

BLM
FOREST ECOSYSTEM
INVENTORY

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Adapted from

FOREST DATA COLLECTION
AND SURVEY HANDBOOK

and

PACIFIC YEW INVENTORY
FIELD INSTRUCTIONS
FOR WESTERN OREGON

USDI

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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VEGETATION DETAIL SCREEN

Information recorded on this screen is used to describe the ground cover and physiographic class of the plot.

ITEM NO. 36 **Plot Number**

Record up to a 3-digit plot number for all measure and count plots. The default value is the overstory plot number (Item No. 19).

ITEM NO. 37 **Plot Size**

Record the size of the vegetation plot in feet. The default value is the primary fixed plot size (Item No. 13).

ITEM NO. 38 **Stand or Strata**

Record the stand or strata number (1, 2, or 3) in which the plot occurs.

ITEM NO. 39 **Layer**

Record each species of vegetation present in each structural layer of the ground cover. Structural layers are defined and coded as follows:

| Code | Description |
|------|--|
| 1 | < 6 inches |
| 2 | 6 inches to 1-1/2 feet |
| 3 | 1-1/2 to 3 feet |
| 4 | 3 to 6 feet |
| 5 | above 6 feet but below the tree canopy |

ITEM NO. 40 **Vegetation Species**

Each district will determine the level of detail required for understory vegetation identification. Identified understory species data needs should meet specific requirements identified in the RMP and other documents. Include such species as those listed as Special Forest Products, Special Status Species, habitat and community indicator species, noxious weeds, and those which are found in the USDA Forest Service publications listed below.

Use the species codes in the USDA Soil Conservation Service's (SCS) National List of Scientific Plant Names, 1992.

To help with field identification, use the following publications:

1. Major Indicator Shrubs and Herbs on National Forests of Western Oregon and Southwestern Washington (R6-TM-TP-009-89).

2. Key Species for Plant Association on the Rogue River, Siskiyou and Umpqua National Forests (R6-TM-TP-009-89).

3. Major Indicator Shrubs and Herbs on National Forests of Eastern Oregon (R6-TM-190-1985).

4. Sensitive Plants of the Malheur, Ochoco, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests (R6-WAM-TP-040-92).

5. Principal Indicator Species of Forested Plant Associations on National Forests of Northeastern Oregon and Southeastern Washington (USDA-Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region, 1988).

6. Indicator Species of Forested Plant Associations on National Forests of Northwestern Washington (R6-MBS-TP-041-1992).

7. Major Indicator Shrubs and Herbs on National Forests of Eastern Washington (R6-TM-TP-304-87).

Enter the SCS alpha character code for each species. Do not record tree species listed in Item No. 20.

Sample codes:

| Code | Vegetation Species |
|-------|--------------------------|
| RUBUS | Blackberry |
| PTAQ | Bracken fern |
| RHAMN | Cascara |
| CEANO | Ceanothus |
| CORNU | Creek or redstem dogwood |
| SAMBU | Elderberry |
| GRAMA | Grass (all species) |
| CORYL | Hazel |
| VACCI | Huckleberry |
| ARCTO | Manzanita |
| HOLOD | Ocean spray |
| BERBE | Oregon grape |
| TODI | Poison oak |
| RHMA | Rhododendron |
| GASH | Salal |
| RUSP | Salmonberry |
| CYSC | Scotch broom |
| POMU | Sword fern |
| RUPA | Thimbleberry |
| ACCI | Vine maple |

ITEM NO. 41
Average Height

Record the average height in feet, of the vegetation by species. Record species less than 1 foot as 1.

ITEM NO. 42
Cover Percent

Record as a 1-digit code the percent of vegetation cover by species.

| Percent | Code |
|---------|------|
| 0-10 | 1 |
| 11-20 | 2 |
| 21-30 | 3 |
| 31-40 | 4 |
| 41-50 | 5 |
| 51-60 | 6 |
| 61-70 | 7 |
| 71-80 | 8 |
| 81+ | 9 |

The procedure for determining percent cover is as follows:

1. Start at center.
2. Visually divide the plot into 4 quadrants.
3. Each quadrant represents 25%. Visually estimate the percent of the quadrant that is covered by a given competing species. Cover is the crown width projected vertically to the ground. If the species enters the plot cylinder by overhanging, it is also counted.
4. Complete this procedure for each quadrant.
5. Add the 4 quadrants to determine total cover by species and divide by 4.
6. Round to the nearest 10% and enter the corresponding 1-digit code.

Example:

| | Salal | Hazel |
|-----------|----------------------|--------|
| Quad 1 | 10% | 10% |
| Quad 2 | 50% | 40% |
| Quad 3 | 70% | 20% |
| Quad 4 | 60% | 10% |
| Total ÷ 4 | 47% (round to 50) | 20% |
| | code 5 | code 2 |

ITEM NO. 43
Special Forest Products
Quality

The following species are commonly sold as special forest products:

| Common Special Forest Products |
|--------------------------------|
| Sword fern |
| Salal |
| Oregon grape |
| Evergreen huckleberry |
| Beargrass |
| Princess pine |
| Moss |
| Cascara (bark) |
| Mushrooms: |
| Morel |
| King botetus |
| Chanterelle |

Quality is a subjective measure of the value of a product on the open market. Products that are small, shriveled, discolored, or lack sufficient numbers may not be as desirable and, therefore, would bring the seller a lesser price.

For the above species, record quality as a 1-digit code:

- Code
- 1 Excellent
 - 2 Good
 - 3 Poor

ITEM NO. 44
Physiographic Class

Physiographic class is used to describe the topographic features that most affect the management of the area the plot is on. Record as a 3-digit code on all plots. The first digit is for aspect, second for slope, and the third digit for topographic position, as follows:

Physiographic Class Codes

| Code | Aspect | Code | Percent | Code | Topographic Position |
|------|--------|------|---------|------|--|
| 0 | Level | 1 | 1-10 | 0 | Headwall |
| 1 | N | 2 | 11-20 | 1 | Flat or rounded ridge |
| 2 | NE | 3 | 21-30 | | ridgetop or mountain peak (2 or more chains wide) |
| 3 | E | 4 | 31-40 | 2 | Narrow ridgetop or peak (less than 2 chains wide) |
| 4 | SE | 5 | 41-50 | 3 | Sidehill-upper one-third |
| 5 | S | 6 | 51-60 | 4 | Sidehill-middle one-third |
| 6 | SW | 7 | 61-70 | 5 | Sidehill-lower one-third |
| 7 | W | 8 | 71-80 | 6 | Canyon bottom (less than 10 chains wide) |
| 8 | NW | 9 | 81-90 | 7 | Bench or terrace |
| | | 9 | 91+ | 8 | Riparian zone |
| | | | | 9 | Swamp or wet flat |