

Ecological Reference Worksheet

Author(s) / participant(s): Kenneth Alcon

Contact for lead author :

John Tunberg

Reference site used? Yes/No

No

Date:

4/26/2005

MLRA:

70A

Ecological Site:

Loamy Upland

This *must* be verified based on soilsand climate (see Ecological Site Description). Current plant community cannot be used to identify the ecological site.

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) site data. Continue description on separate sheet.

1. Number and extent of rills :

None

2. Presence of water flow patterns:

Typically none, if present (steeper slopes following intense storm events) flow patterns are short and not connected.

3. Number and height of erosional pedestals or terracettes:

None

4. Bare ground from Ecological Site Description or other studies (rock, litter, lichen, moss, plant canopy are not bare ground) : 15% to 25% bare ground with bare patches generally less than 5 inches in diameter. Extended drought can cause bare ground to increase and patch area size may increase during extended drought conditions.

5. Number of gullies and erosion associated with gullies:

None

6. Extent of wind scoured, blowouts and/or depositional areas:

None

7. Amount of litter movement (describe size and distance expected to travel) :

Minimal and short usually will occur more prevalent in areas with slope associated.

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):

Stability class rating anticipated to be 5-6 in interspaces at soil surface. These values need verification at reference site.

9. Soil surface structures and SOM content (include type and strength of structure, and A-horizon color and thickness for both plant canopy and interspaces, if different) :

Average SOM content 1-5%. Soils are typically deep to moderately deep, (Carnero) A1- 0 to 3 inches; brown (7.5 YR 5/2) loam, dark brown (7.5 YR 3/2) moist; moderate very fine granular structure; loose, very friable, nonsticky and nonplastic; many fine roots and many fine interstitial pores.

10. Effect of plant community composition (relative proportion of different functional groups) & spatial distribution on infiltration & runoff:

Diverse grass, forb, shrub functional/structural groups and diverse root structure/patterns reduces raindrop impact slows overland flow provides increased time for infiltration to occur. Extended drought reduces short and mid bunchgrasses causing decreased infiltration and increased runoff

11. Presence and thickness of compaction layer (usually none; describe soil profile features which may be mistaken for compaction on this site):

None

12. Functional/Structural Groups (list in order of descending dominance by above-ground weight using symbols: indicate much greater than (>>), greater than (>), and equal to (=) :

Dominants: Warm Season short bunchgrass>, Sub-Dominates: Cool Season mid rhizomatous>mid cool season bunchgrass>Shrubs, Others: War Season Forbs>Leguminous forbs=cool season forbs=warm season short stoloniferous>annual native grasses

13. Amount of plant mortality and decadence (include which functional groups are expected to show mortality or decadence) :

Typically minimal. Expect short/mid bunchgrasses mortality/decadence during or following drought.

14. Average percent litter cover (15-20 %) and depth (1/4in. inches).

Litter depth will be reduced during and following extended drought ranges can be less than 10%

15. Expected annual production (this is TOTAL above-ground production, not just forage production):

(Low Production 400 lbs./ac.) (Average RV Production 950lbs./ac.) (High Production 1,500 lbs./ac.) Production can be reduced following extended drought or the first growing season following wildfire.

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":

Invasive plants should not occur in reference plant community. However, cheatgrass, Russian Thistle, kochia, and other non-native annuals may invade following extended drought if a seed source is available. Oneseed Juniper may encroach from adjacent sites with lack of fire. Blue Grama and

17. Perennial plant reproductive capability :

All plants should be vigorous, healthy and reproductive depending on disturbances i.e.. Drought. Plants should have numerous seed heads, vegetative tillers etc. The only limitations are weather related, wildfire, and natural disease that may temporarily reduce reproductive capability.

Photograph (s)

MLRA :

Date :

Ecological Site :

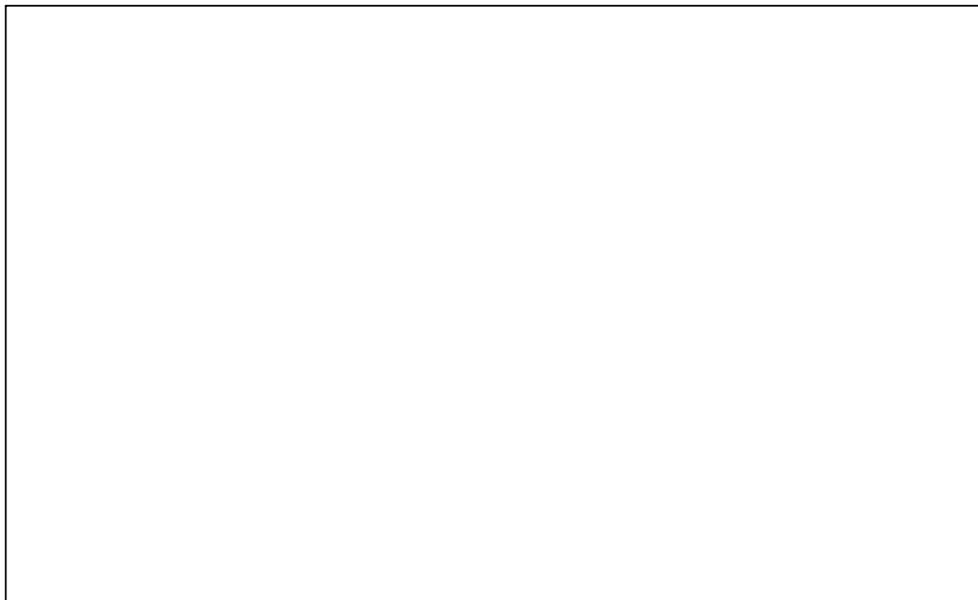


Photo # 1

Comments :

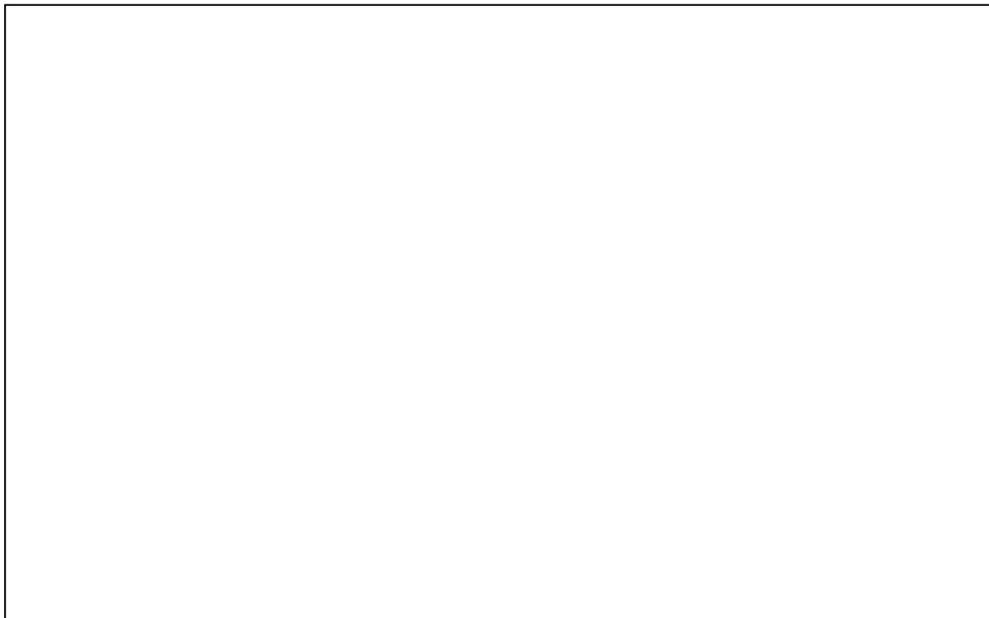


Photo # 2

Comments :

