

Ecological site F111XA018IN Shallow Restricted

Last updated: 4/20/2020
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General information

Provisional. A provisional ecological site description has undergone quality control and quality assurance review. It contains a working state and transition model and enough information to identify the ecological site.

MLRA notes

Major Land Resource Area (MLRA): 111X–Indiana and Ohio Till Plain

A PROVISIONAL ECOLOGICAL SITE is a conceptual grouping of soil map unit components within a Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) based on the similarities in response to management. Although there may be wide variability in the productivity of the soils grouped into a Provisional Site, the soil vegetation interactions as expressed in the State and Transition Model are similar and the management actions required to achieve objectives, whether maintaining the existing ecological state or managing for an alternative state, are similar. Provisional Sites are likely to be refined into more precise group during the process of meeting the APPROVED ECOLOGICAL SITE DESCRIPTION criteria.

This PROVISIONAL ECOLOGICAL SITE has been developed to meet the standards established in the National Ecological Site Handbook. The information associated with this ecological site does not meet the Approved Ecological Site Description Standard, but it has been through a Quality Control and Quality Assurance processes to assure consistency and completeness. Further investigations, reviews and correlations are necessary before it becomes an Approved Ecological Site Description.

111A – Indiana and Ohio Till Plain, Central Part. This area is in the Till Plains Section of the Central Lowland Province of the Interior Plains. It is dominated by broad, nearly level ground moraines that are broken in some areas by kames, outwash plains, and stream valleys along the leading edge of the moraines. Narrow, shallow valleys commonly are along the few large streams in the area. Elevation ranges from 680 to 1,250 feet (205 to 380 meters), increasing gradually from west to east. Relief is mainly a few meters, but in some areas hills rise as much as 100 feet (30 meters) above the adjoining plains.

The extent of the major Hydrologic Unit Areas (identified by four-digit numbers) that make up this MLRA is as follows: Wabash (0512), 46 percent; Great Miami (0508), 30 percent; Scioto (0506), 22 percent; and the Middle Ohic (0509), 2 percent. The major rivers in the area include the East and West Forks of the White River and the Whitewater River in Indiana and the Great Miami, Stillwater, Big Darby, Scioto, and Big Walnut Rivers in Ohio.

Surface deposits in this area include glacial deposits of till, lacustrine sediments, and outwash from Wisconsin and older glacial periods. A moderately thick mantle of loess covers much of the area. Most of this MLRA is underlain by Silurian and Devonian limestone and dolostone. Also, some areas of Late Ordovician shale and limestone are in the western part of the MLRA (USDA, 2006).

Classification relationships

Major Land Resource Area (USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, 2006)

USFS Ecological Regions (USDA, 2007):

Sections – Southern Unglaciaded Allegheny Plateau (221E), Central Till Plains, Beech Maple (222H), Interior Low Plateau-Transition Hills (223B), Interior Low Plateau-Bluegrass (223F)

Subsections - Lower Scioto River Plateau (221Eg), Bluffton Till Plains (222Ha), Miami-Scioto Plain-Tipton Till Plain

(222Hb), Little Miami Old Drift Plain (222Hc), Mad River Interlobate Plains (222Hd), Darby Plains (222He), Brown County Hills (223Ba), Northern Bluegrass (223Fd), Muscatatuck Flats and Valleys (223Fe), Scottsburg Lowlands (223Ff)

NatureServe Systems anticipated (NatureServe, 2011): Agriculture - Cultivated Crops and Irrigated Agriculture, Agriculture - Pasture/Hay, Allegheny-Cumberland Dry Oak Forest and Woodland, Appalachian (Hemlock)-Northern Hardwood Forest, Central Appalachian Pine-Oak Rocky Woodland, Central Interior Acidic Cliff and Talus, Central Interior Highlands Calcareous Glade and Barrens, Central Tallgrass Prairie, Clearcut - Grassland/Herbaceous, Introduced Upland Vegetation – Treed, Managed Tree Plantation, Mississippi River Riparian Forest, North-Central Interior and Appalachian Acidic Peatland, North-Central Interior Beech-Maple Forest, North-Central Interior Dry-Mesic Oak Forest and Woodland, North-Central Interior Floodplain, North-Central Interior Freshwater Marsh, North-Central Interior Oak Savanna, North-Central Interior Wet Flatwoods, North-Central Interior Wet Meadow-Shrub Swamp, North-Central Oak Barrens, Northeastern Interior Dry-Mesic Oak Forest, Ruderal Forest, Ruderal Upland - Old Field, South-Central Interior / Upper Coastal Plain Wet Flatwoods, South-Central Interior Large Floodplain, South-Central Interior Mesophytic Forest, South-Central Interior Small Stream and Riparian, Southern Appalachian Oak Forest, Southern Interior Low Plateau Dry-Mesic Oak Forest, Southern Ridge and Valley / Cumberland Dry Calcareous Forest, Successional Shrub/Scrub

LANDFIRE Biophysical Settings anticipated (USGS, 2010): Allegheny-Cumberland Dry Oak Forest and Woodland, Appalachian (Hemlock-) Northern Hardwood Forest, Central Interior and Appalachian Floodplain Systems, Central Interior and Appalachian Riparian Systems, Central Interior and Appalachian Shrub-Herbaceous Wetland Systems, Central Interior and Appalachian Swamp Systems, Central Interior Highlands Calcareous Glade and Barrens, Central Interior Highlands Dry Acidic Glade and Barrens, Central Tallgrass Prairie, Great Lakes Coastal Marsh Systems, North-Central Interior Beech-Maple Forest, North-Central Interior Dry-Mesic Oak Forest and Woodland, North-Central Interior Dry Oak Forest and Woodland, North-Central Interior Oak Savanna, North-Central Interior Wet Flatwoods, South-Central Interior Mesophytic Forest, South-Central Interior/Upper Coastal Plain Flatwoods, Southern Appalachian Oak Forest, Southern Interior Low Plateau Dry-Mesic Oak Forest

Ecological site concept

This site is an upland site formed on clayey residium overlaying limestone and shale. The depth to the restrictive layer is less than 20 inches. Drainage is well drained or drier with slopes up generally from 25-80%. Landscape position, shallow soil depth, and slope provide a level of protection for the site from fire. This combination of factors allow the eastern red cedar to become a co-dominant on the site with oak species. The dark soil surface color and depth of the color, along with the drainage of the site indicate that the understory was comprised largely of herbaceous, mostly graminoid, species. A large portion of the site in agricultural use is used for pasture or hay. The majority of the site is in natural vegetation, with an appreciable amount being in second growth woodlands or brush.

Associated sites

| | |
|-------------|--|
| F111XA019IN | Moderately Deep Restricted Site is generally lower on the landscape; soil depth to restrictive layer is between 20 and 40 inches |
| F111XA020IN | Deep Restricted Site is generally lower on the landscape; soil depth to restrictive layer is 40 inches or greater |

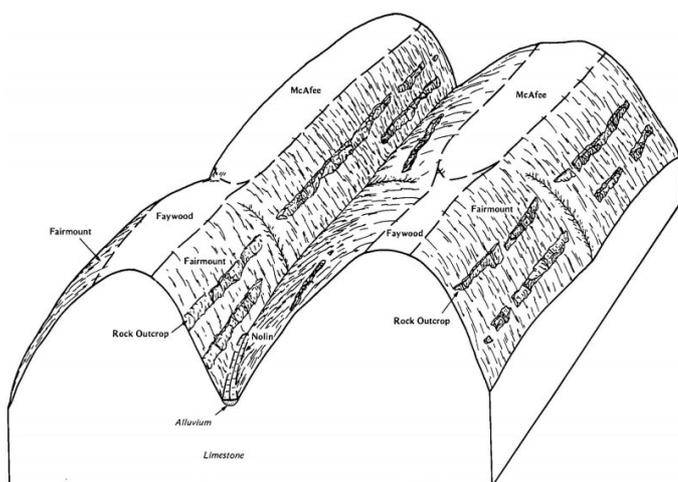


Figure 1. Block diagram showing soil series on the landscape.

Table 1. Dominant plant species

| | |
|------------|---|
| Tree | (1) <i>Quercus</i> (2) <i>Juniperus virginiana</i> |
| Shrub | Not specified |
| Herbaceous | Not specified |

Physiographic features

This ecosite is found in unspecified landscape in MLRA 111A: Indiana and Ohio Till Plain, Central Part. This site is shallow (>20 inches) to impermeable layer.

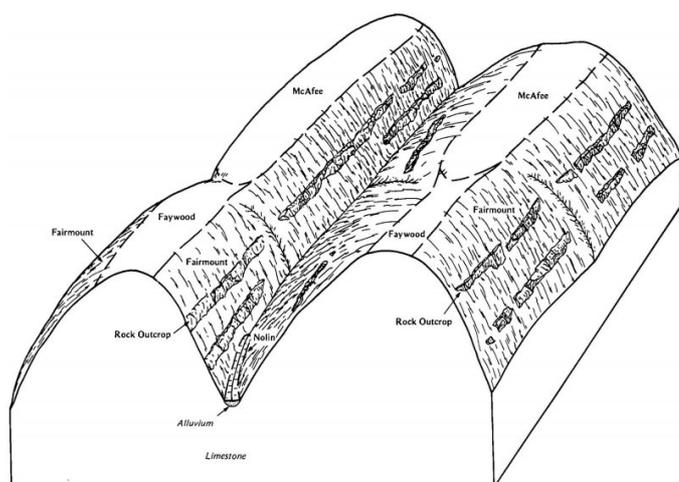


Figure 2. Block diagram showing soil series on the landscape.

Table 2. Representative physiographic features

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Landforms | (1) Hill |
| Flooding frequency | None |
| Ponding frequency | None |
| Elevation | 298–1,601 ft |
| Slope | 6–80% |
| Ponding depth | 0 in |
| Water table depth | 60 in |
| Aspect | W, NW, N, NE, E, SE, S, SW |

Climatic features

The average annual precipitation in this area is 36 to 43 inches (915 to 1,090 millimeters). Most of the rainfall occurs as convective thunderstorms during the growing season. About half or more of the precipitation occurs during the freeze-free period. Snowfall is common in winter. The average annual temperature is 49 to 53 degrees F (9 to 12 degrees C). The freeze-free period averages about 195 days and ranges from 175 to 215 days.

Table 3. Representative climatic features

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Frost-free period (characteristic range) | 145-158 days |
| Freeze-free period (characteristic range) | 174-191 days |
| Precipitation total (characteristic range) | 40-43 in |

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Frost-free period (actual range) | 142-165 days |
| Freeze-free period (actual range) | 171-198 days |
| Precipitation total (actual range) | 39-44 in |
| Frost-free period (average) | 152 days |
| Freeze-free period (average) | 183 days |
| Precipitation total (average) | 41 in |

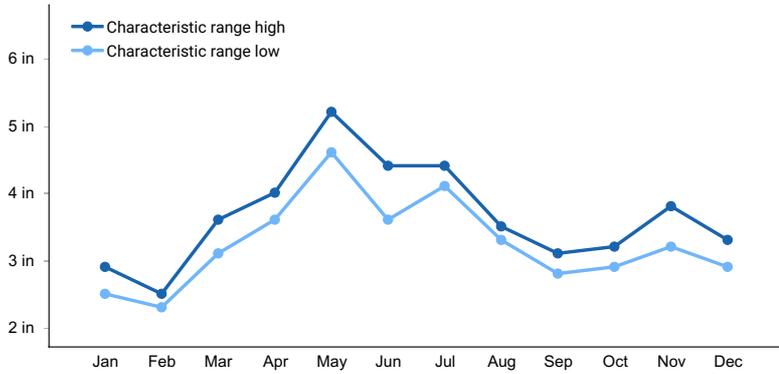


Figure 3. Monthly precipitation range

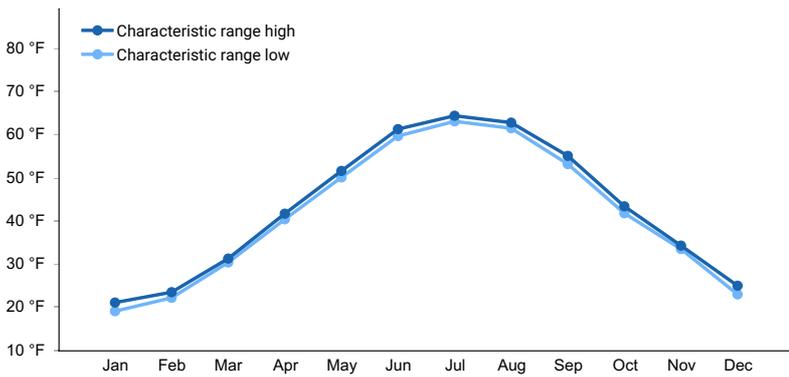


Figure 4. Monthly minimum temperature range

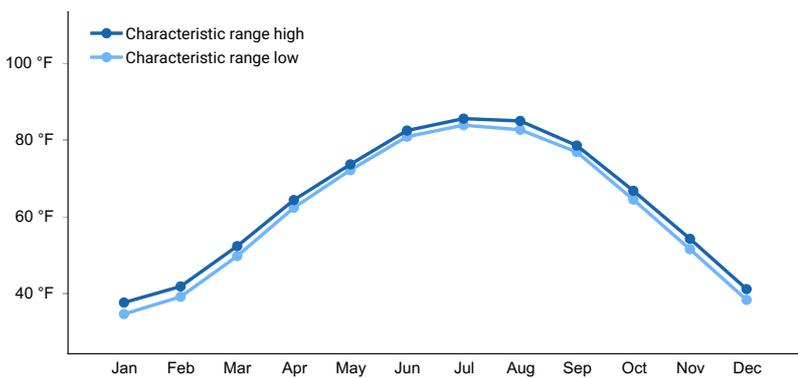


Figure 5. Monthly maximum temperature range

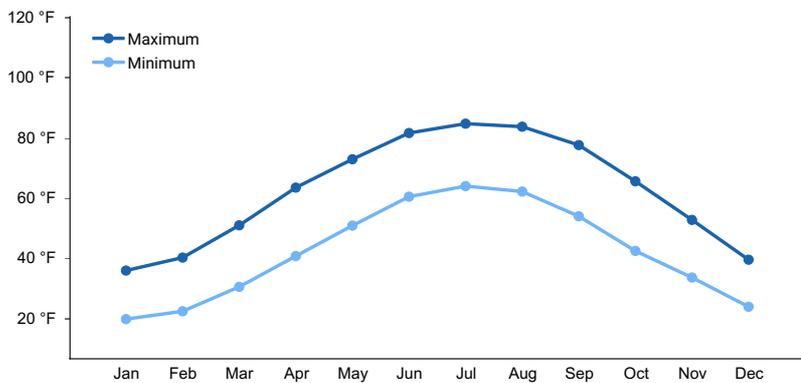


Figure 6. Monthly average minimum and maximum temperature

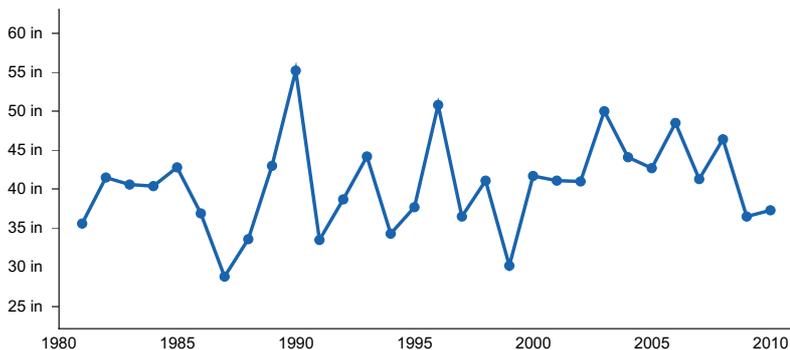


Figure 7. Annual precipitation pattern

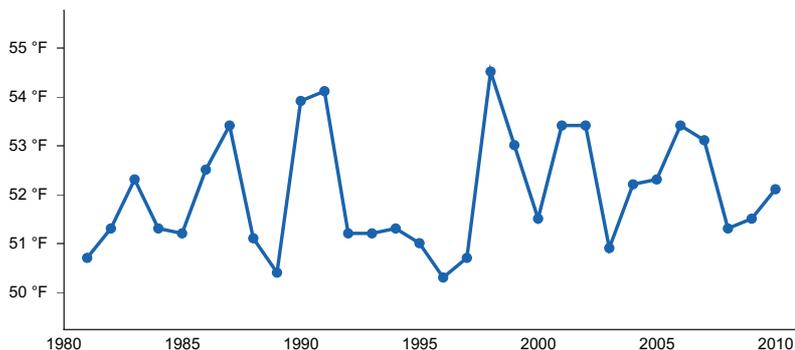


Figure 8. Annual average temperature pattern

Climate stations used

- (1) WASHINGTON COURT HOUSE [USC00338794], Washington Court House, OH
- (2) FRANKLIN [USC00332928], Franklin, OH
- (3) INDIANAPOLIS SE SIDE [USC00124272], Indianapolis, IN
- (4) KOKOMO 3 WSW [USC00124662], Russiaville, IN
- (5) COLUMBUS [USC00121747], Columbus, IN
- (6) RICHMOND WTR WKS [USC00127370], Richmond, IN
- (7) CHILLICOTHE MOUND CITY [USC00331528], Chillicothe, OH
- (8) COLUMBUS OHIO STATE UNIV AP [USW00004804], Dublin, OH

Influencing water features

This ecological site is not influenced by wetland or riparian water features.

Soil features

The soil series associated with this site are: Weikert, Rohan, Opequon, Gasconade, Corydon. They are shallow, well drained to somewhat excessively drained, and very slow to rapid permeable soils, with very strongly acidic to

neutral soil reaction, that formed in Residuum from Limestone, Limestone and shale, Sandstone and shale, Shale.

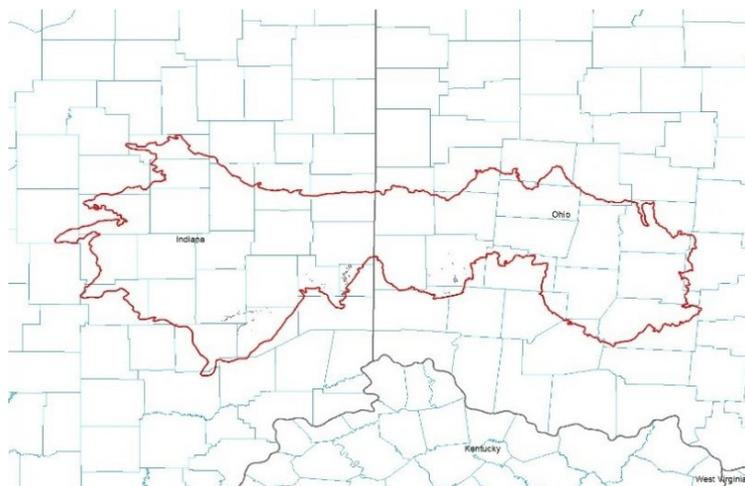


Figure 9. Mapunit location in the MLRA.

Table 4. Representative soil features

| | |
|--|--|
| Parent material | (1) Residuum–limestone and shale |
| Surface texture | (1) Channery clay (2) Flaggy silt loam (3) Stony silty clay loam |
| Family particle size | (1) Clayey |
| Drainage class | Well drained to somewhat excessively drained |
| Permeability class | Very slow to rapid |
| Soil depth | 15–19 in |
| Surface fragment cover <=3" | 0–3% |
| Surface fragment cover >3" | 3% |
| Available water capacity (0-40in) | 1.4–2.7 in |
| Calcium carbonate equivalent (0-40in) | 0–15% |
| Electrical conductivity (0-40in) | 0 mmhos/cm |
| Sodium adsorption ratio (0-40in) | 0 |
| Soil reaction (1:1 water) (0-40in) | 5.2–7.2 |
| Subsurface fragment volume <=3" (Depth not specified) | 1–33% |
| Subsurface fragment volume >3" (Depth not specified) | 1–40% |

Ecological dynamics

The historic plant community of the Shallow Restricted ecological site is that of a barrens that is somewhat protected from fire. The site is mostly wooded with various oak species and eastern red cedar being characteristic of the site. The understory is dominated by herbaceous species, particularly little bluestem and sideoats grama. Low intensity surface fires maintain the herbaceous understory and less frequent, more severe fires keep the site from being dominated by eastern red cedar. Much of this site is currently still in a wooded or old field state. Areas used for agriculture are mostly used for growing forage or pasture.

State and transition model

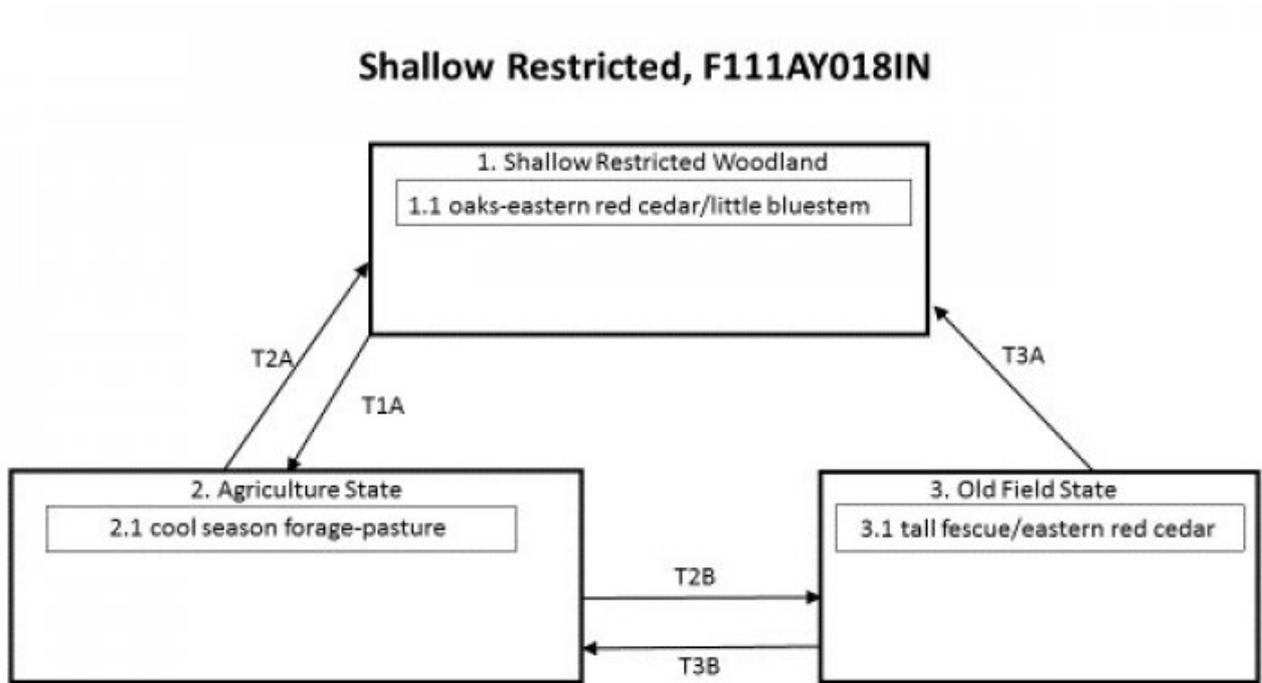


Figure 10. STM

Shallow Restricted, F111AY018IN
Diagram Legend

| | |
|-----|--|
| T1A | Remove woody species, plant forage/pasture, management |
| T2A | Plant desired species, low intensity fire |
| T2B | No management |
| T3A | Plant desired species, low intensity fire |
| T3B | Remove woody species, plant forage/pasture, management |

Figure 11. legend

State 1 Shallow Restricted woodland

This is the reference or diagnostic plant community for this site. The site is mostly wooded with various oak species and eastern red cedar being characteristic of the site. The understory is dominated by herbaceous species, particularly little bluestem and sideoats grama.

Dominant plant species

- oak (*Quercus*), tree
- eastern redcedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), tree

Community 1.1

oaks/eastern red cedar/little bluestem

Low intensity surface fires maintain the herbaceous understory and less frequent, more severe fires keep the site from being dominated by eastern red cedar.

Dominant plant species

- oak (*Quercus*), tree
- eastern redcedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), tree
- little bluestem (*Schizachyrium*), grass

State 2

Agriculture

The portion of this site used for agriculture is largely used for pasture or cool season forage production.

Community 2.1

cool season forage/pasture

This phase is characterized by forage or grazing agriculture. Different mixes of, generally, cool season grasses and forbs, largely clovers, are grown.

State 3

Old Field State

This state is characterized by interrupted drainage and removal of historical vegetation. Both contribute to site being comprised of largely weedy species that will progress to tree dominance.

Community 3.1

tall fescue/eastern red cedar

Tall fescue and eastern red cedar colonize the site after agricultural abandonment.

Transition T1A

State 1 to 2

Remove the woody species, plant desired forage species, and pasture/forage management will move the site to and maintain state #2.

Restoration pathway R2A

State 2 to 1

Plant appropriate species, low intensity fires.

Transition T2B

State 2 to 3

Abandonment or no management on agricultural field.

Transition R3A

State 3 to 1

Removal of existing vegetation, planting of desired species, and low intensity fire will move this state towards the reference community.

Restoration pathway T3B

State 3 to 2

Clear woody vegetation, plant crop species, and management that allows the area to be in agriculture.

Additional community tables

Inventory data references

Site concept developed through expert opinion and review of literature.

Other references

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Whitaker, John O., Charles J. Amlaner, Marion T. Jackson, George R. Parker, and Peter Evans Scott. 2012. Habitats and ecological communities of Indiana presettlement to present. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Approval

Chris Tecklenburg, 4/20/2020

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.

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Author(s)/participant(s) | TYLER STAGGS |
| Contact for lead author | |

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Date | 04/25/2024 |
| Approved by | Chris Tecklenburg |
| Approval date | |
| Composition (Indicators 10 and 12) based on | Annual Production |

Indicators

1. **Number and extent of rills:**

2. **Presence of water flow patterns:**

3. **Number and height of erosional pedestals or terracettes:**

4. **Bare ground from Ecological Site Description or other studies (rock, litter, lichen, moss, plant canopy are not bare ground):**

5. **Number of gullies and erosion associated with gullies:**

6. **Extent of wind scoured, blowouts and/or depositional areas:**

7. **Amount of litter movement (describe size and distance expected to travel):**

8. **Soil surface (top few mm) resistance to erosion (stability values are averages - most sites will show a range of values):**

9. **Soil surface structure and SOM content (include type of structure and A-horizon color and thickness):**

10. **Effect of community phase composition (relative proportion of different functional groups) and spatial distribution on infiltration and runoff:**

11. **Presence and thickness of compaction layer (usually none; describe soil profile features which may be mistaken for compaction on this site):**

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:

Sub-dominant:

Other:

Additional:

13. **Amount of plant mortality and decadence (include which functional groups are expected to show mortality or decadence):**
-

14. **Average percent litter cover (%) and depth (in):**
-

15. **Expected annual annual-production (this is TOTAL above-ground annual-production, not just forage annual-production):**
-

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:**
-

17. **Perennial plant reproductive capability:**
-