File: exclosure\_cover.xls

Exclosure\_cover\_notes.xls refers to ground cover measurements on transects corresponding to selected existing livestock exclosures on the Santa Rita Experimental Range. This file includes all measures of cover made on these transects since they were established in 2011 through 2023.

Perennial grass and shrub cover were measured every three years beginning in 2011. Perennial grass was recorded as basal intercept, i.e. length of live root crown portion of tuft at ground level. Shrub cover was recorded as the entire live crown intercept excluding conspicuous opening or areas of dead crown. All measurements were recorded and are reported in 0.1-ft. units.

Measurements were taken on permanent 100-ft. line transects corresponding to 22 livestock exclosures. Ecological site mapping within each fenced exclosure area determined the location for the transects. For each ecological site represented within an exclosure, four transects were established: two within the exclosure and two just outside of the exclosure on the same ecological site. Only one exclosure (1A) contained more than one ecological site distinction, for a total of 6 transects on 3 different ecological sites.

Transects that are within the exclosures are labeled numerically and with the letter “U” to indicate that the vegetation along the transect has been “Ungrazed” by livestock since the exclosure was established. Transects located outside of the exclosure are labeled numerically and with the letter “G” to indicate that the vegetation along the transect has been “Grazed” by livestock. Transects for each exclosure are therefore labeled G1, G2, U1, and U2.

Taxa were recorded separately to the species level in most cases and sometimes to the genus level only. The codes OTHERG and OTHSHRUB refer to unidentified perennial grass and shrub species. In this file, ARIS refers to all perennial Aristida spp. As for the species Bouteloua chondrosioides (BOCH), Bouteloua hirsuta (BOHI), and Bouteloua repens (BOFI), use caution in using the data due to the possible misidentification of those species at their vegetative stage. It may be wise to lump these species together for analysis.

Sources of vegetation data were the original field data sheets.

exclosure\_cover\_notes.txt

8 January 2024