

Ecological site F111XD023IN Moderately Deep Restricted

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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.

111D – Indiana and Ohio Till Plain, Western Part. This MLRA occurs in two separate areas. One area is in the west-central part of Indiana (73 percent), and the other is in southwestern Ohio (27 percent). The MLRA makes up 5,355 square miles (13,880 square kilometers). It includes the towns of Crawfordville, Delphi, Frankfort, Lafayette, and Liberty, Indiana, and Hamilton, Lebanon, Middletown, and Wilmington, Ohio. Interstates 65 and 74 cross the part of this area in Indiana, and Interstates 71 and 75 cross the part in Ohio. Shades and Turkey Run State Parks are in the part in Indiana, and Caesar Creek and Hueston Woods State Parks are in the part in Ohio. A small portion of the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, in Ohio, is in the northern part of the area.

This area is in the Till Plains Section of the Central Lowland Province of the Interior Plains. It is dominated by loess hills and flats that are broken in places by moraines, kames, outwash plains, and stream terraces. Narrow, shallow valleys commonly are along the few large streams in the area. Elevation ranges from 530 to 1,050 feet (160 to 320 meters), increasing gradually from southwest to northeast. 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), 68 percent; Great Miami (0508), 15 percent; Middle Ohio (0509), 14 percent; Scioto (0506), 2 percent; and Upper Illinois (0712), 1 percent. Wildcat Creek in Indiana and the Little Miami River in Ohio have been designated as National Wild and Scenic Rivers. Sugar Creek and Walnut Creek occur in the part of the area in northern Indiana, and the Whitewater River is in the part in southeastern Indiana. The Sevenmile, Fourmile, and Great Miami Rivers cross the part of the area in Ohio.

Most of the eastern part of this MLRA is underlain by Late Ordovician shale and limestone. The western part is underlain by shale, siltstone, sandstone, limestone, and dolostone ranging in age from Middle Pennsylvanian to Silurian. Surficial materials include glacial deposits of till, outwash, and lacustrine sediments from Wisconsin and

older glacial periods. A thin or moderately thick mantle of loess overlies much of the area.

Classification relationships

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

USFS Ecological Regions (USDA, 2007):

Sections –Central Till Plains, Beech Maple (222H), Interior Low Plateau-Shawnee Hills (223D), Interior Low Plateau-Bluegrass (223F), Central Till Plains-Oak Hickory (223G), Central Till Plains and Grand Prairies (251D)

Subsections -Bluffton Till Plains (222Ha), Miami-Scioto Plain-Tipton Till Plain (222Hb), Little Miami Old Drift Plain (222Hc), Mad River Interlobate Plains (222Hd), Crawford Uplands (223De), Crawford Escarpment (223Df), Northern Bluegrass (223Fd), Lower Wabash Alluvial Plain (223Gc), Southwest Indiana Glaciated Lowlands (223Ge), Eastern Grand Prairie (253Dd).

NatureServe Systems anticipated (NatureServe, 2011): Agriculture - Cultivated Crops and Irrigated Agriculture, Agriculture - Pasture/Hay, Allegheny-Cumberland Dry Oak Forest and 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 Dry Oak Forest and Woodland, North-Central Interior Floodplain, North-Central Interior Freshwater Marsh, North-Central Interior Maple-Basswood Forest, North-Central Interior Oak Savanna, North-Central Interior Wet Flatwoods, North-Central Interior Wet Meadow-Shrub Swamp, North-Central Oak Barrens, Northern Atlantic Coastal Plain Hardwood 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, Successional Shrub/Scrub

LANDFIRE Biophysical Settings anticipated (USGS, 2010): Allegheny-Cumberland Dry Oak Forest and Woodland, Bluegrass Savanna and Woodland, 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, Mississippi River Alluvial Plain Dry-Mesic Loess Slope Forest, 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 Maple-Basswood Forest, North-Central Interior Oak Savanna, North-Central Interior Wet Flatwoods, Paleozoic Plateau Bluff and Talus, Pennyroyal Karst Plain Prairie and Barrens, 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 generally formed on residuum weathered from limestone and shale. The depth to the restrictive layer is between 20 and 40 inches. Drainage is moderately well to well drained with slopes generally from 2-60%. This woodland site was, historically, a mixed hardwood site with oaks being the dominant canopy species. The combination of moderately deep soils and slope restricted the impact of fire to portions of the site. This allows the site have a high amount of fire sensitive, shade tolerant species such as sugar maple being co-dominant with the oak species. Overall, the largest driver of species dynamics is that of gap-phase regeneration that contributes to the maintenance of the site as a mixed hardwoods. Currently, the areas with less slope have been converted for agricultural use, mostly hay and pasture, but some are used for small grains as well.

Associated sites

F111XD022IN	Shallow Restricted Located on similar and adjacent landscape positions; restrictive layer depth is less than 20 inches.
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F111XD024IN	Deep Restricted Located on similar and adjacent landscape positions; restrictive layer depth is greater than 40 inches.
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Table 1. Dominant plant species

Tree	(1) <i>Quercus</i> (2) <i>Acer saccharum</i>
Shrub	Not specified
Herbaceous	Not specified

Physiographic features

This ecosite is found in karst in MLRA 111D: Indiana and Ohio Till Plain, WesternPart. Soils are moderately deep (20-40 inches) from lithic contact.

Table 2. Representative physiographic features

Landforms	(1) Scarp (2) Hill (3) Valley side
Flooding frequency	None
Ponding frequency	None
Elevation	129–427 m
Slope	2–60%
Ponding depth	0 cm
Water table depth	15–76 cm
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 54 degrees F (10 to 12 degrees C). The freeze-free period averages about 200 days and ranges from 180 to 215 days.

Table 3. Representative climatic features

Frost-free period (characteristic range)	134-150 days
Freeze-free period (characteristic range)	175-184 days
Precipitation total (characteristic range)	1,016-1,092 mm
Frost-free period (actual range)	132-158 days
Freeze-free period (actual range)	171-189 days
Precipitation total (actual range)	991-1,168 mm
Frost-free period (average)	142 days
Freeze-free period (average)	179 days
Precipitation total (average)	1,067 mm

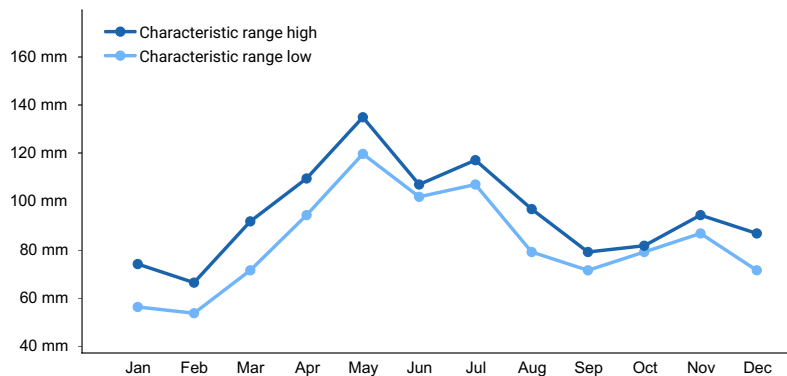


Figure 1. Monthly precipitation range

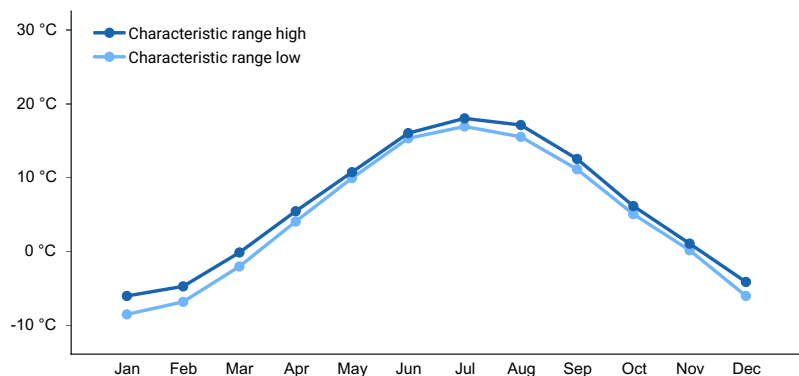


Figure 2. Monthly minimum temperature range

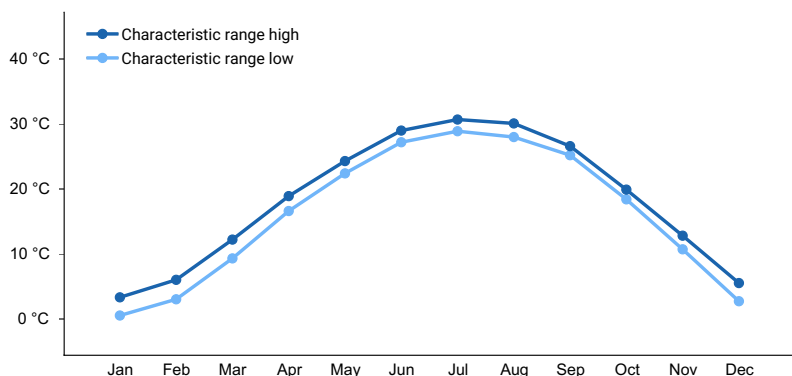


Figure 3. Monthly maximum temperature range

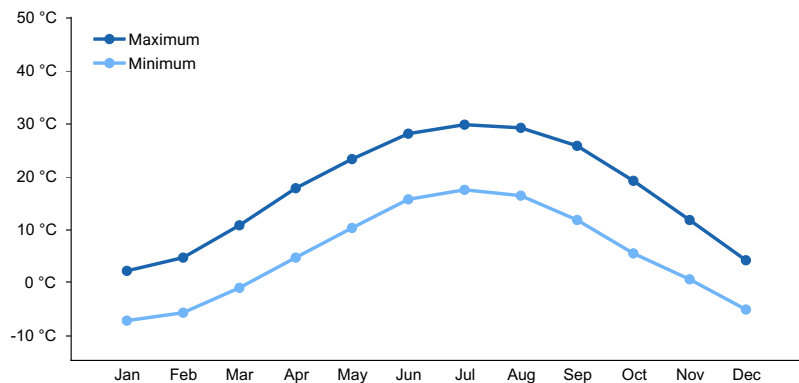


Figure 4. Monthly average minimum and maximum temperature

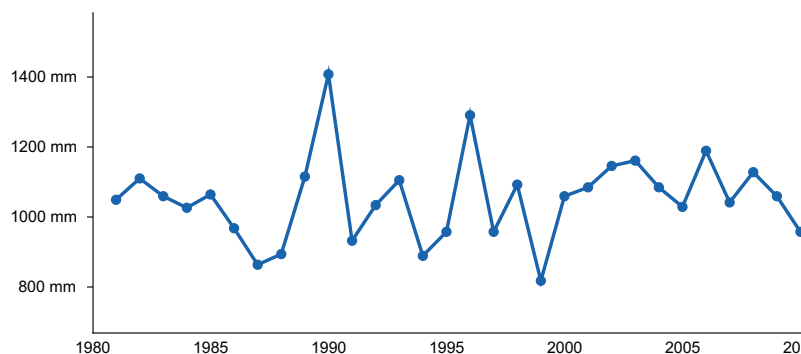


Figure 5. Annual precipitation pattern

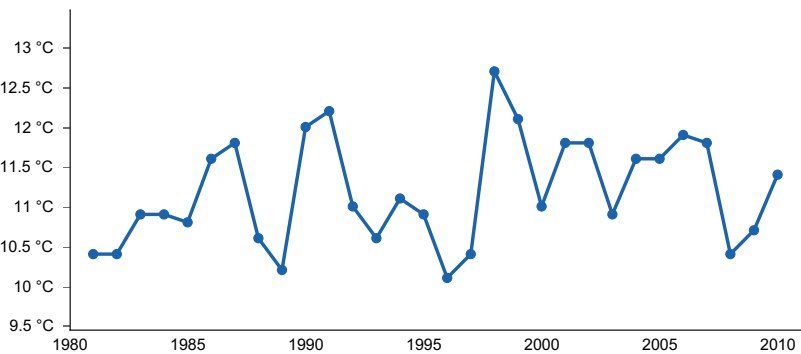


Figure 6. Annual average temperature pattern

Climate stations used

- (1) ATTICA 2E [USC00120331], Attica, IN
- (2) FRANKLIN [USC00332928], Franklin, OH
- (3) ROCKVILLE [USC00127522], Rockville, IN
- (4) FAIRFIELD [USC00332651], Hamilton, OH
- (5) TERRE HAUTE INDIANA ST [USC00128723], Terre Haute, IN
- (6) BOSWELL 4WNW [USC00120858], Fowler, IN
- (7) WABASH [USC00129138], Wabash, IN
- (8) HAMILTON BUTLER CO RGNL AP [USW00053855], Fairfield, OH
- (9) WILMINGTON 3 N [USC00339219], Wilmington, 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: Newglarus, Lumberton, Judyville, Gosport, Fairmount, Eden, Cates, Bratton, Berks, Adeland. They are shallow to deep, somewhat poorly drained to well drained, and impermeable to moderately rapid permeable soils, with extremely acidic to moderately alkaline soil reaction, that formed in Residuum from Calcareous shale, Limestone, Limestone and shale, Sandstone, Sandstone and shale, Shale, Shale and siltstone, Siltstone.

Table 4. Representative soil features

Parent material	(1) Residuum–calcareous shale
Surface texture	(1) Channery clay loam (2) Flaggy silty clay loam (3) Silt loam

Family particle size	(1) Loamy
Drainage class	Somewhat poorly drained to well drained
Permeability class	Moderately rapid
Soil depth	51–102 cm
Surface fragment cover <=3"	0–25%
Surface fragment cover >3"	0–25%
Available water capacity (0-101.6cm)	5.33–15.49 cm
Calcium carbonate equivalent (0-101.6cm)	0–5%
Electrical conductivity (0-101.6cm)	0 mmhos/cm
Sodium adsorption ratio (0-101.6cm)	0
Soil reaction (1:1 water) (0-101.6cm)	5–7.6
Subsurface fragment volume <=3" (Depth not specified)	0–21%
Subsurface fragment volume >3" (Depth not specified)	0–24%

Ecological dynamics

The historic plant community of this ecological site is a mixed forest. The dominant species in the canopy are a variety of oak species and sugar maple principally, with beech, hickories, basswood, and tulip-tree being present as well. This site is naturally dominated by stable, uneven-aged forests with the canopy dynamics being driven by gap-phase regeneration. The portions of this site that have been converted to agriculture are mostly used for hay and pasture, though some areas are used for small grains.

State and transition model

Moderately Deep Restricted, F111DY023IN

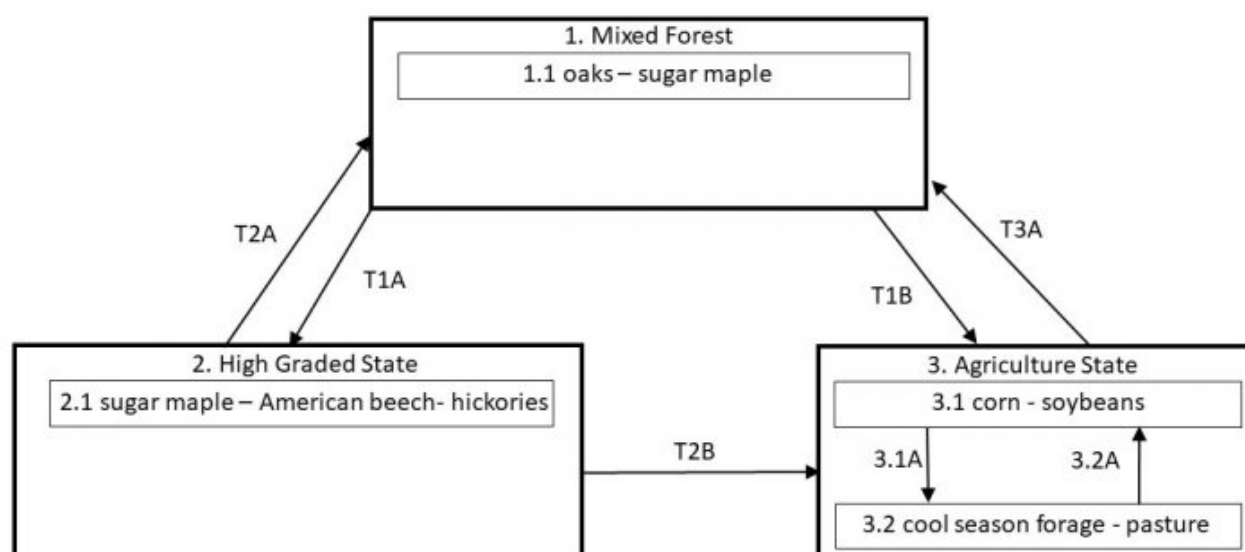


Figure 7. Moderately Deep Restricted

Moderately Deep Restricted, F111DY023IN	
Diagram Legend	
T1A	Selective tree harvest
T1B	Remove woody species, planting, agricultural management
T2A	Plant desired species, low intensity fire
T2B	Remove woody species, planting, agricultural management
T3A	Plant desired species, low intensity fire
3.1A	Pasture/forage planting and maintenance
3.2A	Tillage/no-till planting and management of row crops.

Figure 8. Legend

State 1 Mixed Forest

This is the diagnostic plant community for this site. Oak species and sugar maple are the dominant canopy tree species. This site is naturally dominated by stable, uneven-aged forests with the canopy dynamics being driven by gap-phase regeneration. This lends towards the canopy containing a diverse number of species.

Community 1.1 oaks/sugar maple

This phase is characterized by tree dominance, particularly oaks and sugar maple. Additional canopy species include beech, hickories, basswood, and tulip-tree.

State 2 High Graded State

This phase is characterized by the removal of the more marketable tree species, primarily oaks and black walnut, and occasionally tulip-tree. The resulting tree species, tulip-tree, hickory species, and ash become the dominant species in the canopy.

Community 2.1 sugar maple/beech/hickory

This phase is characterized by the removal of the oaks and black walnut. The sugar maple/beech/hickory trees dominate the canopy.

State 3 Agriculture State

This state is characterized by the conversion of the site to agricultural use. Most common practice is a corn and soybean rotation of various types. A small portion of the historic acres are used for forage and pasture.

Community 3.1

corn/soybeans

This phase is characterized by row crop agriculture of small grains, primarily corn and soybeans.

Community 3.2

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.

Pathway CP 3.1

Community 3.1 to 3.2

Planting of cool season pasture/forage species and management to maintain them.

Pathway P3.2

Community 3.2 to 3.1

Planting of row crops

Transition T 1-2

State 1 to 2

Removal of highly marketable tree species, primarily oaks and black walnut will move the site towards State 2.

Transition T 1-3

State 1 to 3

Removal off trees and other wood species. Install drainage system (if warranted), prepare the site for planting the agricultural crop, and regular agricultural practices.

Restoration pathway R 2-1

State 2 to 1

Timber stand improvement practices and planting (if warranted) of desired species.

Transition T 2-3

State 2 to 3

Removal off trees and other wood species. Install drainage system (if warranted), prepare the site for planting the agricultural crop, and regular agricultural practices.

Restoration pathway R 3-1

State 3 to 1

Removal of drainage system (if warranted), site preparation, and tree planting.

Additional community tables

Inventory data references

Site concept developed through expert opinion, review of the literature, and field work.

Other references

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Contributors

Tyler Staggs

Approval

Chris Tecklenburg, 5/28/2020

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	05/16/2024
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:**
