Ecological site R151XY011LA
Saline Sandy Ridge 55-64 PZ

Last updated: 3/24/2025
Accessed: 05/21/2025

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	10/11/2010
Approved by	Matthew Duvall
Approval date	
Composition (Indicators 10 and 12) based on	Annual Production

Indicators

1. **Number and extent of rills:** N/A

2. **Presence of water flow patterns:** Numerous as a result of tidal surge and overwash from the gulf

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

4. **Bare ground from Ecological Site Description or other studies (rock, litter, lichen, moss, plant canopy are not bare ground):** Expect less than 50% bare ground

5. **Number of gullies and erosion associated with gullies:** N/A

6. **Extent of wind scoured, blowouts and/or depositional areas:** Extensive shifting dune activity, occasional scoured areas caused by wind energy from the gulf. Frequent deposition from overwash.

7. **Amount of litter movement (describe size and distance expected to travel):** Significant amounts of litter and debris are deposited, moved from place to place, and removed frequently.

8. **Soil surface (top few mm) resistance to erosion (stability values are averages - most sites will show a range of values):** Unstable soil conditions. Soil surface is highly susceptible to sheet erosion and wind erosion from frequent and severe storms.

9. **Soil surface structure and SOM content (include type of structure and A-horizon color and thickness):** Soil surface texture is sand to loamy fine sand throughout the profile. Numerous shell fragments occur throughout.

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

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

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: Dominant: Warm-season grasses >Sol-forming grasses>>Shrubs>/firbs

Sub-dominant:

Other:

Additional:

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13. **Amount of plant mortality and decadence (include which functional groups are expected to show mortality or decadence):** Perennial grasses will naturally exhibit a minor amount (less than 5%) of senescence and some mortality every year.

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

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15. **Expected annual annual-production (this is TOTAL above-ground annual-production, not just forage annual-production):** 0 to 3000 pounds per acre

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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:** N/A

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17. **Perennial plant reproductive capability:** All perennial species should be capable of reproducing every year unless disrupted by catastrophic events occuring immediately prior to, or during the reporductive phase.