

# **APPENDIX B**

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## **FLAT VEGETATIVE COVER TEST METHOD**

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### **Equipment:**

- 100-foot measuring tape
- Two screwdrivers
- 3/32 inch diameter brazing rod or wooden dowel
- Pencil/Pen and paper

### **Introduction:**

This test method examines the protection of flat vegetation against wind erosion on disturbed surfaces. Flat vegetation includes rooted vegetation or unattached vegetative debris lying horizontally on a surface. It can be alive or dead, but wind must not be able to move it or blow it away. Examples include flat, low-lying plants, horizontally flattened grass, or clumps of hay that are bunched. The purpose of this test is to estimate the percent cover of flat vegetation on a disturbed surface to see whether it sufficiently protects against windblown dust.

### **Determination Of Flat Vegetative Cover**

Flat vegetation includes attached (rooted) vegetation or unattached vegetative debris lying on the surface with a predominant horizontal orientation that is not subject to movement by wind. Flat vegetation, which is dead but firmly attached, shall be considered equally protective as live vegetation. Stones or other aggregate larger than 1 centimeter in diameter shall be considered protective cover in the course of conducting the line transect test method. Where flat vegetation exists, conduct the following line transect test method.

### **Line Transect Test Method**

Stretch a 100 foot measuring tape across a survey area that represents a random portion of the overall conditions of the site. Firmly anchor both ends of the measuring tape into the surface using a tool such as a screwdriver, with the tape stretched taut and close to the soil surface. If vegetation exists in regular rows, place the tape diagonally (at approximately a 45° angle) away from a parallel or perpendicular position to the vegetated rows. Pinpoint an area the size of a 3/32 inch diameter brazing rod or wooden dowel centered above each 1 foot interval mark along one edge of the tape. Count the number of times that flat vegetation lies directly underneath the pinpointed area at 1 foot intervals. Consistently observe the underlying surface from a 90° angle directly above each pinpoint on one side of the tape. Do not count the underlying surface as vegetated if any portion of the pinpoint extends beyond the edge of the vegetation underneath in any direction. If clumps of vegetation or vegetative debris lie underneath the pinpointed area, count the surface as vegetated, unless bare soil is visible directly below the pinpointed area. When 100 observations have been made, add together the number of times a surface was counted as vegetated. This total represents the percent of flat vegetation cover (e.g., if 50 positive counts were made, then vegetation cover is 50%). If the survey

area that represents a random portion of the overall conditions of the site is too small for 100 observations, make as many observations as possible. Then multiply the count of vegetated surface areas by the appropriate conversion factor to obtain percent cover. For example, if vegetation was counted 30 times within a total of 50 observations, divide 30 by 50 and multiply by 100 to obtain a flat vegetation cover of 60%.

**Conduct the line transect test method, as described above, an additional two times on areas that represent a random portion of the overall conditions of the site and average results.**

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