

Contestant Name/# \_\_\_\_\_ County/Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ Site # \_\_\_\_\_

# North Dakota Range Judging Card

# Ecological Site



## North Dakota Ecological Site Key (Choose one)

**I. Restrictive to Root Growth:** These sites have a limiting layer within 20 inches of the surface of either rock, gravel, stone, or restrictive clay (hard pan), which restricts **most** root growth beyond this layer. (If no restriction, go to II).

- A. Limiting layer is rock, scoria, gravel, or stone ..... **Shallow**
- B. Limiting layer is restrictive clay ..... **Claypan**

**II. Non-Restrictive to Root Growth:** These sites do not have a restrictive layer within 20 inches of the soil surface.

**C. Lowlands** — These sites receive additional moisture from occasional stream overflow, run-in from adjacent slopes, or during major flooding events. (If no additional moisture occurs, go to D).

- 1. No water table within 5 feet from surface, typically found in swales, no salt deposits on soil surface ..... **Overflow**
- 2. Water table within 5 feet from surface
  - a. This site has a water table within 2 to 3 feet, root zone wet, and no salts evident on the soil surface ..... **Wet Meadow**
  - b. This site will have salts evident on the surface when dry ..... **Saline Lowland**

**D. Uplands** — These sites do not receive additional moisture from occasional stream overflow, run-in from adjacent slopes, or during major flooding events.

- 1. These sites occur on slopes usually less than 15%
  - a. Soils will not form a firm ball when wet, coarse ..... **Sands**
  - b. Soils will form a firm ball and produce a short ribbon less than 1 inch, feel gritty ..... **Sandy**
  - c. Soils will form a ribbon up to 2 inches and not feel gritty, like flour when dry ..... **Silty**
  - d. Soils form a ribbon greater than 2 inches, support their own weight and feel greasy when wet ..... **Clayey**
- 2. These sites occur on sidehills with slopes usually greater than 15%
  - a. This site is found on glaciated soils, thin top soil ..... **Thin Upland**

## Similarity Index (Choose one)

- Excellent (76-100%)   
 Good (51-75%)   
 Fair (26-50%)   
 Poor (0-25%)

## Sharp-tailed Grouse Site Evaluation

### Nesting Cover

- A) Desirable Nesting Plants
- > 30% aerial cover
  - 10-30% aerial cover
  - < 10% aerial cover
- B) Nesting Cover Height (marked plant)
- > 12 inches
  - 4-12 inches
  - < 4 inches

### Food habitat (desirable plants)

- > 30% by weight
- 10-30% by weight
- < 10% by weight

### Protective Cover (% woody cover)

- > 30% aerial cover
- 10-30% aerial cover
- < 10% aerial cover

## Recommended Management Practices SHARP-TAILED GROUSE

- Continue Present Management
- Improve Nesting Cover
- Decrease Stocking Rate
- Add More Livestock Grazing or Burn
- Improve Food Habitat
- Improve Protective Cover
- Apply Woody Plant Control

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## Beef Cattle Site Evaluation

### Forage Value (desirable plants)

- Excellent (76-100%)
- Good (51-75%)
- Fair (26-50%)
- Poor (0-25%)

### Stocking Rate (Given on Site Key)

- Increase
- Decrease
- Keep the Same

### Distribution Factors

- A) Slope
- < 5%
  - 5-10%
  - 11-15%
  - > 15%
- B) Grazing Restraints
- 1) Terrain: Rough
  - Smooth
  - 2) Woody Canopy: > 30%
  - < 30%

## Recommended Management Practices BEEF

- Continue Present Management
- Develop Water
- Decrease Stocking Rate
- Increase Stocking Rate
- Change Kind of Livestock
- Apply Woody Canopy Control
- Apply Undesirable Grass & Forb Control
- Burn or Mow Old Grass
- Defer Part of Grazing Season
- Defer One or More Grazing Seasons
- Plant Adapted Forage Species
- Control Noxious Weeds
- Begin A Plan Grazing System