

Our second attribute is hydrologic function and we think of this as the capacity of an area to capture, store and safely release water when that water come from rainfall, run-on or snow melt. In the reference condition, it's a situation where the soil and the vegetation community is in a condition so that infiltration can occur at the optimum rate, that vegetation is structured in such a way that water cannot runoff the land very fast, it has to run around the bases of plants and give it more time to soak into the soil and it's never able to develop velocity that it has very much capacity to erode, erode the soil. So, all of those things are involved then in figuring out the hydrologic function and the pictures we see, as an example, are sagebrushes in the great basin tends to, to slow the wind and as the wind is slowed blowing snow drops out and is accumulated in the soil surface or on the soil surface and over time then is able to melt. If we remove that vegetative structure and we just have grasses in the winter which are laying underneath the snow, the wind can simply blow it all away because the structure of the plant community is not there. So, hydrologic function again uses a series of indicators to help us determine how well hydrologic we think as to hydrology a water cycle is working. This is the list of indicators for hydrologic function, the ones in yellow are the 10 of the 17 that are used to evaluate hydrologic function when you move them from your assessment into your, into your evaluation Matrix. So, this is the hydrologic function.