**Evaluation Area ID:**  \_ **Date:** \_  **Evaluator(s):** \_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions** (Numbers correspond to fields in the worksheet*;* see Appendix 4 for detailed instructions*.*):

1. Record the ecological site for the evaluation area. Considering the disturbance and land treatment history at the evaluation area, select the appropriate reference community phase from the F/S groups table in the reference sheet.
2. Observe and list the F/S groups present in the evaluation area.
3. Record the species within each F/S group present in the evaluation area. At the bottom of this section, record the number of expected F/S groups and number of species in expected dominant and sub-dominant groups observed in the evaluation area.
4. Copy the relative dominance for the selected reference phase from the reference sheet to the **Expected** column.

 In the **Observed** column, document the relative dominance of F/S groups at the evaluation area.

 Use the **Comments** field to make notes, including any adjustments to relative dominance and rationale.

5) For each sub-indicator, circle the departure category description that best fits the observed changes in F/S groups in the evaluation area.

6) Rate the overall departure for the F/S Groups indicator by choosing the greatest departure category of the four sub-indicators.

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **Ecological site:**   **Reference phase for evaluation area: 1.**\_\_\_\_\_
 |
| **2) F/S Groups in Evaluation Area** |  **3) Species List**  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Biological soil crusts[[1]](#footnote-1) |  |
| **Number of expected F/S groups present in evaluation area[[2]](#footnote-2):** |  |
| **Number of species in expected dominant and sub-dominant groups present in evaluation area:** |  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Evaluation Area ID: Date:** \_ **Evaluator(s):** \_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| **4)** | **Expected** relative dominance of F/S Groups for Phase 1.\_\_\_ Based on: Production \_\_\_\_\_ Foliar Cover ­­­\_\_\_\_\_ | **Observed** relative dominance of F/S Groups in the evaluation area |
| **Dominant** |  |  |
| **Sub-dominant** |  |  |
| **Minor** |  |  |
| **Trace** |  |  |
| **Comments:**  |
| **5) Indicator and sub-indicators rating** (circle the appropriate departure category for each sub-indicator below). |
| **Sub-indicator** | **E-T** | **M-E** | **M** | **S-M** | **N-S** |
| **12a.** Relative dominance | All expected dominant F/S groups are now minor, trace, or missing. | One or more dominant F/S groups is now minor or trace, or a minor or trace group is now dominant.  | Dominant F/S group(s) has become subdominant.  | Subdominant F/S group has become minor or trace, or a minor or trace F/S group has become subdominant. | Resembles expected relative dominance for appropriate reference phase. |
| **12b.** F/S groups not expected at the site | F/S group(s) not expected is now dominant. | F/S group(s) not expected is now subdominant. | F/S group(s) not expected is now minor. | F/S group(s) not expected is now trace. | None. |
| **12c.** Number of expected F/S groups2 | Severely reduced(missing1 ≥ 76% of expected F/S groups). | Greatly reduced(missing 51-75% of expected F/S groups). | Moderately reduced(missing 26-50% of expected F/S groups). | Slightly reduced (missing ≤ 25% of F/S groups). | All expected F/S groups for appropriate phase are present1 |
| **12d**. Total combined number of species expected in dominant and subdominant F/S groups | Severely reduced(missing ≥ 76%). | Greatly reduced(missing 51-75%).  | Moderately reduced(missing 26-50%).  | Slightly reduced (missing 10-25%). | Missing less than 10% of expected # of species in dominant and subdominant F/S groups for appropriate reference phase. |
| **6) Overall departure category for F/S Groups Indicator:**  |  |

**Data Entry Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ By: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Error Check Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ By: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. Biological soils crust dominance is determined based on cover, rather than production.  If biological soil crusts are an expected dominant or sub-dominant group, the number of expected life forms (e.g. lichen, moss) is listed, rather than number of individual species. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. When a F/S group that is expected to be dominant, sub-dominant or minor is reduced in the evaluation area to a few remnant individuals, the group is not considered to be “functionally present” and is not included in the number of F/S groups present (12c). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)