

Ecological site R081BY340TX Redland 23-31 PZ

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Rangeland health reference sheet

Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health is a qualitative assessment protocol used to determine ecosystem condition based on benchmark characteristics described in the Reference Sheet. A suite of 17 (or more) indicators are typically considered in an assessment. The ecological site(s) representative of an assessment location must be known prior to applying the protocol and must be verified based on soils and climate. Current plant community cannot be used to identify the ecological site.

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Date	06/01/2005
Approved by	Bryan Christensen
Approval date	
Composition (Indicators 10 and 12) based on	Annual Production

Indicators

1. **Number and extent of rills:** None.
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2. **Presence of water flow patterns:** Some water flow patterns are expected due to runoff from Adobe, Steep Adobe, and Low Stony Hill sites.
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3. **Number and height of erosional pedestals or terracettes:** None.
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4. **Bare ground from Ecological Site Description or other studies (rock, litter, lichen, moss, plant canopy are not bare ground):** Expect no more than five percent bare ground randomly distributed throughout and having small and non-connected areas.
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5. **Number of gullies and erosion associated with gullies:** None.
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6. **Extent of wind scoured, blowouts and/or depositional areas:** None.
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7. **Amount of litter movement (describe size and distance expected to travel):** Minimal and short.
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8. **Soil surface (top few mm) resistance to erosion (stability values are averages - most sites will show a range of values):** Soil surface is resistant to erosion. Stability class range is expected to be 5 to 6.
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9. **Soil surface structure and SOM content (include type of structure and A-horizon color and thickness):** Soil is reddish brown clay with medium blocky structure that is about eight inches thick in depth. SOM is one to three percent.
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10. **Effect of community phase composition (relative proportion of different functional groups) and spatial distribution on infiltration and runoff:** High canopy, basal cover and density with small interspaces should make rainfall impact negligible. This site has well drained soils, moderately deep with one to three percent slopes which may allow noticeable runoff and erosion.
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11. **Presence and thickness of compaction layer (usually none; describe soil profile features which may be mistaken for compaction on this site):** No evidence of compaction under reference conditions.
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12. **Functional/Structural Groups (list in order of descending dominance by above-ground annual-production or live foliar cover using symbols: >>, >, = to indicate much greater than, greater than, and equal to):**
- Dominant: Warm-season tallgrasses
- Sub-dominant: Warm-season midgrasses Cool-season midgrasses
- Other: Warm-season shortgrasses Trees Forbs Shrubs
- Additional:
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13. **Amount of plant mortality and decadence (include which functional groups are expected to show mortality or decadence):** There should be little mortality or decadence for any functional groups in the reference community.
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14. **Average percent litter cover (%) and depth (in):** Litter is dominantly herbaceous.
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15. **Expected annual annual-production (this is TOTAL above-ground annual-production, not just forage annual-production):** 2,500 pounds per acre for below average moisture years, 3,500 pounds per acre for average moisture years and 4,800 pounds per acre for above average moisture years.
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16. **Potential invasive (including noxious) species (native and non-native). List species which BOTH characterize degraded states and have the potential to become a dominant or co-dominant species on the ecological site if their future establishment and growth is not actively controlled by management interventions. Species that become dominant for only one to several years (e.g., short-term response to drought or wildfire) are not invasive plants. Note that unlike other indicators, we are describing what is NOT expected in the reference state**

for the ecological site: Ashe juniper, mesquite, prickly pear, Bermudagrass, Johnsongrass, and King Ranch bluestem.

17. **Perennial plant reproductive capability:** All perennial plants should be capable of reproducing, except during periods of prolonged drought conditions, herbivory and/or wildfire disturbances.
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