

Saskatchewan Forest Range Health Assessment – Indicator Method

Plot _____ Observer _____ Date _____ Photo # _____

Legal Location _____

GPS Coordinates (NAD 83)

Latitude _____ Longitude _____ Easting _____ Northing _____

Ecoregion _____ Ecosite _____ Soil Map Unit _____

Dom. Tree Species _____ Canopy Height _____ Crown Closure _____

DOMINANT PLANT SPECIES

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

VEGETATION STATUS

Question 1. What is the plant community?		
Plant community resembles the reference community for the site. The full range of native species found in the reference community is present. Decreaser species (both shrubs and herbs) are abundant and vigorous. <i>Example: aspen / low-bush cranberry / rose / tall forb</i>	40	
Minor changes from the reference plant community. Decreaser species are less abundant or less vigorous than in the reference community, and there has been some increase in shorter or less palatable species. <i>Example: aspen / rose / low-bush cranberry / low forb</i>	30	
Moderate changes from the reference plant community. Decreaser species have been substantially reduced or eliminated, and replaced by shorter or less palatable species. Non-native species have increased in abundance. <i>Example: aspen / rose / clover</i>	15	
Significant changes from the reference plant community. Non-native species have become dominant, accompanied by unpalatable native species. <i>Example: aspen / Kentucky blue grass / dandelion</i>	0	
Score		
Question 2. Are the expected vegetation layers present?		
All vegetation layers are present. The structure of the forest resembles the reference plant community.	20	
One vegetation layer is absent or significantly reduced (less than half of the cover in the reference community).	10	
Two vegetation layers are absent or significantly reduced (less than half of the cover in the reference community).	5	
Three vegetation layers are absent or significantly reduced (less than half of the cover in the reference community).	0	
Score		
Question 3. Are invasive species present?		
No invasive species present.	10	
Invasive species present but cover less than 1%.	5	
Cover of invasive species more than 1%.	0	
Score		
(A) TOTAL SCORE FOR VEGETATION STATUS		
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