Pasture Condition Score Sheet

Farm or ranch site: Doug and Kathy Fir_____ Date_____

	Pasture Unit Description									
Indicators	**2a**	**2b**								
Percent desirable plants[1/] Percent plant cover by weight that is desirable forage: **1** <20 **2** 20-40 **3** 40-60 **4** 60-80 **5** >80	**5**	**4**								
Plant cover[1/ 2/] Percent live, leafy canopy cover of desirables and intermediates is: **1** <50 **2** 50-70 **3** 70-90 **4** 90-95 **5** 95-100 Percent live basal area cover of desirables and intermediates is: <15 15-25 25-35 35-50 >50	**4**	**5**								
Plant diversity[1/] The diversity of well-represented forage species is: **1** **2** **3** **4** **5** (Read criteria and select appropriate number)	**5**	**5**								
Plant residue[1/] Ground cover, standing dead forage, or thatch is: **1** **2** **3** **4** **5** (Read criteria and select appropriate number)	**5**	**5**								
Plant vigor (Read criteria and select appropriate number) Degree of stress of plant community is: **1** **2** **3** **4** **5** (If less than 4, see Causative factors table. Rate those factors)	**5**	**5**								
Percent legume[1/ 3/] Percentage of legume present as total air dry weight: **1** <10, or >60 bloating legume **2** 10-19, or 40-60 spreading legume **3** 20-29 **4** 30-39 **5** 40-60 no grass loss	**4**	**1**								
Uniformity of use Degree of spot grazing is: **1** >50% ungrazed **2** 25-50% ungrazed **3** 10-25% ungrazed **4** Minor species rejection **5** Urine and dung spots ungrazed	**5**	**5**								
Livestock concentration areas Presence of livestock conc. areas and proximity to surface water: **1** **2** **3** **4** **5** (Read criteria and select appropriate number)	**3**	**5**								
Soil compaction Degree of soil compaction is: **1** **2** **3** **4** **5** (Read criteria and select appropriate number)	**5**	**5**								
Erosion (Always rate sheet and rill; others only if present) Sheet and rill, and gully, streambank, shoreline, or wind erosion is: **1** Very severe **2** Severe **3** Moderate **4** Slight **5** Not visible	**4**	**5**								
Pasture condition score	**45**	**45**								

1/ Pastureland inventory worksheet helpful.
2/ Choose one proper, practical cover type estimation procedure to rate plant cover. The two procedures are not directly comparable.
3/ For warm season grass (C4)-legume stands, use the following criteria: 5, 30-40%; 4, 20-29%; 3, 10-19%; 2, 5-9%, and 1 <4%.

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	Pasture Unit Description									
Causative Factors Affecting Plant Vigor										
Soil fertility (P & K status)* Phosphorus and potassium status of the soil are: **1 2 3 4 5** (Read criteria and select appropriate number)										
Soil fertility (N status)* Nitrogen status of the grasses is: **1 3 5** (Read criteria and select appropriate number)										
Soil pH* pH status of the soil for the upper 4-inch root zone best fits: **1** ≤ 4.5, or > 9.0; **2** 4.5-5.0, or 8.5-9.0; **3** 5.1-5.5, or 7.9-8.4; **4** 5.6-6.0, or 7.4-7.8; **5** 6.0-7.3										
Severity of use Degree of forage removal is: **1 2 3 4 5** (Read criteria and select appropriate number)										
Site adaptation of desired species Presence of planted or desired forage species is: **1 2 3 4 5** (Read criteria and select appropriate number)										
Climatic stresses Degree of plant stress due to recent weather events is: **1 2 3 4 5** (Read criteria and select appropriate number)										
Insects and disease pressure Degree of plant stress due to insect or disease pressure is: **1 2 3 4 5** (Read criteria and select appropriate number)										

* Rate electrical conductivity and sodium adsorption ratios in regions where appropriate. Where excess salts, exchangeable sodium, or exchangeable aluminum hinder plant growth they are the controlling factor rather than soil pH conditions. Use appropriate criteria for them as found in the National Range and Pasture Handbook under Evaluating and rating pastures, Pasture Condition Scoring. See pH criteria below for highly weathered soils.

Soil pH Criteria for Major Landuse Resource Areas with Oxisols and Ultisols

pH status of the soil for the upper 4" rooting zone best fits:

1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
≤ 4.0, or > 9.0	4.0-4.5, or 7.0-9.0	4.5-5.0 or 6.5-7.0	5.1-5.5 or 6.2-6.5	5.6-6.2

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