

Vegetation Height/Sagebrush Shape Directions

Note: The HAF site-scale protocol for vegetation height is similar to the BLM's core method, but there are important differences between the two methods. Data collected using the HAF method can be used to supplement the BLM's core method for assessing the site-scale height indicators of sage-grouse habitat.

Protocol:

1. Record the species of woody and herbaceous plants for which the heights will be recorded.
2. Measure plants heights at the $\frac{1}{2}$ m or 1 m intervals per transect. Do not record the height of the same plant twice.
3. Record the height of plants 0-2 m to the nearest centimeter and plants >2 m to the nearest 30 cm (~12 in).
4. For shrubs, record the maximum height in cm/in of the live portion of the shrub that is touched by the pin, excluding flower or seed stalks.
5. Record the shape of sagebrush only: S = spreading or C = columnar.
6. For perennial grasses and forbs, record the droop height (i.e., the highest point measured with no straightening by the observer or maximum natural height, figure B-3) of the tallest perennial grass or forb plant that is touched by the pin.
7. Woody or herbaceous litter are not measured.



Figure B-3. Grass and forb height measurements. Record natural or “droop” height of grasses and forbs. Note the dashed red reference line.