

**NATURAL COMMUNITY OCCURRENCE  
EXTERNAL FIELD FORM DATA DICTIONARY**



**Taxonomy**

Element Scientific Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(For a list of elements tracked by CNHP, refer to <http://www.cnhp.colostate.edu/list.html>)

**Element Scientific Name:** State scientific name for an Element.

**Data Sensitivity**

Data Sensitive Element Occurrence:  Y  N

If yes, list reason (i.e., landowner requests confidentiality): \_\_\_\_\_

**Data Sensitive Element Occurrence:** Indicates whether the location of the element occurrence is considered sensitive by CNHP staff. Occurrences are most often considered sensitive due to land status, such as on some private property. See landowner permission form for more information.

**Survey Information**

EO Data (community description): \_\_\_\_\_

**EO Data:** For community Elements, summary text (i.e., capsule) description of the vegetation of the EO, including structure (strata) and composition (dominant/characteristic species), heterogeneity, successional stage/dynamics, any unique aspects of the community or additional noteworthy species (including animals).

**Example of EO Data:**

This shrubland spans most of the riparian zone. It is dominated by *Salix boothii*, which forms a tall shrub overstory. Graminoids and forbs form the undergrowth and several contribute at least 10% cover, including *Calamagrostis canadensis*, *Carex microptera*, and *Pteridophytes* (namely, *Equisetum arvense*).

**SIZE** (area of occupancy):

Size of Observed Feature:  none (point) or \_\_\_\_\_  sq. meters  sq. miles  acres

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**Size:** Area of occupancy, population abundance, density, fluctuation.

**CONDITION** (development/maturity, weedy, etc.):

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**Condition:** Productivity and vigor of the observed feature/element.

**LANDSCAPE CONTEXT** (structure, condition, development/maturity and extent of surrounding landscape; abiotic physical/chemical factors):

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**Landscape Context:** structure, condition and extent of surrounding landscape; abiotic physical/chemical factors. An integrated measure of the quality of biotic and abiotic factors, structures, and processes

surrounding the Element Occurrence (EO), and the degree to which they affect the continued existence of the occurrence. Components of this factor are:

- landscape structure and extent surrounding the EO, including genetic connectivity;
- development/maturity of the surrounding landscape context (for community EOs);
- ecological processes in the surrounding landscape context;
- species composition and biological structure of the surrounding landscape context;
- abiotic physical/chemical factors in the surrounding landscape context.

**Community Information & Data**

General Description (general surroundings description, environmental information, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

**General Description:** Describe the general landscape surrounding the EO.

Aspect: \_\_\_\_\_

**Aspect:** The aspect(s) of the slope(s) (compass direction in which the slope faces) of the terrain on which the community Element Occurrence (EO) is generally located. Domain values for Aspect are:

Flat  
Variable  
N (338 - 22 degrees)  
NE (23 - 67 degrees)  
E (68 - 112 degrees)  
SE (113 - 157 degrees)  
S (158 - 202 degrees)  
SW (203 - 247 degrees)  
W (248 - 292 degrees)  
NW (293 - 337 degrees)

% Slope: \_\_\_\_\_

**Slope:** The general slope(s) of the terrain on which the community Element Occurrence (EO) is generally located. Domain values for Slope:

Flat (0%, 0 degrees)  
Gentle (0 - 5%, 1 - 10 degrees)  
Moderate (5 - 15%, 10 - 25 degrees)  
Somewhat steep (15 - 25%, 25 - 50 degrees)  
Steep (25 - 45%, 50 - 100 degrees)  
Very steep (45 - 70%, 100 - 275 degrees)  
Abrupt (70 - 100%, 275 - 300 degrees)  
Overhanging/Sheltered (>100%, >300 degrees)

Geology Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**Geology Comments:** Description of the geologic substrate that influences the community Element Occurrence (EO). The type of bedrock should be described in as much detail as is known. Additionally, information on the general category of rock (such as calcareous, siliceous, felsic), or more specific rock types (such as limestone, sandstone, granitic), if known, or even a particular named formation (e.g., Tuscarora Sandstone), should be included in the description.

Soil Type: \_\_\_\_\_

**Soil Type:** List of the soils influencing the community Element Occurrence (EO). The list of Soil Types should be at as detailed a level of soil taxonomy as is available (i.e., great group, family, series, type). The Soil Comments field should be used to comment on the level of the soil taxonomy used in this field.

Soil Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**Soil Comments:** Description of any other important features of the soil influencing the community Element Occurrence (EO). Description should include any comments on soil texture, stoniness, root penetration (depth to restricting layer, organic horizon), description, depth, type, mottling, pH, nutrient content, organic content, presence of clay layer, or any other relevant soil characteristics. If available, the soil survey map unit should be included along with comments on the level of the soil taxonomy used in the Soil Type field.

**Ground Survey**

Quantitative Method:  None  Plot  Plotless Plot Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**Quantitative Method:** Method in which research is completed with numbers or anything that is measurable. A plot is one way of using measurements to take data and if a plot was used then check the "Plot" box and provide the plot code used. If the survey was done in a quantitative way, but without a plot then it is "plotless" and the checkbox should be marked accordingly. If the information gathered was qualitative, not collected using a quantitative method, then "none" should be checked.

**Management Comments**

Management Urgency Rank:  M1=immediate mgt. need  M2= need w/in 5 yrs or loss  
 M3= need w/in 5 yrs or degrade  M4=future mgt. need  
 M5=none needed

Management Comments (What management actions would help protect this occurrence?)\_\_\_\_\_

**Management Comments:** Comments on any management needed to ensure continued existence of the Element Occurrence (EO), as well as the chances and means of fulfilling those needs. Also include a general description of current land management practices (if known). Please ensure you comments are as fact-based as possible, avoid broad subjective statements. This field should be a descriptive field (suitable for export to the general public).

**Protection Comments**

Protection Urgency Rank:

- 
- P1=immediate threat
- 
- 
- P3= not w/in 5 yrs
- 
- 
- P5=protected

- 
- P2=w/in 5 yrs
- 
- 
- P4=no threats

Protection Comments (Predominant land uses; Are there any protection plans or strategies in place?):  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Protection Comments:** Comments on any legal protection needed to ensure continued existence of the Element Occurrence (EO), and the chances and means of fulfilling those needs. Also any comments on existing protection strategies for the site. Please ensure you comments are as fact-based as possible and avoid broad subjective statements. This field should be a descriptive field (suitable for export to the general public).

**Ownership**
 Owner Type:  Private  USFS  BLM  State  Military  Indian  BuRec  NPS  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner Name (or National Forest, BLM District, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Owner Comments (special requests, permissions, circumstances): \_\_\_\_\_

**Ownership:** This field is used for information about the owner such as their name, address, phone number, contacts other than owners, information about the owner (they have a big dog, they like us, etc.) used in conjunction with the reference. Anytime the observer provides the BLM as the owner it is listed here as the very first item, without the reference. When an observer tells that the occurrence is within a Managed Area that is not on our maps, that is also listed here in conjunction with the reference.

Strata:		Height class for Strata:		Cover Scale for Strata:	
T1 Emergent	H1 Graminoids	01 <0.5 m	06 10-15 m	T 0-1%	5 >45-55%
T2 Canopy	H2 Forbs	02 0.5-1 m	07 15-20 m	P >1-5%	6 >55-65%
T3 Sub-canopy	H3 Ferns	03 1-2 m	08 20-35 m	1 >5-15%	7 >65-75%
S1 Tall shrub	H4 Seedlings	04 2-5 m	09 25-50 m	2 >15-25%	8 >75-85%
S2 Short shrub	N Non-vascular	05 5-10 m	10 > 50 m	3 >25-35%	9 >85-95%
S3 Dwarf-shrub	V Vine/liana			4 >35-45%	10 >95%

**Species Composition** – Dominant Species (mark diagnostics with \*) -- **EXAMPLE**

Stratum	Scientific Name	Cover Class
T2	Populus angustifolia *	2
S2	Rosa woodsii	2

**General Community Structure** -- **EXAMPLE**

Stratum	Height Class	Cover Class
T2	6	3
S2	3	2

**Percent Ground Cover** (Sum = 100%)

_____ Litter / duff	_____ Small rocks (0.2-10 cm)	_____ Moss
_____ Wood (> 1 cm)	_____ Large rocks (> 10 cm)	_____ Cryptogram
_____ Bare soil	_____ Bedrock	_____ Lichen
_____ Sand (0.1-2 mm)	_____ Water	_____ Basal area
_____ Other		

**Percent Ground Cover:** Your percent ground cover should add up to 100%. Fill in the blanks next to the category with the percentage value. Round to nearest whole numbers.

**General Comments**

\_\_\_\_\_

**General Comments:** Any comments needed that do not fit in any other category.