

# Treeless Vegetation Quality Field Assessment Sheet

## Version 1.4 - July 2009

Site Name/No. .... Location ..... Date .....

Assessor(s) ..... Map Name/No. .... AMG / MGA .....

Tenure ..... EVC ..... Bioregion .....

### 'Site Condition Score'

#### Understorey Life forms

LF Code from EVC benchmark	# spp observed / Benchmark spp.	% cover observed / Benchmark % cover	Present (✓)	Modified (✓)
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**Present**  
For life forms with benchmark cover of < 10%, considered 'present' if

- any specimens are observed.

For life forms with benchmark cover of ≥ 10%, considered 'present' if

- the life form occupies at least 10% of benchmark cover.

**Modified**  
(apply only where life form is 'present')

For life forms with benchmark cover of <10%, then considered substantially 'modified' if the life form has either:

- < 50% of the benchmark species diversity; or
- no reproductively-mature specimens are observed.

For life forms with benchmark cover of ≥ 10%, then considered substantially 'modified' if the life form has either:

- < 50% of benchmark cover; or
- < 50% of benchmark species diversity; or
- ≥ 50% of benchmark cover due largely to immature canopy specimens but the cover of reproductively-mature specimens is < 10% of the benchmark cover.

#### Understorey Score

Category & Description	Score
All strata and Life forms effectively absent	0
Up to 50% of life forms present	5
≥ 50% to 90% of Life forms present	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>of those present, ≥ 50% substantially modified</li> </ul>	15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>of those present, &lt; 50% substantially modified</li> </ul>	15
≥ 90% of Life forms present	15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>of those present, ≥ 50% substantially modified</li> </ul>	20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>of those present, &lt; 50% substantially modified</li> </ul>	25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>of those present, none substantially modified</li> </ul>	25

#### Lack of Weeds

#### Score

Category & Description	'high threat' weeds*		
	None	≤ 50%	> 50%
> 50% cover of weeds	4	2	0
25 - 50% cover of weeds	7	6	4
5 - 25% cover of weeds	11	9	7
< 5% cover of weeds**	15	13	11

\* proportion of weed cover due to 'high threat' weeds - see EVC benchmark for guide.

'High threat' weed species are defined as those introduced species (including non-indigenous 'natives') with the ability to out-compete and substantially reduce one or more indigenous life forms in the longer term assuming on-going current site characteristics and disturbance regime.

The EVC benchmark lists typical weed species for the EVC in the bioregion and provides an estimate of their 'invasiveness' and 'impact'. In general, those weed species considered to have a *high impact* are considered *high threat* regardless of their invasiveness.

\*\* if total weed cover is negligible (<1%) and high threat weed species are present then score '13'.

#### Recruitment

#### Score

Percentage cover of recruitment area <sup>#</sup>	High native herb diversity*	Low native herb diversity*
0 to 5% cover	0	0
> 5% to 20% cover	6	3
> 20% to 40% cover	10	6
> 40% to 60% cover	6	3
> 60% to 90% cover	3	1
> 90% cover	0	0

<sup>#</sup> cumulative % cover of bare ground, bryophytes/lichens and soil crust

\* high native herb diversity defined as ≥ 50% of benchmark diversity within 'herb' life forms

#### Organic Litter

#### Score

Category & Description	Dominated by native organic litter	Dominated by non-native organic litter
< 10% of benchmark cover	0	0
< 50% or > 150% of benchmark cover	3	2
≥ 50% or ≤ 150% of benchmark cover	5	4

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### Logs (where applicable\*)

Score

Category & Description	Large logs present*	Large logs absent#
< 10% of benchmark length	0	0
< 50% of benchmark length	3	2
≥ 50% of benchmark length	5	4

Large logs defined as those with diameter ≥ 0.5 of benchmark large tree dbh.  
+ Applicable to some shrublands and scrubs (refer to EVC benchmark as a guide). Where applicable assess in accordance with the habitat hectares method for logs in treed EVCs. Note that most shrublands and scrubs do not contain a large tree component and hence a large log assessment is not required (refer to EVC benchmark as a guide). Such EVCs should be scored as if 'large logs present'.

\* present if large log length is ≥ 25% of EVC benchmark log length.

# absent if large log length is < 25% of EVC benchmark log length.

## 'Landscape Context Score'

### Patch Size

Score

Category & Description	Score
< 2 ha	1
Between 2 and 5 ha	2
Between 5 and 10 ha	4
Between 10 and 20 ha	6
≥ 20 ha, but 'significantly disturbed'	8
≥ 20 ha, but not 'significantly disturbed'	10

\* 'significantly disturbed' defined as per RFA 'Old Growth' analyses eg. roading, coupes, grazing etc. – effectively most patches within fragmented landscapes.

### Neighbourhood

Score

Radius from site	% Native vegetation*	Weighting	
100 m		0.03	
1 km		0.04	
5 km		0.03	
subtract 2 if the neighbourhood is 'significantly disturbed'			
<b>Add Values and 'round-off'</b>			

\* to nearest 20%.

Multiply % native vegetation x Weighting for each radius from the zone (eg. 40% x 0.03 = 1.2); then add values to obtain final Neighbourhood Value.

### Distance to Core Area

Score

Distance	Core Area not significantly disturbed*	Core Area significantly disturbed*
> 5 km	0	0
1 to 5 km	2	1
< 1 km	4	3
contiguous	5	4

\* defined as per RFA 'Old Growth' analyses.

## Final Habitat Score

Component	'Site Condition Score'						'Landscape Context Score'			Total	
	Understorey	Lack of Weeds	Recruitment	Organic Litter	Logs (if applicable)	Standardiser	Subtotal	Patch Size	Neighbourhood		Distance to Core Area
Score											100