

2008 Interior West Forest Inventory & Analysis Field Procedure changes from 2007

- Every Page: Changed the header to Version 3.02, March, 2008
- Page 33/34: 0.1.5.3**RM** Plot Center Incorrectly Placed or Not Found
Deleted the last bullet statement on page 33 and first 2 bullet statements on page 34 These statements are in reference to re-establishing a previously installed plot if it is more than 500' off from the theoretical GPS coordinates **or** if the PC is not in the same condition as where the theoretical coordinates would put it **or** if the previously established PC is not located in the correct ownership.

Re-establish a plot only if it cannot be found or is greater than 1,000 meters from the theoretical coordinates. If more than 1000 meters off, contact the local QC or AL.

- Page 48: Spelling mistake fixed in table under Plot Type
- Page 61: 1.9.1**RM** REGIONAL FIELD GUIDE VERSION
Changed "Values" from 3.00 to 3.01
- Page 74: Definition of Forest Land # 1 (a) – added at the end after "or" **40 established seedlings per acre.**
- Page 108: 2.5.10.5**RM** LIVE PLUS MISSING CROWN COVER
Added "live and dead" wording to the statement – Include *live and dead* tally trees, saplings, and seedlings (see Appendix 3)
When collected now reads: All accessible forest and nonforest land condition classes (CONDITION CLASS STATUS 1 and 2)
Changed the codes where:
00 is None
01 is 1% crown cover

10 is 10% crown cover
- Page 108: 2.5.10.6**RM** TOTAL SEEDLINGS – changed wording of definition:
Record the estimated number of live seedlings per acre of the condition. Base the estimate on actual counts or field observations. When actual counts are impractical, seedling numbers can be estimated by expanding the microplot tally. If all 4 microplots are in the same condition, multiply each seedling tallied by 75; 3 microplots in the same condition, multiply each seedling tallied by 100; 2 microplots in the same condition, multiply each seedling tallied by 150; 1 microplot in the condition, multiply each seedling tallied by 300. If microplot seedling tally does not accurately represent what is present on the condition, adjust the estimate.

When collected now reads: All accessible forest and nonforest land condition classes (CONDITION CLASS STATUS = 1 AND 2)
Field width: 5 digits
Values: 00000 - 99999
- Page 109: 2.5.10.7**RM** LAND USE - Added Definition of variable:
For each condition, record the current land use.

When collected: All accessible forest land and nonforest condition classes (CONDITION CLASS_STATUS = 1 and 2)
Field width: 3 digits
Tolerance: no errors
MQO: At least 90% of the time
Values: 001 - 003

Code Definition

001 Condition is not subject to a nonforest land use that prevents normal regeneration and succession such as regular mowing, intensive grazing, or recreation activities.

002 Condition is subject to a nonforest land use that prevents normal

regeneration and succession such as regular mowing, intensive grazing, or recreation activities.

003 Condition has been chained in the past.

- Page 109: 2.5.10.8**RM** TREE FORM - Added Definition of variable:
For each condition, describe the: 1) site potential (See codes for 1st digit),
and the 2) tree height potential (See codes for last 2 digits).

When collected: All accessible forest land and nonforest condition classes (CONDITION CLASS STATUS = 1 and 2)

Field width: 3 digits

Tolerance (1st digit): correct

Tolerance (2nd digit): +/- 10 % of true height

MQO: At least 90% of the time

Values (1st digit): 0, 1

Values (last 2 digits): 00 to 99

1) Record the appropriate code for site potential (1st digit).

Site potential is mainly an expression of the combined influence of all its physical characteristics (aspect, slope, soils, elevation, moisture, environment) on vegetation. Vegetation is in a constant state of change while site is much more static. On sites where trees are present, use the following stand or tree characteristics as a **guide** to help confirm the site descriptions below, remembering that disturbance or forest succession does not change the physical site characteristics. In that case, nonforest land does not necessarily denote a low site, just as forest land does not necessarily denote a high site. On sites where no trees are present, use the physical site descriptions to determine if it is a low site.

Codes Definition

- | | |
|---|---|
| 0 | Condition primarily occurs on a high site and lacks low site characteristics. By definition, all sites that are not low are considered high sites. (See characteristics of low sites below) |
| 1 | Condition primarily occurs on a low site. (See characteristics of low sites below) |

Characteristics of low sites:

If trees are present then (Use all species of tall trees regardless of forest type):

- Stocking or crown cover is usually low
- Stand is composed of only dominants or codominants. Intermediate size classes are not present
- Stand is composed of overmature or decadent trees. **Young** (seedlings, saplings, and trees) are not present or are in very small numbers
- No seed trees are present
- Trees are stunted

Site usually occurs on one of the following

1. Steep, rocky terrain characterized by the presence of cliffs, ledges, rock columns, and large boulders. Any trees present usually must gain a foothold and grow on what little soil accumulates in cracks or on flat areas
2. High, narrow ridge tops subject to constant high winds (Krummholz). Generally, these areas support stunted, gnarled trees, usually of large girth but of short height. Age normally is quite high and growth has slowed to a negligible progression
3. Narrow to moderately wide chutes subject to frequent snow or land slides. The site may be capable of supporting, or may be supporting trees but the periodic snow or land slides prohibit trees from growing to maturity by breaking their main stems, damaging lower trunks by dashing rocks and logs against them, burying smaller trees under debris, and uprooting larger trees
4. Areas of steep to flat topography covered by shale, or fist-sized to larger rocks. Trees may be present—having become established in cracks between rocks or during a period when more soil existed before the rocks slid down to cover the site
5. Very dry sites that are flat or often southern to western exposures. Trees present are stunted with dead tops or many dead stems

2) Record the appropriate code for tree height potential (last 2 digits).

Record the height of the tallest tree (live or dead) on the condition sample acre. Similar to site tree selection, consider only trees that are representative of the condition's site. For example, if a dry site condition contains a

wet site inclusion (spring) with much larger trees, do not consider trees of an inclusion or microsite that are not representative of the condition sample acre.

Consider only species of the **Field-recorded** forest type. For example, if a condition that is a Mountain Mahogany forest type contains limber pine, do not consider limber pine; or a pinyon-juniper forest type that contains ponderosa pine, only consider pinyon or juniper.

For nonstocked conditions, record the estimated tree height potential of the tallest tree for the site. Consider only species of the field recorded forest type. Base your estimate on past evidence (dead trees, stumps, etc.), or a similar nearby site.

Record 99 for any trees greater than 99. Record 00 if no trees occur on the condition sample acre, and it is not nonstocked.

- Page 165: Added **RM** note to DIAMETER CHECK:
 - When the diameter of a timber species is taken accurately but not measured at 4.5 ft due to an abnormality, branches, scars, etc., use code "0" and record the height to diameter distance in the tree notes.
- Pages 231/232: Added Senecio spp. (SENEC) to the list of plants that can be coded at the genus level. SENEK can either be a forb or shrub
- Page 251: Deleted the first 2 bullet statements under ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES
- Page 267: Deleted "Pilot" out of the DWM section title.
- Page 316: Added an "*" to species BEOC2 (water birch) making this a tally species in the Rocky Mountain Region.
- Page 317: Added an "*" to species 0461 CELA (sugarberry) making this a tally species in the Rocky Mountain Region.
- Page 330: Added more "**RM**" definition to Census Water.
- Page 362: Added the new plot filtering condition variables to the Condition Class Description Record