

Instructions

Similarity Index Worksheet

NE-ECS-9

Instructions for use of NE-ECS-9

	Column	Instruction for Column
P 1-10	Estimated and/or Clipped Weight Per Species	Enter the estimated and/or clipped weight of each species in each plot the species is found in.
A 1	Average Plot Estimated Green Weight lbs./ac.	Add up the green weights estimated for each species and divide by the number of plots in the transect then multiply by the plot size conversion factor. This number gives you the average estimated green weight for each species. For example if you estimated a total of 300 grams of blue grama in 10 9.6 sq. ft. plots, you would enter 300 grams for blue grama in this column.
A 2	Plot Size Conversion and Factor Used.	Under the heading Factor Used enter the plot size conversion factor used. For example, if you are using a 9.6 square foot plot you would enter 10 as the factor used.
A3-4	Clipping/Estimated Weight	For those plots that are clipped enter the total clipped weights in A4 space and enter the total estimated weights A3. For example if you clipped 2 plots you would add up the clipped weights from both plots and enter this figure in the A4. You would then add up the estimated weights from both plots and enter this figure in A3.
A5	Dry Weight	Enter the total air-dry weight of all species from plots that are clipped, or % of air dry matter from Exhibit 4-2 in NRPH. Use only if clipped material is air-dried.
A6	Clipped/Estimated Conversion Factor	Divide the clipped weight by the estimated weight for each species and enter the resulting clip/weight correction factor in this column.
B	Clipped/Estimated Corrected Green Weights	Multiply column A1 by its associated clip/estimate correction factor in column A5. This figure gives you the green weights that have been corrected for weight estimation errors.
C	% Dry Weight	Enter the percent air dry weight or oven dry weight as a decimal value.
D	% Current Growth Ungrazed	Enter the estimated percent (as a decimal value) of the current growth that has not been removed by grazing or harvest.
E	% Growth Curve Completed	Enter the percent (as a decimal value) of the current years growth for each species that should normally have occurred by the date of this determination.
F	% of Normal Production	Enter an estimation of the current years forage production in comparison to normal expressed as a percent (as a decimal value) of normal. Example: .9 means the year's production is 90% of normal. 1.1 is 110% of normal.
G	Reconstruction Factor	This factor is calculated by dividing © Percent dry weight by the product obtained by multiplying (D) Percent current growth ungrazed times (E) Percent growth curve completed times (F) Percent of normal production. $(C/DxExF=G)$
H	Reconstructed Present Weight	This value is calculated by multiplying (B) Corrected green weight by (G) the Reconstruction factor. $(BxG=H)$
I	Weight in Reference Vegetation State	Enter the weight for each plant species as shown in the appropriate reference vegetation state in the ecological site description.

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J	Weight Allowable	Enter the lesser of (H) Reconstructed present weight or (I) weight in reference vegetation state. No more than the weight in the reference vegetation state plant community may be counted in determining similarity index.
	Residue (Mulch)	Enter weight of mulch in each plot. Use same sampling techniques as for species; if "double plot" technique, gather and weigh mulch in clipped plots.
	% cover (cover)	Estimate & enter crown cover up to 4 1/2 feet above ground.
	% bare ground (bare)	Estimate and enter percent of area in each plot that has bare soil exposed, do not include area covered by mulch or stones.
	% rock cover (rock)	Estimate and enter for each plot the percent of area covered by rock, stones or gravel.

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