TECHNICAL NOTES

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS FOR USE ON NATIVE SPECIES ISSUES

NRCS Conservationists have a need for enhanced dialog with cooperators and clients on native species issues. There is an increasing amount of research on native species and their ecology. The enclosed glossary compiles terms and definitions commonly used in reference to native species issues from several sources.

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Definitions: The following collection of terms and definitions are to assist field and state staff to better understand papers and presentations on the native plant issues and to enhance dialog with cooperators and peers.

Allele:

One member of a pair or series of genes occupying a specific position (locus) in a specific chromosome; one of the alternative forms of a gene: *Today....we know that there may be several alleles available within a population of organisms to occupy a particular locus in a chromosome. Normally an individual has only two alleles for any trait -- one gene derived from its male parent, the other from its female parent (Miller and Leth, High School Biology)*. (19).

Apparent Trend:

An interpretation of trend based on a single observation. Apparent trend is described in the same terms as measured trend except that when no trend is apparent it shall be described as "not apparent". (20) See Trend.

Biodiversity:

The total variability within and among species of living organisms and the ecological complexes that they inhabit. Biodiversity has three levels - ecosystem, species, and genetic diversity - reflected in the number of different species, the different combination of species, and the different combinations of genes within each species.(11)

Is the variety of life and its processes, including the variety of living organisms, the genetic differences among them, the communities, ecosystems, and landscapes in which they occur, plus the interactions of these components.(16)

Biotype:

A group of individuals within a population occurring in nature, all with essentially the same genetic constitution. A species usually consists of many biotypes. (1) (18)

A group of organisms having the same genotype. (19)

A group of individuals within a population occurring in nature, all with essentially the same tolerance ranges. A species usually consists of many biotypes. See also ecotype. (20)

Botanical Variety:

An infraspecific taxon in botanical nomenclature, below the rank of subspecies. Abbr. var. Usage: The abbreviation in roman type; the name in italics; no capitals. (2)

Center of Diversity:

The geographic region in which the greatest variability of a species occurs. A primary center of diversity is the region of true origin and secondary centers of diversity are regions of subsequent spread of a species. (11)

Center of Origin:

The geographic region containing a concentration of genetic diversity of one or more species; also called a gene center. (2)

Certified Seed:

Certified seed is the progeny of breeder, select, foundation, or registered seed so handled as to maintain satisfactory genetic purity and identity, and which has been acceptable to the certifying agency. Certified tree seed is defined as seed from trees of proven genetic superiority, as defined by the certifying agency, produced so as to assure genetic identity. Seed from interspecific hybrids or forest trees by in included. (2).

Climax:

(1) The final or stable biotic community in a successional series which is self-perpetuating and in dynamic equilibrium with the physical habitat; (2) the assumed end point in succession. (1)

The highest ecological development of a plant community capable of perpetuation under the prevailing climatic and edaphic conditions. (18)

A self-perpetuating community in which populations remain stable and exist in balance with each other and the environment; the final stage of a succession or sere. (19)

See also Historic Climax Plant Community.

Common Seed:

A term applied to seed that cannot be identified as to variety; sometimes used to denote local strains resulting from natural selection. (2)

Community:

An assemblage of populations of plants and/or animals in a common spatial arrangement. (1)

A group of one or more populations of plants and animals in a common spatial arrangement. (18)

Community (Plant Community):

An assemblage of plants occurring together at any point in time, while denoting no particular ecological status. A unit of vegetation. (1)

A group of organisms living together; any group of interacting organisms. (19)

An assemblage of populations of plants occurring together at any point in time, while denoting no particular ecological status. A unit of vegetation. (20)

Community Type:

An aggregation of all plant communities distinguished by floristic and structural similarities in both overstory and undergrowth layers. A unit of vegetation within a classification. (1) (20)

Cover Type:

The existing vegetation of an area. (20)

Cross-pollination:

Pollen of one flower on one plant applied (artificially or naturally) to the stigma of a flower on another plant. (2).

Cultivar:

(1) A variety, strain, or race that has originated and persisted under cultivation or was specifically developed for the purpose of cultivation. (2) For cultivated plants, the equivalent of botanical variety, in accordance with the International Code of Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants-1980. Usage: Cultivar names are not italicized, and are indicated by single quotes at first use, or the word cultivar (but not both). The abbreviation cv. is properly used only with a binomial name: *Genus species* cv.cultivarname. Omit the abbreviation if single quotes are used: *Genus species* 'cultivarname'.(2)

(Derived from cultivated variety). A named variety selected within a plant species. Distinguished by an morphological, physiological, cytological, or chemical characteristics. A variety of plant produced and maintained by cultivation which is genetically retained through subsequent generations. (1)

Desired Plant Community:

A plant community which produces the kind, proportion, and amount of vegetation necessary for meeting or exceeding the land use plan/activity plan objectives established for an ecological site(s). The desired plant community must be consistent with the site's capability to produce the desired vegetation through management, land treatment, or a combination of the two. (1)

One of the several plant community types which may occupy an ecological site, the one or combination that meets the minimum quality criteria for the soil, water, air, plant and animal resources, and that meets the landowner or manager objective. (20)

Diversity:

The distribution and abundance of different plants and animal communities within an area. (1)

The variety of species within a given association of organisms. Areas of high diversity are characterized by a great variety of species; usually relatively few individuals represent any one species. Areas with low diversity are characterized by a few species; often relatively large numbers of individuals represent each species. (18)

A measure of the number of species and their relative abundance in a community. (20)

Dormant Seeding:

Planting seed during late fall or early winter after temperatures become to low for seed germination to occur until the following spring. (2)

Ecesis:

Establishment and development of a plant in the plant community. (20)

Ecocline:

Series of biotypes within a species that shows a genetic gradient correlated with a gradual environmental gradient. (2)

Ecological Niche:

Role of an organism in an ecological system.(2)

The physical space in a habitat occupied by an organism; its functional role in the community (e.g. its trophic position); and its position in environmental gradients of temperature, moisture, pH, soil, and other conditions of existence. (18)

Ecological Optimum:

The most favorable conditions between organisms and their environment for growth and reproduction. (2).

Ecological Race:

Group of local populations within a species in which individuals have similar environmental tolerances. Wide-ranging species may consist of many ecological races. (2).

Ecological Response Unit:

A unit of land that is homogeneous in character such that similar units will respond in the same way to disturbance or manipulation. Syn. ecological site, ecological type. (1)

Ecological Site:

A kind of land with a specific potential natural community and specific physical site characteristics, differing from other kinds of land in it's ability to produce vegetation and to respond to management. Syn. Ecological type, ecological response unit. (1) (20)

Ecological Status:

The present state of vegetation and soil protection of an ecological site in relation to the potential natural community for the site. Vegetation status is the expression of the relative degree of which the kinds, proportions, and amounts of plants in a community resemble that of the potential natural community. If classes or ratings are used, they should be described in ecological rather than utilization terms. For example, some agencies are utilizing four classes of ecological status ratings (early seral, mid-seral, late-seral, potential natural community) of vegetation corresponding to 0-25%, 26-50%, 51-75%, and 76-100% of the potential natural community standard. Soil status is a measure of present vegetation and litter cover relative to the amount of cover needed on the site to prevent accelerated erosion. This term is not used by all agencies. (1).

The present state of vegetation and soil protection of an ecological site in relation to the historic climax plant community for the site. Vegetation status is the expression of the relative degree of which the kinds, proportions, and amounts of plants in a community resemble that of the historic climax plant community. If classes or ratings are used, they should be described in ecological rather than utilization terms.

Ecological Class	Percentage of present plant community that is climax for the site
I	76-100
II	51-75
III	26-50
IV	0-25

(20)

Ecological System: see ecosystem

Ecological Type:

A land classification category which is more specific than a phase of a habitat type. Ecological types are commonly used to differentiate habitat phases into categories of land which differ in their ability to produce vegetation or their response to management. Syn. ecological response unit, ecological site. (1)

Ecosystem: (synonym: ecological system)

Energy-driven complex of one or more organisms and their environment. (2)

Organisms together with their abiotic environment, forming an interacting system, inhabiting an identifiable space. (1) (20)

The whole system, in the sense of physics, including not only the organism complex, but also the whole complex of physical factors forming what we call the environment. (17)

The complex of living and nonliving components in a specified location that comprise a stable system in which the exchange of material follows a circular path such as a biome. (15)

A community of organisms and the environment in which they live. (2)

A system of ecological relationships in a local environment, including relationships between organisms, and between the organisms and the environment itself. (19)

Ecotone:

A transition area of vegetation between two communities, having characteristics of both kinds of neighboring vegetation as well as characteristics of its own. Varies in width depending on site and climatic factors. (1) (20)

Transition zone between two vegetational types or vegetational regions. (2)

A transition line or strip of vegetation between two communities, having characteristics of both kinds of neighboring vegetation as well as characteristics of its own. (18)

Ecotype:

A locally adapted population within a species which has certain genetically determined characteristics; interbreeding between ecotypes in not restricted. (1) (20)

A variety or strain within a given species that maintains its distinct identity by adaptation to a specific environment. (2)

A locally adapted population of a species which has a distinctive limit of tolerance to environmental factors. (18)

A variant type within an ecospecies. (19)

Environment:

The sum of all external conditions that affect an organism or community to influence its development or existence. (1) (20)

The sum total of all the external conditions that may act upon an organism or community to influence its development or existence.

Environmental Range:

Range of environmental conditions in which, at a given time, the members of a species live.(2)

Facultative Weed:

Weed found growing both wild and in association with human activity. (2).

Foundation Seed:

Is the progeny of breeder, select, or foundation seed handled to maintain specific genetic purity and identity. Production must be acceptable to the certifying agency. (2).

Gene Bank:

A storage facility where germplasm is stored in the form of seeds, pollen or in vitro culture, or in the case of a field genebank, as plants growing in the field. (11)

Gene Flow:

The transfer of genes from one population to another. (19)

Gene Frequency:

The relative frequency with which a particular gene is present in a particular population of a species or other group. (19)

Gene Pool:

The total stock of genes in a breeding population, with each gene representing a number of alleles. (19)

Genetic Diversity:

The total amount of genetic variation present in a population or species. (11)

Having a heterogeneous constitution; reacting differently to diverse external condition. (Applied to a breeding population, variety, or species.). (2).

Genetic Drift:

Chance occurrences in small populations which lead to changes in gene frequencies from generation to generation. (12)

The tendency, within small interbreeding populations, for heterozygous gene pairs to become homozygous for one allele or the other by chance rather than by selection. (6)

A change in gene frequency that occurs in small populations as a result of random sampling error during reproduction. (13)

The fluctuation in gene frequency occurring in an isolated population, presumably due to random variations from generation to generation. (19)

Genetic Engineering:

The use of in vitro techniques to produce DNA molecules containing novel combinations of genes or other sequences in living cells that make them capable of producing new substances or performing new functions. *Usage*: A popular term for such technologies as a whole. (2)

Genetic Erosion:

The loss of genetic diversity between and within populations of the same species over time; or a reduction of the genetic base of a species due to human intervention, environmental changes, etc. (11)

Genetic Flow:

The exchange of genes between different populations. Also termed migration, it is considered to be a source of genetic variation. (14)

A single introduction of genes into a new population is known as gene exchange. If gene migration is constant and recurrent it is known as gene flow. The closer populations are related spatially and genetically, the more likely the chances of gene flow. (12)

Genetic Shift:

A change in the germplasm balance of a cross-pollinated variety, usually caused by environmental selection pressures. (2)

Genotype:

1. The genetic constitution of an organism. 2. A group of organisms with similar genetic constitutions. (11)

The genetic constitution, latent or expressed, of an organism, as contrasted with the phenotype. The sum total of all genes present in an individual. (7)

The gene constitution of an individual. (13)

The genetic constitution of an individual or group. (18)

Genetic Pool:

The totality of genes and gene complexes of a given population at a given time. (11)

The sum of all genetic information carried by all individuals of an interbreeding population. (10)

All of the alleles of all the genes in a population. (7)

Genetic Vulnerability:

Having a narrow range of genetic diversity and reacting uniformly to diverse external conditions. (Applied to breeding populations of varieties or species). (2)

Geographic Range:

Geographic limits of the ecologic range; geographic extent of actual occurrences of a species. (2).

Habitat Type:

The collective area which one plant association occupies or will come to occupy as succession advances. The habitat type is defined and described on the basis of the vegetation and its associated environment.(1)

The collective area which one plant association occupies. The habitat type is defined and described on the basis of the vegetation and its associated environment. (20)

Historic Climax Plant Community:

(1) The original natural plant community that represents the final or highest stable level in a successional series that is in dynamic equilibrium with ecosystem components -- soils, vegetation, climate, etc. (2) The assumed end point in primary as well as secondary succession. Synonym-- Climax Plant Community. (20) See Climax.

Hybrid:

Offspring of a cross between genetically dissimilar individuals. (1).

First-generation progeny resulting from the controlled cross-fertilization between individuals that differ in one or more genes. (2)

Indicator Species:

(1) species that indicate the presence of certain environmental conditions, range condition, previous

treatment, or soil type. (2) One or more plant species selected to indicate a certain level of grazing use. (20)

(1) Species that indicate the presence of certain environmental conditions, seral stages, or previous treatments. (2) One or more plant species selected to indicate a certain level of grazing use. (1)

Indigenous:

Born, growing, or produced naturally (native) in an area, region, or country. (1) (20)

Interseeding:

Seeding into an established vegetation cover. Often is planting seeds into the center of narrow seedbed strips of variable spacing and prepared by mechanical or chemical methods. (1).

Planting seed in the center of narrow seedbed strips, commonly 6" to 6' wide and prepared by mechanical or chemical methods. (20)

Introduced: synonyms- exotic

A species not part of the original fauna or flora of the area in question; i.e. brought by human activity from another geographical region. (2)

A species not a part of the original fauna or flora of the area in question. (1) (20)

One that was introduced through human activity.(4)

An organism or species that is not native to the area in which it is found. (18)

Invader:

Plants that are not a part of the original plant community that invade an area due to disturbance and or plant community deterioration. (20)

Plant species that were absent in undisturbed portions of the original vegetation of a specific range site and will invade or increase following disturbance or continued heavy grazing. (1)

Invasion:

The migration of organisms from one area to another area and their establishment in the latter. (1)(20)

Local Native: relate to range site/ woodland site

A genetically local source that originated at or within the same seed zone and elevation band as the project site (planned planting). (4)

Local Population:

Group of individuals of the same species growing near enough to each other to interbreed and exchange genes. (2)

Management Site Potential:

The kinds of levels of productivity or values of a range site that can be achieved under various management prescriptions. (20)

Native Grazing Land:

Land used primarily for production of native forage plants maintained or manipulated primarily through grazing management. Native grazing land includes grazed rangeland, grazed forestland, and native and naturalized pasture, individually or collectively. (20)

Native Species: synonyms of native include indigenous, endemic, aboriginal.

A species that is part of an area's original flora. To be meaningful the area must be defined. (5)

A species indigenous to an area; i.e. not introduced from another environment or area. (2)

A species which is a part of the original fauna or flora of the area in question. (1) (20)

A native plant species is one that occurs naturally in a particular region, state, ecosystem, and habitat without direct or indirect human actions. (8)

A native (to a state) plant is one that occurs naturally in the state as determined be climate and soil factors and was not introduced purposely or accidentally by human activity. (9)

One that occurs and has evolved naturally in the Region as determined by climate, soil, and biotic factors. (4)

Originating, grown, or produced in particular region. (19)

Natural Potential:

Occasionally used as synonym for climax with reference to range vegetation. (1)

Naturalized Species:

A plant introduced from other areas that has become established in and more or less adapted to a region by long, continued growth there. (5) (18)

Introduced species that have become established in a region. (2)

A species not native to an area but which adapted to that area and has established a stable or expanding population. Does not require artificial inputs for survival and reproduction. Examples: cheatgrass, Kentucky bluegrass, starling, etc. (1)

Open Pollination:

Natural, as opposed to controlled, pollination. Open-pollination seed contrasts with hybrid seed. (2)

Phenotype:

The physical appearance of an individual as contrasted with genetic makeup or genotype. (1) (18) (20)

Observable characteristics, resulting from interaction between an organism's genetic makeup and the environment.(2)

The external appearance or discernible characteristics of an organism resulting from the interaction of its genotype and its environment. (19)

Pioneer Species:

The first species or community to colonize or recolonize a barren or disturbed area in primary or secondary succession. (1) (20).

Plant Association:

A kind of climax plant community consisting of stands with essentially the same dominant species in corresponding layers. (1) (20).

Plant Community Type:

Each of the existing plant communities that can occupy an ecological site. Several plant community types will typically be found on an ecological site, including the historic climax plant community for that site. (20)

Population:

A group of interbreeding organisms of the same kind occupying a particular space. (10)

Any group of individuals, usually of a single species. (7)

The group of individuals of a given species inhabiting a specified geographic area. (6)

a) The aggregate of organisms which inhabit a particular area or region. b) a (specified) portion of such an aggregate, a group of organisms of the same kind. (19)

Population Genetics:

A branch of genetics dealing with the frequency and distribution of genes, mutants, genotypes, etc. among

populations of organisms: *Population genetics is now based upon an increasing input of laboratory and field observations under an array of environments.... Much of this work involves the documentation and interpretation of genetic variability in natural populations* (Peter A. Parsons). (19)

Potential Natural Community:

The biotic community that would become established on an ecological site if all successional sequences were completed without interferences by man under the present environmental conditions. Natural disturbances are inherent in its development. The PNC may include acclimatized or naturalized non-native species. This term is not used by all agencies. (1) (20).

Pristine:

A state of ecological stability or condition existing in the absence of direct disturbances by modern man. (1) (20). See Relict.

Range Condition:

(a) A generic term relating to present status of a unit of range in terms of specific values or potentials. Specific values or potentials must be stated. (b) Some agencies define range condition as follows: The present state of vegetation of a range site in relation to the climax (natural potential) plant community for that site. It is an expression of the relative degree to which the kinds, proportions, and amounts of plants in a plant community resemble that of the climax plant community for the site. (1).

The present state of the plant community on a range site in relation to the potential natural plant community for that site. (18)

Range Condition Class:

Confusion has existed regarding both definition and use of this term. (1) The following definition fits the thinking expressed in the definition Range Condition (a) One of a series of arbitrary categories used to either classify ecological status of a specific range site in relation to its potential (early, mid, late, or potential natural community or classify management-oriented value categories for specific potentials, e.g. good condition spring cattle range. (2) Some agencies consider range condition class in the context of Range Condition (b) as follows:

Range Condition Class	% of Climax for the range site
Excellent	76-100%
Good	51-75
Fair	26-50
Poor	0-25

(1)

Range Degradation:

The degeneration of a site caused be biotic or abiotic factors which results in a lowered successional status to the point that ecological potential is changed. (1) See Range Site Degeneration.

Range Retrogression:

The degradation of a site caused by biotic or abiotic factors which results in movement of the site to a lower successional status within the same ecological potential. (1)

Range Seeding:

The process of establishing vegetation by the artificial dessemination of seed. (1) (20)

Establishing adapted plant species on ranges by means other than natural revegetation. (18)

See Reseeding.

Range Site:

An area of rangeland having the potential to produce distinctive kinds and amounts of vegetation, resulting in a characteristic plant community under its particular combination of environmental factors, especially soils and climate. Each range site is typified by an association of species that differ from that of other range sites in the kind or proportions of species, or in total production. Synonym- Ecological Site. (20)

Synonymous with ecological site when referring to rangeland. An area of rangeland which has the potential to produce and sustain distinctive kinds and amounts of vegetation to result in a characteristic plant community under its particular combination of environmental factors, particularly climate, soils, and associated native biota. Some agencies use range site based on the climax concept, not potential natural community. (1)

A distinctive kind of rangeland that differs from other kinds of rangeland in its potential to produce native plants either in kinds, proportions, or total annual yield. (18)

Range Site Degeneration:

The degradation of a site caused by biotic or abiotic factors which results in an ecological shift to a lower successional status and possibly a lower ecological potential for production. Synonym- retrogression. (20) See Range Degradation.

Reclamation:

The process of renovating land to its former or other productive uses.(5)

Restoration of a site or resource to a desired condition to achieve management objectives or stated goals. (1) (20)

The construction of plant, soil, and topographic conditions, after disturbance, which permits the disturbed site to function adequately within its ecosystem. However, the constructed conditions may not be identical to predisturbance conditions. (3)

The process of reconverting disturbed lands to their former uses or other productive uses. (18)

Registered Seed:

Progeny of breeder, select, or foundation seed handled under procedures acceptable to the certifying agency to maintain satisfactory genetic purity and identity. (2)

Rehabilitation:

Return of land to a form and productivity that conforms with a prior land use plan, including a stable ecological state that does not contribute substantially to environmental deterioration and is consistent with surrounding aesthetic values. (5) (18)

Improving a project site to a more desired condition than previously existed, usually as result of a major disturbance. (4)

Synonymous with reclamation. (3)

Release:

(1) A crop variety or inbred line that has been evaluated and made available to the public. (2) To make available to the public. (2).

Relict:

A remnant or fragment of the climax plant community that remains from a former period when it was more widely distributed. Synonym- Pristine. (20)

Reseeding:

To seed again, usually soon after an initial seeding has failed to achieve satisfactory turf establishment. (2)

Restoration:

The process of restoring site conditions as they were before land disturbance. (5) (18)

Revegetation:

Establishing or re-establishing desirable plants on areas where desirable plants are absent or of inadequate density, by management alone (natural revegetation) or by seeding or transplanting (artificial revegetation). (1)

A general term for renewing the vegetation on a project site, which include restoration and rehabilitation. (4)

Refers to the vegetation construction phase of reclamation. (3)

Establishing or re-establishing desirable plants on areas where the plant community is not adequate to meet management objectives by management techniques alone. (20)

Riparian Community Type:

A recurring, classified, defined and recognizable assemblage of riparian plant species. (1)

A repeating, classified, defined and recognizable assemblage of riparian plant species. (20)

Riparian Ecosystems:

(1) Those assemblages of plants, animals, and aquatic communities whose presence can be either directly or indirectly attributed to factors that are water-influenced or related. (2) Interacting system between aquatic and terrestrial situations, identified by soil characteristics, and distinctive vegetation that requires or tolerates free or unbound water. (1) (20)

Riparian Species:

Plant species occurring within the riparian zone. Obligate species require the environmental conditions within the riparian zone; facultative species tolerate the environmental conditions, therefore may also occur away from the riparian zone. (1) (20)

Seed Certification:

A system whereby seed of plant cultivars is produced, harvested and marketed under authorized regulation to insure seed of high quality and genetic purity. (1) (20)

Selected Class:

Selected propagating materials shall be the progeny of phenotypically selected plants of untested parentage that have promise but not proof of genetic superiority or distinctive traits, produced so as to ensure genetic purity and identity from either: (a) Natural stands or seed production areas, or (b) Seed fields or orchards. This definition is equivalent of the OECD "Untested Seed Orchard" category and may be labelled as such by tag if required. (21)

Selected Seed:

Selected seed is a class of tree seed that is the progeny of rigidly selected trees or stands of untested parentage that have promise but not proof of genetic superiority, and for which geographic source and elevation shall be stated on the certification label. (2)

Seral:

Refers to species or communities that are eventually replaced by other species or communities within a sere. (1) (20)

Seral Community:

One of a series of biotic communities that follow one another in time on any given area. Syn. successional community. (1)

Seral Stages:

The developmental stages of an ecological succession. (1)

Sere:

All temporary communities in a successional sequence.(1) (20)

The complete series of ecological communities occupying a given area over hundreds or thousands of years from the initial to the final or climax stage. (19)

Sod Seeding:

Direct drilling of seed on sites on which no seedbed preparation had been made. (1).

Source Identified Class:

Source identified propagating materials are seed, seedlings, or other propagating materials collected from natural stands, seed production areas, seed fields, or orchards where no selection or testing of the parent population has been made. (21)

Source Identified Seed:

Source-identified is a class of true seed defined as seed from (i) natural stands with known geographic source and elevation, or (ii) a plantation of known geographic location, as specified in the standards of the various certifying agencies. (2)

Succession:

The progressive replacement of plant communities on a site which leads to the potential natural plant community, i.e.

attaining stability. Primary succession entails simultaneous18 successions of soil from parent material and vegetation. Secondary succession occurs following disturbances on sites that previously supported vegetation, and entails plant succession on a more mature soil. (1)

Same definition except substitute "range site" for "site". (20).

The progressive development of vegetation toward its highest ecological expression, the climax; replacement of one plant community by another. (18)

Tested Class:

Tested propagating materials shall be the progeny of plants whose parentage has been tested and has proven genetic superiority or possesses distinctive traits for which the heritability is stable, as defined by the certifying agency, but for which a variety has not been named or released. This seed must be produced so as to assure genetic purity and identity from either: (a) rigidly controlled and isolated natural stands or individual plants, or (b) seed fields or orchards. (21)

Trend:

The direction of change in ecological status or resource value rating observed over time. Trend in ecological status should be described as toward, or away from the potential natural community, or as not apparent. Trend in a resource value rating for a specific use should be described as up, down or not apparent. Trends in resource value ratings for several uses on the same site at a given time may be in different directions, and there is no necessary correlation between trends in resource value ratings and trend in ecological status. Some agencies use trend only in the context of ecological status. Syn. range condition trend. (1). See Apparent Trend.

(1) The direction of change in ecological status in relation to the historic climax plant community. Trend is usually expressed as up, down, or not apparent. (2) The movement from one plant community type to another relative to management objectives, expressed as positive, negative, or not apparent. (20)

Vegetation Type:

A kind of existing plant community with distinguishable characteristics described in terms of the present vegetation that dominates the aspect or physiognomy of the area. Syn. type.(1) (20)

A plant community with distinguishable characteristics. (18)

Wetland Communities:

Plant communities that occur on sites with soils typically saturated with or covered with water most of the growing season. (1) (20).

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