



**NRCS**  
NEBRASKA

Natural Resources Conservation Service

## Apparent Trend Worksheet

NE-ECS-12

<b>Cooperator:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	
<b>Conservationist:</b>		<b>Pasture Name/No.:</b>	
<b>Ecological Site:</b>		<b>*Trend Type:</b>	Rangeland      Planned
<b>Reference Plant Community:</b>	(Circle One)		
<b>Current Year Precipitation:</b>	Above Normal	Normal	Below Normal
(Circle One)			<b>GPS Coordinates:</b>

*\*When making trend estimates, always compare present conditions to what can be expected to be found in the plant community that you are comparing present conditions to; either the historic or interpretive plant community (Rangeland Trend) or one of the other plant communities (Planned Trend) described in the ecological site description. Take into consideration current weather conditions and it's impact on plant growth and other plant related attributes.*

Evaluate Site and Circle Appropriate Description					
Composition Changes	2 Points	1 Point	0 Points	-1 Point	-2 Points
Evaluate the composition of the plant community and compare it to ESD communities	No invading undesirable plants present, desirable key species very abundant	Slight presence of invading undesirables, desirable key species abundant	Moderate presence of invading undesirables, average abundance of desirable key species	Numerous invading undesirables, few desirable key species present	Extreme presence of invading undesirables, very few desirable key species.
Abundance of Seedlings and Young Plants	2 Points	1 Point	0 Points	-1 Point	-2 Points
Evaluate the number of new seedlings and tillers of desirable species present	Seedlings & young desired plants very abundant	Seedlings & young desired plants abundant	Average abundance of seedlings & young desired plants.	Few seedlings & young desired plants	Very few seedlings and young desired plants
Plant Residue & Litter	2 Points	1 Point	0 Points	-1 Point	-2 Points
Evaluate the amount of litter and plant residues and how well they are decomposing as compared to what is expected for the site	Litter present in amounts considered normal for the site.	Litter present in amounts slightly less or slightly more than considered normal	Litter present in amounts moderately less or moderately more than considered normal	Litter present or absent in moderate to extreme amounts when compared to what is considered normal	Litter not present or present in extreme amounts when compared to what is considered normal
Plant Vigor	2 Points	1 Point	0 Points	-1 Point	-2 Points
Evaluate plant decadence, plant spacing, reproduction, plant stature, leaf size, productivity, etc., of desirable species	Vigor of desirable species is very high	Vigor of desirable species is high	Vigor of desirable species is average	Vigor of desirable species is poor	Vigor of desirable species is extremely poor
Condition of the Soil Surface	0 Points	-1 Point	-2 Points	-3 Points	-4 Points
Evaluate wind, sheet, rill, gully, and streambank erosion as well as the amount of exposed soil surface. Compare to what is expected for the site.	No apparent erosion, percent bare ground is what is expected for the site	Erosion is slight, percent bare ground is slightly higher than what is expected for the site	Erosion is moderate, percent bare ground is moderately higher than what is expected for the site	Erosion is moderate to extreme, percent bare ground is moderately to extremely higher than what is expected for the site	Erosion is extreme, percent bare ground is extreme when compared to what is expected for the site
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> - Sum of all columns indicates apparent trend					

**Overall Trend Rating(s):** (circle the appropriate trend rating)

<b>Toward (&gt; 3)</b>	<b>Not Apparent (3 to 0)</b>	<b>Away from (&lt; 0)</b>
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<b>Comments:</b>	
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