

## Assessment Tools for Range and Pasture

Located in the eFOTG Section 1, Resource Assessment Tools, Range Pasture Tools

Assessment Tool	Range	Pasture	Description	Inventory	Planning	Monitoring
528 Spec Tool	x	x	A <b>complete planning tool for grazing management</b> . The Forage Inventory tab is used to calculate carrying capacity of the land. The Animal Demand tab shows the forage requirement of the land.	x	x	x
Annual Grass Evaluation Guide	x		Used as a <b>support document when assessing Residual Dry Matter (RDM)</b> in the fall of the year.			x
Body Condition Score Estimation	x	x	A visual assessment of the fleshiness or <b>condition of an animal</b> to determine if they are able to breed and/or are gaining desired weight.	x	x	x
Comparative Yield	x		Used to determine <b>total standing crop or production</b> of a site. Production is compared to one of five reference quadrats; shown as ranked weights.	x		x
Dry Weight Rank	x	x	Used to determine <b>species composition</b> by ranking the top three species that contribute most to the weight of a quadrat.	x		x
Gap Intercept	x	x	Provides information on amount of a transect where <b>large gaps of bare ground</b> exist that may be susceptible to erosion or weed invasion.	x		x
Grazing Capacity Scorecard for California Annual Rangelands	x		A <b>quick method to determine carrying capacity</b> and initial stocking rate based on precipitation zone, slope and canopy cover.		x	
Grazing Record Worksheet	x	x	A one page form for landowners to <b>record livestock grazing</b> rotation, type of livestock, class of livestock. To be used as one component of a short-term monitoring plan.			x
Invasive Species Identification		x		x		
Line Point Intercept	x		A linear transect used to <b>determine species composition, cover and basal area and soil cover</b> .	x		
Livestock Water Storage Calculator	x	x	Spreadsheets used to determine <b>amount of water storage needed</b> for the type of livestock and herd size.		x	
Pasture Condition Score		x	Procedure to determine pasture condition, productivity, and stability of its plant community, soil and hydrologic function.	x	x	x
Photo Monitoring Record Sheet	x	x	A form to accompany photo monitoring points to document current conditions.			x

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Plant Height	x		Assess current condition of the height of a shrub community.	x	x	
Plant Production Data Sheet	x	x	Form used when clipping production plots to obtain average forage production for the site.	x	x	
Rangeland Apparent Trend, Perennial Grasslands	x		Form used to assess the composition and trend of the perennial plant community, focusing on the browse species.			x
Rangeland Health (RH) ToolSet 1-Which Tool to Use 2-Interpreting Indicators of RH 3-Interpreting Indicators of RH on CA Annual Grasslands 4-Evaluation Sheet and Matrix 5-RH Field Assmt Worksheet	x		Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health – Use on rangelands when ecological sites, reference sheets or the ability to develop reference sheets. Measures departure of the site from the reference conditions. Assesses condition of 17 resource indicators as they are related to attributes of soil and site stability, hydrologic function and biotic integrity.  Rangeland Health Field Assessment Worksheet – Use on rangelands in California when no ecological sites are available, no reference sheets or the ability to develop a reference sheet. Assesses condition of various resource indicators as they are related to soil and site stability, hydrologic function and biotic integrity of the site.	x		
Rangeland Initial Inventory	x		One-page listing of range inventory elements to gather to ensure that data is available to run the various assessment tools.	x		
Residual Dry Matter (RDM) Estimation - Publication 8092	x		Instructions for assessing Residual Dry Matter (RDM) for annual rangelands and oak woodlands where annual grasslands dominate the site.	x	x	x
Robel Pole – Cover Estimation	x		Used to determine vertical cover, structure and production of a shrub dominated site (upland or riparian)	x		x
Sagebrush Identification Sheet	x		Quick reference for determining sage brush species.	x	x	
Single-ring Infiltrometer	x	x	A method to measure infiltration capacity under saturated conditions. Can be used to assess compaction and hydrologic function of a site.	x		x
Step-Point Method and Worksheet	x		A method to <b>measure cover, species and species composition</b> by cover. Predetermined paces are set and the toe of the boot is used as the observation point.	x		x