

# CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY - VEGETATION RAPID ASSESSMENT FIELD FORM

(Revised Sept. 20, 2004)

<b>For Office Use:</b>	<b>Final database #:</b>	<b>Final vegetation type name:</b>	<b>Alliance Association</b>
<b>I. LOCATIONAL/ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION</b>			
<b>Polygon/Stand #:</b>	<b>Air photo #:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Name(s) of surveyors:</b>
<b>GPS waypoint #:</b> _____ <b>GPS name:</b> _____ <b>GPS datum: (NAD 27)</b> _____ <b>Is GPS within stand? Yes / No</b> <b>If No, cite from GPS point to stand, the distance</b> _____ <b>(in meters) and bearing</b> _____ <b>(in degrees) GPS Error: ±</b> _____ <b>ft / m</b> <b>UTM field reading: UTME</b> _____ <b>UTMN</b> _____ <b>UTM zone:</b> _____			
<b>Elevation:</b> _____ <b>ft / m</b> <b>Photograph #'s:</b> _____ <b>Topography:</b> convex _____ flat _____ concave _____ undulating _____   top _____ upper _____ mid _____ lower _____ bottom _____ <b>Geology:</b> _____ <b>Soil Texture:</b> _____ <b>Rock: %Large</b> _____ <b>%Small</b> _____ <b>%Bare/Fine:</b> _____ <b>%Litter:</b> _____ <b>%BA Stems:</b> _____ <b>Slope exposure</b> (circle one and/or enter actual °): <b>NE</b> _____ <b>NW</b> _____ <b>SE</b> _____ <b>SW</b> _____ <b>Flat</b> _____ <b>Variable</b> _____ <b>Slope steepness</b> (circle one and enter actual °): <b>0°</b> _____ <b>1-5°</b> _____ <b>5-25°</b> _____ <b>&gt; 25°</b> _____ <b>Upland</b> or <b>Wetland/Riparian</b> (circle one)			
<b>Site history, stand age, and comments:</b> _____			
<b>Type/ Level of disturbance</b> (use codes): _____/_____/_____/_____/_____/_____/_____/_____/_____/_____/_____			
<b>II. VEGETATION DESCRIPTION</b>			
<b>Field-assessed vegetation alliance name:</b> _____ <b>Field-assessed association name</b> (optional): _____ <b>Size of stand:</b> <1 acre _____ 1-5 acres _____ >5 acres _____ <b>Adjacent alliances:</b> _____			
<b>Tree:</b> <u>T1</u> (<1" dbh), <u>T2</u> (1-6" dbh), <u>T3</u> (6-11" dbh), <u>T4</u> (11-24" dbh), <u>T5</u> (>24" dbh), <u>T6</u> multi-layered (T3 or T4 layer under T5, >60% cover) <b>If Tree, list 1-3 dominant overstory spp.:</b> _____ <b>Shrub:</b> <u>S1</u> seedling (<3 yr. old), <u>S2</u> young (<1% dead), <u>S3</u> mature (1-25% dead), <u>S4</u> decadent (>25% dead) <b>Herbaceous:</b> <u>H1</u> (<12" plant ht.), <u>H2</u> (>12" ht.) <b>Desert Palm/Joshua Tree:</b> <u>1</u> (<1.5" base diameter), <u>2</u> (1.5-6" diam.), <u>3</u> (>6" diam.) <b>Desert Riparian Tree/Shrub:</b> <u>1</u> (<2ft. stem ht.), <u>2</u> (2-10ft. ht.), <u>3</u> (10-20ft. ht.), <u>4</u> (>20ft. ht.) <b>% Overstory Conifer/Hardwood Tree cover:</b> _____/_____ <b>Shrub cover:</b> _____ <b>Herbaceous cover:</b> _____ <b>Total Veg cover:</b> _____ <b>Overstory Conifer/Hardwood height:</b> _____/_____ <b>Tall Shrub/Low Shrub height:</b> _____/_____ <b>Herbaceous height:</b> _____ <i>Height classes: 01=&lt;1/2m 02=1/2-1m 03=1-2m 04=2-5m 05=5-10m 06=10-15m 07=15-20m 08=20-35m 09=35-50m 10=&gt;50m</i>			
<b>Species (List up to 12 major species), Stratum, and Approximate % cover:</b> (Jepson Manual nomenclature please) <i>Stratum categories: T=tall, M=medium, L=low; % cover intervals for reference: &lt;1%, 1-5%, &gt;5-15%, &gt;15-25%, &gt;25-50%, &gt;50-75%, &gt;75%</i>			
<b>Strata</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>% cover</b>	<b>Strata Species</b>
<b>Major non-native species - With % cover:</b> _____			
<b>Unusual species:</b> _____			
<b>III. PROBLEMS WITH INTERPRETATION</b>			
<b>Confidence in identification: (L, M, H)</b> _____ <b>Explain</b> _____			
<b>Other identification problems (describe):</b> _____			
<b>Polygon is more than one type: (Yes, No)</b> _____ (Note: type with greatest coverage in polygon should be entered in above section)			
<b>Other types:</b> _____			
<b>Has the vegetation changed since air photo taken? (Yes, No)</b> _____ <b>If Yes, how? What has changed</b> (write N/A if so)? _____			

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## I. LOCATIONAL/ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Polygon/Stand #:	Air photo #:	Date:	Name(s) of surveyors:
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**GPS waypoint #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **GPS name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **GPS datum: (NAD 27)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Is GPS within stand? Yes / No**  
**If No, cite from GPS point to stand, the distance** \_\_\_\_\_ **(in meters) and bearing** \_\_\_\_\_ **(in degrees) GPS Error: ±** \_\_\_\_\_ **ft / m**  
**UTM field reading: UTME** \_\_\_\_\_ **UTMN** \_\_\_\_\_ **UTM zone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Elevation:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ft / m** **Photograph #'s:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Topography:** convex \_\_\_\_\_ flat \_\_\_\_\_ concave \_\_\_\_\_ undulating \_\_\_\_\_ | top \_\_\_\_\_ upper \_\_\_\_\_ mid \_\_\_\_\_ lower \_\_\_\_\_ bottom \_\_\_\_\_  
**Geology:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Soil Texture:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Rock: %Large** \_\_\_\_\_ **%Small** \_\_\_\_\_ **%Bare/Fine:** \_\_\_\_\_ **%Litter:** \_\_\_\_\_ **%BA Stems:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Slope exposure** (circle one and/or enter actual °): **NE** \_\_\_\_\_ **NW** \_\_\_\_\_ **SE** \_\_\_\_\_ **SW** \_\_\_\_\_ **Flat** \_\_\_\_\_ **Variable** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Slope steepness** (circle one and enter actual °): **0°** \_\_\_\_\_ **1-5°** \_\_\_\_\_ **5-25°** \_\_\_\_\_ **> 25°** \_\_\_\_\_ **Upland** or **Wetland/Riparian** (circle one)

**Site history, stand age, and comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Type/ Level of disturbance** (use codes): \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

## II. VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

**Field-assessed vegetation alliance name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Field-assessed association name (optional):** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Size of stand:** <1 acre \_\_\_\_\_ 1-5 acres \_\_\_\_\_ >5 acres \_\_\_\_\_ **Adjacent alliances:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tree:** T1 (<1" dbh), T2 (1-6" dbh), T3 (6-11" dbh), T4 (11-24" dbh), T5 (>24" dbh), T6 multi-layered (T3 or T4 layer under T5, >60% cover)  
**If Tree, list 1-3 dominant overstory spp.:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Shrub:** S1 seedling (<3 yr. old), S2 young (<1% dead), S3 mature (1-25% dead), S4 decadent (>25% dead)  
**Herbaceous:** H1 (<12" plant ht.), H2 (>12" ht.) **Desert Palm/Joshua Tree:** 1 (<1.5" base diameter), 2 (1.5-6" diam.), 3 (>6" diam.)  
**Desert Riparian Tree/Shrub:** 1 (<2ft. stem ht.), 2 (2-10ft. ht.), 3 (10-20ft. ht.), 4 (>20ft. ht.)  
**% Overstory Conifer/Hardwood Tree cover:** \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
**Shrub cover:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Herbaceous cover:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Veg cover:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Overstory Conifer/Hardwood height:** \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
**Tall Shrub/Low Shrub height:** \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
**Herbaceous height:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*Height classes: 01=<1/2m 02=1/2-1m 03=1-2m 04=2-5m 05=5-10m 06=10-15m 07=15-20m 08=20-35m 09=35-50m 10=>50m*

**Species (List up to 12 major species), Stratum, and Approximate % cover:** (Jepson Manual nomenclature please)  
*Stratum categories: T=tall, M=medium, L=low; % cover intervals for reference: <1%, 1-5%, >5-15%, >15-25%, >25-50%, >50-75%, >75%*

Strata	Species	% cover		Strata	Species	% cover

**Major non-native species - With % cover:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Unusual species:** \_\_\_\_\_

## III. PROBLEMS WITH INTERPRETATION

**Confidence in identification: (L, M, H)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Explain** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Other identification problems (describe):** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Polygon is more than one type: (Yes, No)** \_\_\_\_\_ (Note: type with greatest coverage in polygon should be entered in above section)  
**Other types:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Has the vegetation changed since air photo taken? (Yes, No)** \_\_\_\_\_ **If Yes, how? What has changed (write N/A if so)?** \_\_\_\_\_