

DESCRIBING INDICATORS OF RANGELAND HEALTH: Functional/Structural (FS) Groups Worksheet

Site/Plot ID:

Date:

Observer(s):

Abbreviated instructions (numbers correspond to fields in the table):

For additional information on functional/structural groups and relative dominance, refer to TR 1734-6.

1. Observe and list the plant FS groups present in the evaluation area.
2. Record the species within each FS group present in the evaluation area. List unknown species by genus (if known) or tally within the group they appear to belong to.
3. For each FS group, indicate the relative dominance category¹ in the evaluation area and indicate whether dominance is based on cover or production.
4. Record foliar cover for each FS group if measured.
5. Record annual production values by FS group if estimated. Indicate whether estimates are in pounds (lb) or kilograms (kg).
6. Determine biological soil crust dominance based on cover, rather than production. List life forms (e.g. lichen, moss), rather than the number of individual species.

1) F/S Group	2) Species List	3) Relative Dominance ¹		4) Foliar Cover (%)	5) Production <input type="checkbox"/> lb/ac <input type="checkbox"/> kg/ha
		Based on: <input type="checkbox"/> Cover <input type="checkbox"/> Production			
		<input type="checkbox"/> Dominant	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Subdominant	<input type="checkbox"/> Trace		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Dominant	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Subdominant	<input type="checkbox"/> Trace		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Dominant	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Subdominant	<input type="checkbox"/> Trace		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Dominant	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Subdominant	<input type="checkbox"/> Trace		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Dominant	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Subdominant	<input type="checkbox"/> Trace		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Dominant	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Subdominant	<input type="checkbox"/> Trace		
6) Visible biological soil crusts <i>(relative dominance by cover)</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> Dominant	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor		Not applicable
		<input type="checkbox"/> Subdominant	<input type="checkbox"/> Trace		

Dominant: Functional/structural groups with the greatest size per unit area in the plant community.

Subdominant: Functional/structural groups within a plant community with less size per unit area than dominant plants and generally greater than 10% of the community composition.

Minor: Functional/structural groups within a plant community with less size per unit area than subdominant plants and generally greater than 1% and less than 10% of the community composition.

Trace: Functional/structural groups that represent rare contributions to the measurable plant community composition (e.g., less than 1% of the composition).