

Range Health Assessment

Date:

Site:

Dominant Species

<i>Grasses & Grasslikes</i>	<i>Cover</i>	<i>Forbs</i>	<i>Cover</i>	<i>Shrubs</i>	<i>Cover</i>	<i>Trees</i>	<i>Cover</i>

1. Pasture Composition

1 A Tame Pasture

% of the cover (relative) is introduced forage species.

Score

- 12 90% or Greater
- 9 75% to 85%
- 5 50% to 74%

1 B Modified Tame Pasture

% of the cover (relative) is introduced & native forage species.

Score

- 9 75% or greater
- 5 50% to 74%
- 0 Less than 40%

2. Plant Composition Shift

2.1 Forage Species Shift

% of forage cover (relative) is from tall, productive, introduced and native forage species.

Score

- 14 75% or Greater
- 7 40% to 74%
- 0 Less than 40%

2.2 Weedy & Disturbance Based Species Shift

% of cover (absolute) from weedy and disturbance induced species

Score

- 14 25% or Less
- 7 26% to 49%
- 0 50% or Greater

3. Hydraulic Function & Nutrient Cycling

Score

- 25 Distinct litter layer visible. Litter has uniform distribution across pasture with less than 5% of the pasture lacking adequate cover. Hand raked litter from a $\frac{1}{4}$ m² plot is estimated at 450 lbs/acre or more (~one handful).
- 16 Distinct litter layer visible but cover is reduced and there is no uniform layer. Litter reduced on 5% to 25% of the pasture with these areas having little or litter. Hand raked litter from $\frac{1}{4}$ m² plot estimated at 250 to 450 lbs/acre (~ $\frac{1}{2}$ of one handful).
- 8 Thin litter layer present throughout or in scattered patches. About 25% to 67% of pasture has inadequate litter cover, estimated at 125 to 250 lbs/acre (~ $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ of one handful).
- 0 Litter Sparse or absent over greater than 67% of the area, estimated at less than 125 lbs/acre (less than $\frac{1}{4}$ of one handful).

4. Is There Accelerated Soil Erosion? Site Normally (circle) Stable/Unstable

4.1 Erosion Evidence

Score

- 10 No visible macro or micro evidence of soil movement, deposition of soil/litter, plant pedestalling, coarse sand or aggregate remnants, hoof shear, soil compaction, flow patterns or scouring.
- 7 No macro evidence as above. Some micro evidence of hoof shear or plant pedestalling. Old erosion features may be stable and vegetated.
- 4 Erosion features active but limited to site with no off site movement. Flow patterns have well defined branches.
- 0 Macro and micro evidence of extreme soil movement with most material being carried off site. Flow patterns obvious, rills are abundant and deep, deep gullies, erosion features active, plants with exposed roots.

4.2 Bare Soil

% of area is exposed soil that is management caused.

4.2 A Dry Mixedgrass or Mixedgrass**Score**

5	10% or Less
3	11% to 20%
1	21% to 59%
0	Greater than 50%

4.2 B Foothills Fescue, Foothills and Central Parkland, Montane, Boreal Forest**Score**

5	5% or Less
3	6% to 10%
1	11% to 15%
0	16% or Greater

Human caused bare soil (%) _____

5. Are Noxious Weeds Present?**5.1 Cover****Score**

5	None Present
3	Present with cover (absolute) <1%
1	Cover (absolute) 1% to 15%
0	Cover (absolute) >15%

5.2 Density Distribution**Score**

5	None Present
3	Low Infestation (Dist. Class 1-3)
1	Moderate Infestation (Dist Class 4-7)
0	Heavy Infestation (Dist. Class 8-13)

<i>Dominant Species</i>	<i>% Cover</i>	<i>Density Dist.</i>

6. Does the Site Have Woody Regrowth?**6.1 Cover**

Woody regrowth present with % total cover (absolute)

Score

6	Less than 5%
3	5% to 15%
0	Greater than 15%
N/A	Not Scored

6.2 Density Distribution**Score**

4	Low Infestation (Dist. Class 1-3)
2	Moderate Infestation (Dist Class 4-7)
0	Heavy Infestation (Dist. Class 8-13)
N/A	Not Scored

<i>Dominant Species</i>	<i>% Cover</i>	<i>Density Dist.</i>

Grazing Intensity (estimated Long Term): U U-L L-M M M-H H

Observed Utilization _____ %

Vegetation Height _____ cm

Trend (apparent): Upward Downward Stable Unknown

Overall Score

Total Score _____ **Out of** _____

