

Key to Generic Vegetation Structure

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Based on the relative composition of three plant stature phases, open, shrub, and tree, and the height of the tree component. The boundary between forest and woodland as estimated in the field is 1 gap for every 2 crown widths. The minimum of tree cover for woodland is set to a maximum gap width of 9 tree crowns for every tree crown or 10% cover. A woodland can then be categorized as either open, shrubby, or both. A minimum of 10% shrub is required to be shrubby, while a minimum of 25% of open is required for open. To avoid a combination of woodlands that fail to qualify as shrubby (<10% shrub) or open (<25% open) the 2/3rds tree cover is rounded down to 65%.

Forest and woodland heights are based on median crown height for a low, medium, and high category. Once forests reach the high category, forests may reach taller statures, but is more contingent the exceptional height potential of fewer and fewer species. Therefore, the height assessment shifts towards the mean tallest tree per hectare.

1a. Tree canopy (≥ 5 m) cover < 10%

2a. Tall shrub (2-5 m) cover < 10% ... open grassland and low shrubland

2b. Tall shrub (2-5 m) cover $\geq 10\%$ [Shrubland]

3a. Combined tree and shrub (≥ 2 m) cover < 75% ... open tall shrubland

3b. Combined tree and shrub (≥ 2 m) cover $\geq 75\%$... dense tall shrubland

1a. Tree canopy (≥ 5 m) cover $\geq 10\%$

4a. Tree canopy cover < 65% [Woodland]

5a. Tall shrub (2-5 m) cover < 10%

6a. Median Crown height < 15 m ... open low woodland

6b. Median Crown height ≥ 15 m

7a. Median Crown height < 30 m ... open medium woodland

7b. Median Crown height ≥ 30 m ... open high woodland

5b. Tall shrub (2-5 m) cover $\geq 10\%$

8a. Combined tree and shrub (≥ 2 m) cover < 75%

9a. Median Crown height < 15 m ... open shrubby low woodland

9b. Median Crown height ≥ 15 m

10a. Median Crown height < 30 m ... open shrubby medium woodland

10b. Median Crown height \geq 30 m ... open shrubby high woodland

8a. Combined tree and shrub (\geq 2 m) cover \geq 75%

11a. Median Crown height < 15 m ... shrubby low woodland

11b. Median Crown height \geq 15 m

12a. Median Crown height < 30 m ... shrubby medium woodland

12b. Median Crown height \geq 30 m ... shrubby high woodland

4b. Tree canopy cover \geq 65% [Forest]

13a. Median Crown height < 15 m ... low forest

13b. Median Crown height \geq 15 m

14a. Median Crown height < 30 m ... medium forest

14b. Median Crown height \geq 30 m

15a. Emergent crowns (tallest trees per hectare) < 45 m ... high forest

15b. Emergent crowns (tallest trees per hectare) \geq 45 m

16a. Median Crown height < 45 m or emergent crowns (tallest trees per hectare) < 60 m ... tall forest

16b. Median Crown height \geq 45 m and emergent crowns (tallest trees per hectare) \geq 60 m ... giant forest

