

Glossary for Range type descriptions

Altered state	An altered state occurs when disturbance causes a site to develop a plant community that cannot succeed back to a previous plant community without unnaturally large inputs. This has been described as a site passing through a one way threshold. Very few altered states have been observed on B.C. ranges
Carrying Capacity (CC)	<p>Measured in ha/AUM. The amount of land needed to supply forage for a 450kg cow with calf for a month using an ingestion rate of 15kg/day. This is calculated by:</p> $CC = \frac{450 \text{ kg/AUM}}{\text{Available forage in kg/ha}}$ <p>Where available forage is amount of forage that is available after yield is adjusted for limiting factors and safe use.</p> <p>An alternative calculation is</p> $CC = \frac{\text{Area in ha}}{\text{Available forage in AUMs}}$ <p>Where Area is the amount of land in some land classification such as a pasture or tenure, and Available forage is as above, but for the area</p>
Desired plant community DPC	The plant community that has been chosen as the target to be maintained by resource management. For range management, late seral is often chosen as the DPC
Early-seral	A plant community that develops from disturbance that is less than 25% similar to the potential natural community
Current Plant Community EPC	The plant community that is present on a site. The CPC is a product of the site's PNC and its disturbance history. At earlier seral stages the makeup of the plant community can also be influenced by chance occurrence of seed availability.
Greatly altered	A plant community that develops from disturbance to an plant community that is less than 25% similar to the unaltered plant community
Late-seral	A plant community that develops from disturbance that is 50-75% similar to the potential natural community
Mid-seral	A plant community that develops from disturbance that is 25-50% similar to the potential natural community
Moderately altered	A plant community that develops from disturbance to an artificial plant community that is 25 - 50% similar to the unaltered plant community
Potential natural community (PNC)	The plant community that develops on a site by allowing succession to be completed without further human interference. Natural disturbances are inherent in the development of a PNC, and acclimatized or naturalized non-native plant species are included.
Properly Functioning Condition (PFC)	<p>An ecosystem is functioning properly when biotic, edaphic and hydrologic attributes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> dissipate stream and raindrop energy, protect the soil from erosion, filter sediment, capture bed load, aid floodplain development; improve water infiltration and retention; and,

	<p>provide diverse habitats and support greater biodiversity</p> <p>The assessment procedure returns a score between 0 and 100%.</p> <p>100- 80% PFC</p> <p>61-79% Slightly at risk</p> <p>41-60% Moderately at risk</p> <p>20- 40% Highly at risk</p> <p>< 20% Non-functional</p>						
Range readiness	A defined stage of plant growth at which grazing may begin under a specific management plan without permanent damage to vegetation or soils. SRM						
Range Type	A collection of sites that due to similar climate, soil, and geography have similar PNCs. It is synonymous with the concept of plant association as used in the biogeoclimatic ecosystem classification system. More than one site series is included in the type, because similar site series with a subzone have been amalgamated and secondly because the same plant community is repeated in different subzones which are depicted as different site series.						
Seral stages	<p>Seral stages are defined by the similarity of the current plant community to the potential natural community (PNC). Disturbances cause alterations to the PNC. Removal of the disturbance allows recovery towards the predictable PNC. A site has one PNC but can have numerous earlier seral communities. The early seral stage can vary from bare soil (no plants), to plant communities with a huge variety of combinations of plants. This classification simply states that it is no longer similar to the PNC.</p> <p>Seral stages used in these accounts are:</p> <p>PNC 75-100% similar to the Potential natural community</p> <p>Late 50-75% similar to the Potential natural community</p> <p>Mid 25-50% similar to the Potential natural community</p> <p>Early 0-25% similar to the Potential natural community</p>						
slightly altered	A plant community that develops from disturbance to an artificial plant community that is 50-75% similar to the unaltered plant community						
Solonetzic soils	Soils of the Solonetzic order have B horizons that are very hard when dry and swell to a sticky mass of very low permeability when wet. Typically the solonetzic B horizon has prismatic or columnar macrostructure that breaks to hard to extremely hard (when dry) blocky peds with dark coatings. They occur on saline parent materials in some areas of the semiarid to sub humid Interior Plains in association with Chernozemic soils and to a lesser extent with Luvisolic and Gleysolic soils. Most Solonetzic soils are associated with a vegetative cover of grasses and forbs. Although some occur under tree cover, it is thought that the trees did not become established until solodization was well under way						
Structure	<p>Structure is defined primarily by the canopy cover and secondarily by the distribution of various layers of vegetation:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Biocrust</td> <td>Lichens, mosses, bacteria and liverworts</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Low grasses and forbs</td> <td>Grasses with blades less than 10 cm long and forbs flowering height less than 10cm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tall grasses and forbs</td> <td>Grasses with leaf length >10 cm and forbs flowering height >10cm</td> </tr> </table>	Biocrust	Lichens, mosses, bacteria and liverworts	Low grasses and forbs	Grasses with blades less than 10 cm long and forbs flowering height less than 10cm	Tall grasses and forbs	Grasses with leaf length >10 cm and forbs flowering height >10cm
Biocrust	Lichens, mosses, bacteria and liverworts						
Low grasses and forbs	Grasses with blades less than 10 cm long and forbs flowering height less than 10cm						
Tall grasses and forbs	Grasses with leaf length >10 cm and forbs flowering height >10cm						

	Small shrubs	Woody plants less than 20 cm tall
	Medium shrubs	Woody plants > 20 cm tall and <2 m tall
	Tall shrubs	Woody plants >2 m tall usually multi-stemmed and <4 m tall
	Trees	Woody plants >2 m tall single stemmed no upper height.
Stubble height	The average height of tillers after grazing. On moderately grazed sites there will be a mix of heights of grazed and ungrazed leaves. The average of all remaining tillers is used to determine stubble height. Culm height is not included	
Succession	The process of change of the floristic composition expressed as species presence and cover.	
Unaltered plant community	A plant community that has not been altered from its original form. This term is used instead of PNC for seeded pastures.	
Yield	The forage production from an average site for a range type at the given seral stage. Yield varies greatly with soil type and depth, slope, aspect and precipitation and temperature. The values given in the range type descriptions reflect production during “normal” weather on zonal sites.	
Stocking rate	The number of AUMs that can be grazed from an area to achieve the desired goals targets or objectives. When express as AUMs/ha it is the inverse of Carrying Capacity as used in these accounts. It may also be expressed as AUMs per pasture or tenure or other land classifications.	