

Indicator number 13 is plant mortality and decadence. This is the attribute we use to look to see if we have more plants that are potentially dead or dieing than what we would expect in the reference community. As you can see on the slide on your left, you've got a fair number of old dead sage brush within the bunch grass part of the community and then live sage brush in a larger stand. This may actually be very typical of what your reference site might be, I'm not saying that's where it is, but it could be because to revigorate the grass part of the community, you may periodically have to have the other plant such as sage brush in this instance die out and make room for those grass plants to flourish. So, you see this sometimes as part of the reference, but if you're seeing it more than what you would expect in the reference of departure from the reference, then, it's going to be a problem and on the right-hand slide, you see a close-up of a map salt bush taken in \_\_\_\_\_ kind of a landscape where that you're able to see some of the old dead part of the plant and this is a drought affect as I remember when this slide was taken, so, you're seeing a drought affect on that particular map salt bush plant. That may be very much in line with how the site functions and may or may not represent departure from the reference, that's something that you've got to pull together and figure out to determine how this indicator relates to that larger picture. This is then a picture of Northern New Mexico near Sante Fe, you see almost all the plants, all the trees, grasses, forbes and shrubs, while they are dormant, they're not dead or decadent, it's just simply and early, early spring picture and these warm season plants have not begun growth yet. Then, in the picture in the right in the very lower right-hand corner, you can actually see plants

with the old material, the old leaves droop down, these are old decadent grass plants and then up in the upper right-hand corner, you see a number of the pinyon trees, actually, in this particular slide that have died. Again, drought and invasion of insects caused that particular problem. So, again, it represents the attribute that you're concerned about or biotic integrity and this is an indication of whether or not the plant community is maintaining the integrity and the live highly productive plants.