

Saskatchewan Grassland Range Health Assessment – Field Worksheet

Plot _____ Observer _____ Date _____ Photo # _____

Legal Location _____

GPS Coordinates (NAD 83)

Latitude _____ Longitude _____ Easting _____ Northing _____

Ecoregion _____ Ecosite _____ Soil Map Unit _____

DOMINANT PLANT COMMUNITY SPECIES

Grasses & Grasslikes	Dry Weight (%)	Forbs	Dry Weight (%)	Shrubs	Cover (%)	Trees	Cover (%)

VEGETATION STATUS

Question 1. What is the plant community?		
<p>Plant community composition closely resembles the reference plant community for the site and alteration of the plant community by disturbances is minimal. <i>Example: Dry Mixed Prairie, Loam Ecosite, northern wheatgrass – needle-and-thread (Reference plant community).</i></p> <p>Compared to the reference plant community, the plant community shows minor alteration in plant species composition due to disturbances. Disturbance impact is light to moderate. <i>Example: Dry Mixed Prairie, Loam Ecosite, Needle-and-thread - June Grass - Pasture Sage - blue grama.</i></p> <p>Compared to the reference plant community, the plant community shows moderate alteration due to disturbances. Disturbance impact on plant community composition is moderate to heavy. <i>Example: Dry Mixed Prairie, Loam Ecosite, blue grama -needle-and-thread – sedge- western wheatgrass.</i></p> <p>Compared to the reference plant community, the plant community shows significant alterations due to disturbances. Disturbance impact is heavy to very heavy. Plants are mostly native. Some tall-growing, non-native plants may be present. <i>Example 1: Dry Mixed Prairie, Loam Ecosite, Blue grama – pasture sage – June grass Example 2: Kentucky bluegrass</i></p> <p>Compared to the reference plant community, the plant community shows extreme to severe alterations due to disturbances. Disturbance impact is severe to very severe. Production is mostly from low-growing, non-native, disturbance induced plants. <i>Example: Dandelion – Plantain</i></p>	40	
	30	
	15	
	7	
	0	
Score		
Question 2. Are the expected vegetation layers present?		
<p>The life form layers closely resemble the reference plant community.</p> <p>Compared to the reference, 1 life form layer is absent or considerably reduced.</p> <p>Compared to the reference, 2 life form layers are absent or considerably reduced.</p> <p>Compared to the reference, 3 life form layers are absent or considerably reduced.</p>	10	
	7	
	3	
	0	
Score		
Question 3. Are Invasive/Noxious species present? Y or N Which species? _____		
Question 3.1 What is the cover of Invasive/Noxious species?		
<p>No invasive/noxious species</p> <p>Invasive/noxious species present but less than 1% cover</p> <p>Invasive/noxious weeds present with a total canopy cover over 1%</p>	5	
	3	
	0	
Score		
Question 3.2 What is the distribution of Invasive/Noxious species?		
<p>No invasive/noxious species on the site</p> <p>Invasive/noxious species are present at a low level (density distribution class 1)</p> <p>Invasive/noxious species are present at a moderate to high level (density distribution classes 2 to 13)</p>	5	
	3	
	0	
Score		
(A) TOTAL SCORE FOR VEGETATION STATUS		