

Nonforest Sampling in MIDAS

On Region 1 NFS lands, RMRS FIA crews sample Nonforest conditions by collecting all data types that are collected on Forest lands. This has been referred to as **ACI – All Condition Inventory**. On these plots, the Plot screen in MIDAS has an attribute called **NSamp** on the screen (**NonforestSampled_RMRS**). This attribute is pre-loaded with code 1, which means **Yes-Collecting data on nonforest conditions**.

If there are any Nonforest conditions on these plots (Condition Status 2), the Condition screen will have an attribute called **NCnSt** on the screen (**NonforestConditionStatus_RMRS**). If the Nonforest condition is accessible enough for sampling, this is coded as **2 - Accessible Nonforest Land**. If the Nonforest condition cannot be accessed for sampling (cliffs or steep talus slopes, for example), then this would be coded with **5 - Non Sampled nonforest** and the **NonforestNonSampledReason_RMRS (NNSRe)** attribute would be coded with **03 – Hazardous**.

On the Subplot screen there are several extra attributes that are for Nonforest Sampling, such as the **Present Nonforest Land Use (NfLU)**, **Range Type (RngTy)**, a **Habitat Type (PbHbT)** that includes many Nonforest habitat types such as sagebrush and grass, and 15 Ground Cover Transect attributes. These Nonforest Sampling attributes will “turn on” on the Subplot screen **whenever an Accessible Nonforest condition occupies the Subplot Center**, whether the Subplot Status is 1 or 2.

Nonforest Sampling with MIDAS differs slightly from the ACI data collection process using the old TALLY program for RMRS in one respect. On any subplot that is occupied by both Forest and Accessible Nonforest conditions, trees, saplings, and seedlings may be tallied in the Nonforest condition even if it occupies a minor portion of the subplot/microplot.