

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING PAGE 1 OF RANGE INVENTORY WORKSHEET (NV-ECS-1)

### PLANT COMMUNITY ATTRIBUTES

COLUMN 1 (PLANT GROUP)	Show percent of total plant community yield and percent cover for each plant group (or life form group).
COLUMN 2 (PHENOLOGY)	Plant growth stage relative to climate and changes in season (reference: Technical Note TN-RANGE-48).
COLUMN 3 (PLANT NAME)	Enter scientific plant name, common plant name or plant symbol from Nevada Plant List.
COLUMN 4 (CANOPY COVER)	Show percent foliage cover for each species listed.
COLUMN 5 (PLANT HEIGHT)	Show average plant height at top of foliage layer (not to top of culms or seed stalks) for each species listed. Enter height in inches for herbaceous plant species and in feet for shrubs and trees.
COLUMN 6 (WEIGHT)	Enter an estimate (air-dry weight) of the total annual yield for each species in the present plant community.
COLUMN 7 (ALLOWABLE)	Enter weight of each species from Column 6 that is <i>allowable</i> referencing the ecological site description and considering the kind of growing season.
LINE 8 (PRESENT UTILIZATION)	Show the amount of use on key forage species (as percent of current year's growth removed).

### SIMILARITY INDEX

Enter in this block the final rating of similarity between the present plant community and either the Historic Climax Plant Community (HCPC) or the Reference Plant Community for the ecological site as identified in the header section of this form. Reference to the NRCS National Range and Pasture Handbook (NRPH) Chapter 4 Part 600.0402(b) for guidance in determining Similarity Index.
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### DEFINITIONS

Historic Climax Plant Community (HCPC)	That plant community best adapted to the unique combination of natural environmental factors associated with the ecological site. This plant community was in a "dynamic equilibrium" with the biotic and abiotic influences and climatic factors operating on the site at the time of European immigration and settlement of the area in which the plant community occurred.
Reference Plant Community	A specified plant community that represents one of the possible alternative vegetation states for a given ecological site. The Reference Plant community must be adequately described as a common vegetation state in the formal description of the ecological site with plant species composition (by air-dry weight) listed as well as the expected total annual production.
Plant Vigor	The size of a plant and its parts in relation to its age and the environment in which it is growing. Three classes of plant vigor; LOW, MODERATE, and HIGH - assign value rating for each plant vigor class as indicated below.
Decreaser Plants	HCPC community plant species that quickly respond to misuse by decreasing in relation to other plants in the community are classified as <i>decreaser plants</i> .
Increaser Plants	HCPC community plant species that respond to misuse, at least initially, by increasing relative to other plants in the community, are classified as <i>increaser plants</i> .
Invader Plants	Plant species, not considered part of the HCPC plant community, that move into the community following disturbance or absence of natural fire regimes, often becoming prominent and persistent, are classified as <i>invader plants</i> .

### TREND INDICATORS

<b>PLANT VIGOR:</b> <i>Rate Decreaser Plants Only.</i> Make evaluations of plant vigor considering growing season conditions.	
Low Vigor (Rating -2)	Plants decadent; bunchgrasses having dead crown-centers and much of outer crown-ring dead; plants short-statured with little new growth; seedstalks few and short; severe hedging apparent on shrubs; sod grasses thinning.
Moderate Vigor (Rating 0)	Moderate amount of new growth and seed stalks; bunch grasses have dead crown-centers with healthy, but stunted, outer crown-ring; moderate hedging of shrubs; sod grasses short-statured.
High Vigor (Rating +2)	Grasses robust with numerous leaves, seedstalks tall and numerous; bunch grass crowns full and healthy appearing; shrubs not hedged or high-lined. Plants healthy, producing high yields of new growth and viable seed.
<b>AGE CLASS DISTRIBUTION:</b>	
Decreaser Plants	Assign value ratings as: Many young plants >1 yr old = +2; Good representation of all age classes = +1; Mostly mature and some decadent plants = -1; Mostly old and decadent plants = -2
Increasers/Invaders	Assign value ratings as: Many young perennials >1 yr old = -2; Many annuals = -2; Good representation of all age classes of perennials = -1; Mostly mature perennials = +1; Mostly decadent perennials = +2.
<b>PLANT RESIDUE:</b>	
Decreaser Plants	Assign value ratings as: Residue accumulating in proportion expected for plant community composition (residues abundant) = +1; Residue accumulating at levels somewhat less than expected for plant community composition (residues adequate) = 0; Residues not accumulating or excessive residue accumulation that adversely impacts desirable species = -1;
<b>SOIL SURFACE FEATURES:</b>	
None (Rating +4)	No visual evidence of soil movement. Litter is accumulating in place and there is no evidence of pedestalling of plants or rocks. Cryptogamic mat extends into interspaces and has a smooth, rounded, appearance.
Slight (Rating 0 to +1)	Little visual evidence of soil movement. <i>Persistent</i> (high cellulose/lignin content) surface litter is accumulating in place. Weather (varnish) or lichen lines on stones or rock fragments are not apparent. Slight pedestalling of plants and rock is evident in overland flow areas. Cryptogamic mat shows early signs of deterioration.
Moderate (Rating -1)	Soil movement is detectable. Persistent surface litter is deposited against obstacles. Weather (varnish) or lichen lines on stones or rock fragments do not extend to soil surface. Considerable pedestalling (due to erosion) of plants and rocks is evident. Cryptogamic mat appears broken and is restricted to protected areas.
Severe (Rating -4)	Soil movement occurs with each runoff or aeolian event. Persistent surface litter and cryptogams are absent. Plants and rock fragments are pedestalled.

<b>TOTAL</b>	Sum of all columns indicates apparent trend: >+3 = IMPROVING; +3 to 0 = NOT APPARENT; <0 = DECLINING.
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(continued)

**SITE HISTORY**

KIND(S) OF GRAZING ANIMAL:	Enter kind and class of livestock that graze in the area- include feral horse use, if present.
USE HISTORY:	Enter past grazing history of the area-include use made by feral horses, if applicable.
SEASON OF USE:	Enter season(s) when area is grazed.
WILDLIFE SPECIES:	Enter kinds of wildlife expected or in evidence on the site: antelope, mule deer, badger, quail, etc.
BURNING HISTORY:	Enter fire occurrence on site including both wildfire and Rx burning.
LAST BURN:	Enter best estimate of most recent burn, either wildfire or Rx burn.
LOGGING HISTORY:	Enter tree harvest regime.

**PHYSICAL SETTING**

Complete listed entries for all landscape elements.

**GROUND COVER**

BASAL AREA:	Enter the basal area for perennial herbaceous plant species only.
CRYPTOGAMS:	Enter cover of cryptogams on soil surface.
SURFACE ROCK FRAGMENTS:	Enter surface cover of gravels, cobbles, stones and boulders.

**COVER CLASSES (Ground Cover and Foliar/Canopy Cover)<sup>1</sup>**

0%	0-1%	2-5%	6-15%	16-30%	31-50%	51-75%	76-100%
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<sup>1</sup>Total foliar cover recorded by plant group (or life form group) may exceed 100 percent due to overlapping canopies. Small openings in canopy (<2 inches in diameter) are included as cover. Ground cover will not exceed 100 percent

**FORAGE PLANT UTILIZATION**

PERCENT OF CURRENT YEAR'S PLANT GROWTH HARVESTED	UTILIZATION CLASS
0%	NONE
1-20%	SLIGHT
21-40%	LIGHT
41-60%	MODERATE
61-80%	HEAVY
81-100%	SEVERE

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING PAGE 2  
OF RANGE INVENTORY WORKSHEET (NV-ECS-1)**

Reference to Interagency Publication BLM Technical Reference 1734-6 (2000) Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health, in completing Rangeland Health Evaluation Worksheet.