

Ecological Reference Worksheet

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Reference site used? Yes/No: No

Date: 7-31-08 **MLRA:** 55A **Ecological Site:** Sands This *must* be verified based on soils and climate (see Ecological Site Description). Current plant community *cannot* be used to identify the ecological site.

<p>Indicators. For each indicator, describe the potential for the site. Where possible, (1) use numbers, (2) include expected range of values for above- and below-average years for each community within the reference state, when appropriate & (3) cite data. Continue descriptions on separate sheet.</p>
<p>1. Number and extent of rills: Rills should not be present.</p>
<p>2. Presence of water flow patterns: Barely observable.</p>
<p>3. Number and height of erosional pedestals or terracettes: Essentially non-existent.</p>
<p>4. Bare ground from Ecological Site Description or other studies (rock, litter, lichen, moss, plant canopy are <i>not</i> bare ground): Bare ground 10 to 15%.</p>
<p>5. Number of gullies and erosion associated with gullies: Active gullies should not be present. Existing gullies should be “healed” with a good vegetative cover.</p>
<p>6. Extent of wind scoured, blowouts and/or depositional areas: Active blowouts should not be present. Historic blowouts should be “healed” with a good vegetative cover.</p>
<p>7. Amount of litter movement (describe size and distance expected to travel): Plant little to no litter movement. Plant litter remains in place and is not moved by erosional forces.</p>
<p>8. Soil surface (top few mm) resistance to erosion (stability values are averages – most sites will show a range of values for both plant canopy and interspaces, if different): Plant cover and litter is at 70% or greater of soil surface and maintains soil surface integrity. Stability class anticipated to be > 5.</p>
<p>9. Soil surface structure and SOM content (include type and strength of structure, and A-horizon color and thickness for both plant canopy and interspaces, if different): Use soil series description for depth, structure and color of A-horizon.</p>
<p>10. Effect of plant community composition (relative proportion of different functional groups) & spatial distribution on infiltration & runoff: High grass canopy and basal cover and small gaps between plants should reduce raindrop impact and slow overland flow, providing increased time for infiltration to occur. Deep rooted warm season grasses enhance infiltration and reduce runoff.</p>
<p>11. Presence and thickness of compaction layer (usually none; describe soil profile features which may be mistaken for compaction on this site): None.</p>
<p>12. Functional/Structural Groups (list in order of descending dominance by above-ground weight using symbols: >>, >, = to indicate much greater than, greater than, and equal to): Mid-stature cool season bunch grasses > tall rhizomatous warm season grasses > forbs = grass-likes > shrubs > mid-statured warm season bunchgrasses</p>
<p>13. Amount of plant mortality and decadence (include which functional groups are expected to show mortality or decadence): Very low.</p>
<p>14. Average percent litter cover (40 to 49 %) and depth (0.25 to 0.5 inches). Litter cover is in contact with soil surface.</p>
<p>15. Expected annual production (this is TOTAL above-ground production, not just forage production): Representative value = 2650 pounds/acre with expected production ranging from 2350 lbs to 2950 lbs depending upon current year’s growing conditions.</p>
<p>16. Potential invasive (including noxious) species (native and non-native). List species which characterize degraded states and which, after a threshold is crossed, “can, and often do, continue to increase regardless of the management of the site and may eventually dominate the site”: State/local noxious, smooth bromegrass, Kentucky bluegrass.</p>
<p>17. Perennial plant reproductive capability: All species are capable of reproducing.</p>