yes , the range site is..... If No , go to the next sentence.	Sandy (Sy)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Is the thin surface layer a medium (silty) texture that feels smooth or slightly gritty, slightly sticky, and is limey (strongly effervescent)? Are the soils on moderately steep or steep bench edges or slopes of hilly landscapes? If Yes , the range site is..... If No , go to the next sentence.	Thin Silty (TSi)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Is the surface layer a medium (silty) texture that feels smooth or slightly gritty and slightly sticky? (The soils are on nearly level to moderately steep slopes.) If Yes , the range site is..... If No , go to the next sentence.	Silty (Si)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Is the surface layer a fine (clayey) texture that is sticky and plastic? (The soil ribbons when moist.) If Yes , the range site is..... If No , go back and see if you are in the right group, and try again	Clayey (Cy)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Group III. Soil less than 20 inches deep

1. Is the soil depth between 10 and 20 inches over granite, sandstone, siltstone or shale? If Yes , the range site is..... If No , go to the next sentence.	Shallow (Sw)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Is the soil depth less than 10 inches to hard bedrock (except for crack in rock)? If Yes , the range site is..... If No , go back and see if you are in the right group, and try again	Very Shallow (Vs)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>