Resource Concern: Degraded Plant Condition

Excessive Plant Pressure

Excessive pest damage to plants including that from undesired plants, diseases, animals, soil borne pathogens and nematodes. This concern addresses invasive plant, animal, and insect species.

Inadequate Structure and Composition

Inadequate structure and composition refers to plants and associated organisms (bacteria, fungi, animals) that share a defined area or environment but lack the diversity, density, distribution patterns, and three-dimensional structures needed to produce preferred products or achieve environmental objectives. This includes degradation of wetland habitat, targeted ecosystems, or unique plant communities.

The interaction between plants, other organisms, and environmental factors such as soil, climate, and topography influence how a plant community functions to cycle nutrients, capture and release water, protect and build soil, nurture wildlife, or produce usable products.

Undesirable Plant Health and Productivity

Plants established in the wrong climate or soil may be under stress and may never thrive, no matter how much fertilizer or water you supply. Natural events, such as drought, or mismanagement can cause plant stress. Plants under stress are more susceptible to disease and insect damage. Symptoms of poor plant vigor and health may include slow growth, discoloration of leaves, wilting or drooping foliage, leaf drop, and/or discolored roots.

Wildfire, Hazard, Excessive Biomass Accumulation

All plants produce litter from leaves, stalks, or stems. Normally, this residue is either left to decompose and nourish the next generation of plants and animals, or it is harvested and used for straw, mulch, bio-fuel, pulp, etc. While biomass can be a great source of renewable energy, having high amounts of plant biomass can create wildfire hazards that pose risks to human safety, structures, plants, animals, and air resources.

Biomass is organic material from plants or animals that is not used for food or feed.

https://www.sdresourceconcerns.org/resource-concern-degraded-plant-condition/

South Dakota's Conservation Districts

South Dakota Department of Agriculture

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Source: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service South Dakota. The USDA is an equal opportunity provider, lender, and employer.