



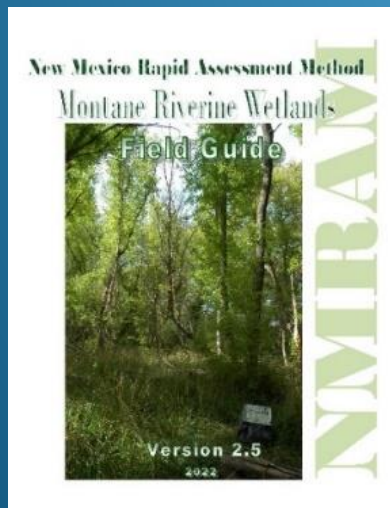
New Mexico Environment Department



New Mexico Rapid Assessment Method (NMRAM)

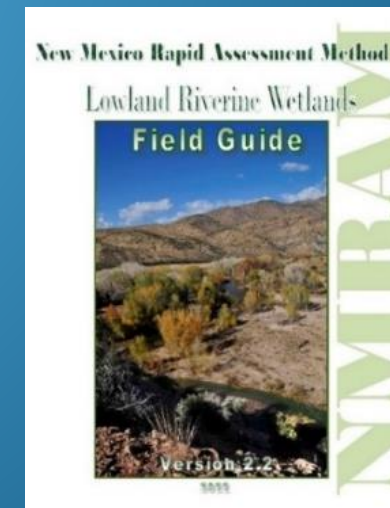
Riverine Wetlands

Relative Native Plant Community Composition



New Mexico Environment Department
Surface Water Quality Bureau
Wetlands Program

Natural Heritage New Mexico
University of New Mexico



RELATIVE NATIVE PLANT COMMUNITY COMPOSITION

- **Definition:** An index of the abundance of native- vs exotic-dominated vegetation communities
 - **Rationale:** High native plant species diversity generally indicates:
 - overall high biotic diversity
 - stability of wetland biotic communities
 - increased wildlife habitat
 - increased species diversity
- High numbers of exotic plant species indicate:
- degraded or disturbed wetlands



RELATIVE NATIVE PLANT COMMUNITY COMPOSITION

B1 – Relative Native Plant Community Composition

Table B1a provides the raw CT scores for all possible combinations of native and exotic plant species dominants that could be recorded on Worksheet 6. The fillable pdf version of the worksheets calculates these scores automatically. E = exotic-dominated CT strata; M = mixed exotic native CT strata; N = native-dominated CT strata; A = absent; U = unknown

Table B1a			
CT Score	Tall Woody (>25% Cover)	Short Woody (>25% Cover)	Herbaceous (>10% Cover)
Forested Wetland			
0.00	E	E or A	E or A
0.25	E	E or A	M or U
0.50	E	E or A	N
0.75	E	M or U	E or A
1.00	E	M or U	M or U
1.15	E	M or U	N
1.30	E	N	E or A
1.40	E	N	M or U
1.50	E	N	N
1.60	M or U	E	E
1.70	M or U	E	M or A or U
1.80	M or U	E	N
1.90	M or U	M or U or A	E
2.00	M or U	M or U or A	M or U or A
2.10	M or U	M or U or A	N
2.20	M or U	N	E
2.30	M or U	N	M or A or U
2.40	M or U	N	N
2.50	N	E	E
2.60	N	E	M or U
2.70	N	E	N or A
2.85	N	M or U	E
3.00	N	M or U	M or U
3.25	N	M or U	N or A
3.50	N	N or A	E
3.75	N	N or A	M or U
4.00	N	N or A	N or A
Shrub Wetland			
0.00		E	E or A
0.50		E	M or U
1.00		E	N
1.50		M or U	E
2.00		M or U	M or U or A
2.50		M or U	N
3.00		N	E
3.50		N	M or U
4.00		N	N or A
Herbaceous Wetland			
0.00			E
2.00			M or U
4.00			N
Sparsely Vegetated			
0.00			E = Human-disturbed ground (e.g., roads, cleared areas)
2.00			M = Mixed natural/human-disturbed ground
4.00			N = Natural disturbed ground (e.g., sand bars, side channels)

1. Obtain CT Native Score from table
2. Estimate % of SA occupied by CT
3. Multiply CT Native Score by the estimated %
4. Sum the Weighted Scores, enter into the Final Weighted CT Score box
5. Use the Final Weighted CT Score to Rank the SA for this metric

RELATIVE NATIVE PLANT COMMUNITY COMPOSITION

B1 - Relative Native Plant Community Composition

Worksheet 6. CT Plant Species and Polygon Assignments. Starting with CT A, enter the number of the first polygon from Worksheet 5. Enter the species codes for the two top dominant species in each stratum that appears in the polygon. See footnotes for special instructions. If a species appears in more than one strata, assign the species to the stratum in which it is more abundant. Each polygon is either assigned to the same CT if it has the same composition or a new CT is created for the polygon.

								Tall Woody Stratum ¹				Short Woody Stratum ²				Herbaceous/Sparse Stratum ³				CT Score ⁴		
CT	Polygon Nos.							Species 1	E N	Species 2	E N	Species 3	E N	Species 4	E N	Species 5	E N	Species 6	E N	Raw ⁴	% SA ⁵	Wt Score ⁶
A	1							POAN3	N							BRIN2	E	POPR	E	3.5	0.45	1.575
B	2															RAAQ	N	FORB2	U	2	0.1	0.2
C	3	4	5	7								SAEX	N	SALI	N	CAUT	N	AGGI2	E	3.5	0.4	1.4
D	6											SALUL	N	SAEX	N	JUARL	N	AGGI2	E	3.5	0.05	0.175
E																						
F																						
G																						
H																						
I																						
J																						
K																						
L																						
M																						
N																						
O																						
Final Weighted Score ⁷																					1	3.35

1. Trees and shrubs > 6 m (20 feet) and > 25% total stratum cover; 2. Trees and shrubs ≤ 6m (20 feet) and > 25% total stratum cover; 3. Herbaceous (graminoids and forbs) > 10% total stratum cover. ⁴Raw Score is from Table B1a (Appendix B); ⁵%SA is the percentage of the SA area covered by the CT and expressed as a decimal number; the total area %SA must equal 1; ⁶Wt. Score is the product of the Raw Score * % SA; ⁷The Final Weighted Score is the sum of the Wt. Scores. Rate the CT Final Weighted Score on Table B1 and enter the Rating for Relative Native Plant Community Composition on the SA Rank Summary Worksheet.

RELATIVE NATIVE PLANT COMMUNITY COMPOSITION

$$\text{CTComp_RelNat} = \sum \text{CT Native Score}_i * (\text{CT Area}_i / \text{Total SA Area})$$

Table B1. Relative Native Plant Community Composition Rating		
Rating	CT Final Weighted Score	
<input type="radio"/> 4	≥ 3.75	<10% non-native
<input checked="" type="radio"/> 3	≥ 3.25 and <3.75	10% \leq 20% non-native
<input type="radio"/> 2	> 2.0 and <3.25	20% \leq 50% non-native
<input type="radio"/> 1	≤ 2.0	>50% non-native

