

Appendix 2.

Ecological Reference Worksheet

Author(s) / participant(s): Brenda Simpson and Dan Thomas

Contact for lead author : Brenda Simpson Reference site used? Yes/No No

Date: 8/16/2005 MLRA: WP-2 Ecological Site: Deep Sand WP-2 This must be verified based on soils and 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.	Indicator Weight
1. Number and extent of rills : No rills or past evidence.	1
2. Presence of water flow patterns: Flow patterns are very few, disconnected and < one foot.	1
3. Number and height of erosional pedestals or terracettes: Occasional erosional pedestals < 1/2 inch. No terracettes present. Wind blown deposition in plant crowns may give false appearance of taller pedestals.	1
4. Bare ground from Ecological Site Description or other studies (rock, litter, lichen, moss, plant canopy are not bare ground) : Bare ground is 72%. Bare areas are less than 2 feet in diameter, partially connected, and uniform over the site. (CHECK ANOTHER SITE)	1
5. Number of gullies and erosion associated with gullies: Gullies are uncommon but may exist in natural drainages. Gullies are generally not connected and have no active headcuts.	1
6. Extent of wind scoured, blowouts and/or depositional areas: Occasional wind scour and depositional areas, variable in size with some vegetation. Blowouts may appear in extended disturbances and fluctuate in size dependant on weather conditions. (CHECK ANOTHER SITE)	1
7. Amount of litter movement (describe size and distance expected to travel) : Mostly fine (<3/8 inch) and some moderately coarse litter. Movement is less than 2 feet.	1
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): Soil stability class 5 under plants and class 4 in interspaces.	1
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) : Soil surface structure is single grain; A-horizon color is yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) - 0 to 2 inches thick; SOM is .6%.	1
10. Effect of plant community composition (relative proportion of different functional groups) & spatial distribution on infiltration & runoff: Dominant plant composition of mixed warm and cool season bunch grasses are evenly distributed across the site providing adequate protection in normal climatic years and without significant disturbances. Infiltration is good (rapid permeability) with minimal runoff.	1
11. Presence and thickness of compaction layer (usually none; describe soil profile features which may be mistaken for compaction on this site): Potential for a compaction layer is not present. B horizon is very friable and nonsticky.	1
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 (=) : Warm Bunch Grass > Cool Bunch Grass >> Forbs > Shrubs > Half-Shrubs.	1
13. Amount of plant mortality and decadence (include which functional groups are expected to show mortality or decadence) : New plants, mature plants, and decadence of old plants is proportional to maintaining the dominant species. Warm and cool bunch grasses are most susceptible to extended disturbances.	1
14. Average percent litter cover (10 %) and depth (_____ inches). Most litter is fine and near the source. Litter depth is 1/2 inch.	1
15. Expected annual production (this is <u>TOTAL</u> above-ground production, not just forage production): Average TOTAL production is rated at 588# annually. Low = 275#. High = 900#.	1
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": Juniper and Pinyon.	1
17. Perennial plant reproductive capability : All plants are capable of reproduction. The only limitations are weather-related or a natural disease affecting reproduction.	1

Photograph (s)

MLRA :

Date :

Ecological Site :

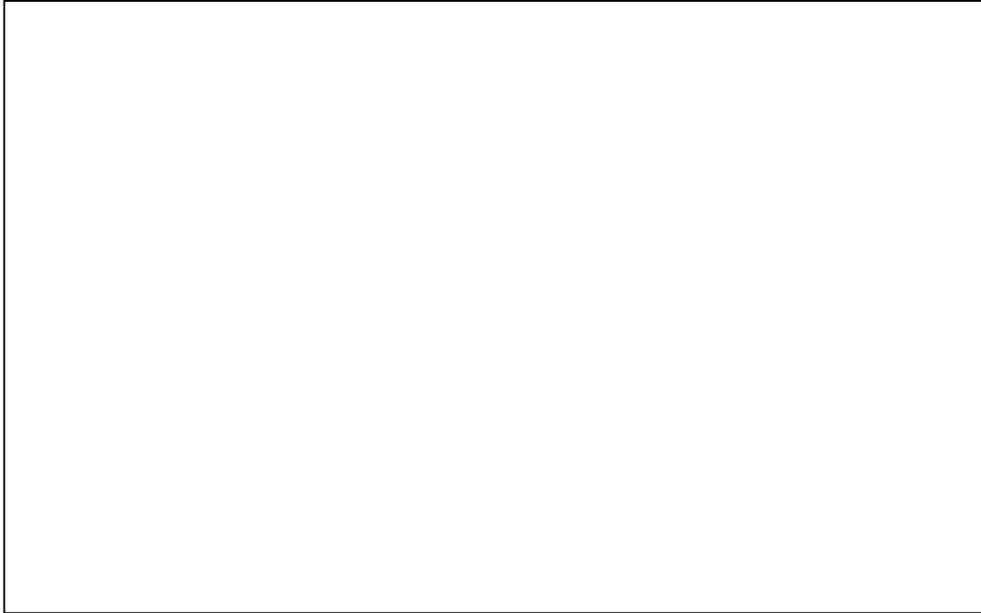


Photo # 1

Comments :

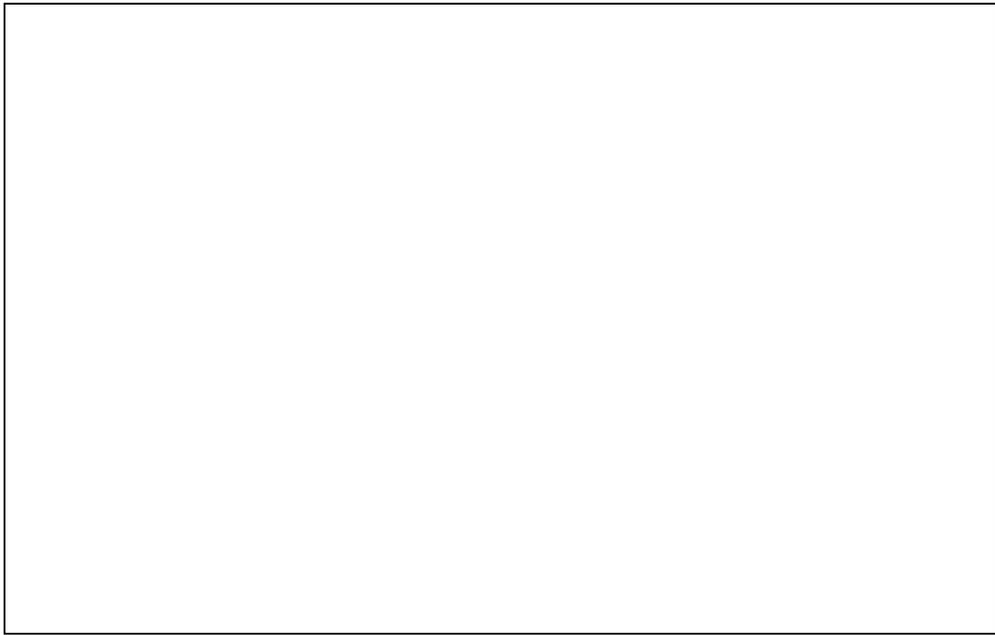


Photo # 2

Comments :

