

## Appendix D Vegetation Identification Resources

### Estimating Dominance by the 50/20 Rule

1. Determine the number of strata.
2. For each stratum:
  - a. Estimate percent (%) cover for each species.
  - b. Add percent (%) cover for each to get total cover.
  - c. In descending order, identify the species that contribute to more than 50 percent of total cover.
  - d. Include any other species that by itself is 25 percent or more of the total cover. The dominant species are those identified in c. and d.
3. After determining the dominant species for each stratum, count the total number of dominants from all strata and note their indicator status. *A species may be counted more than once if it is a dominant in more than one stratum.*
4. Hydrophytic vegetation is present if more than 50 percent of the total number of dominants are FAC or wetter.

A stratum for sampling purposes is defined as having 5 percent or more total plant cover. If a stratum has less than 5 percent cover during the peak growing season, then those species and their cover values should be recorded on the data form but should not be used in the calculations for the dominance test unless it is the only stratum present.

- *Tree stratum* - woody plants 3" or more dbh, regardless of height
- *Sapling/shrub stratum* - woody plants < 3" dbh and > 3.28'
- *Herb stratum* - all herbaceous (non-woody) plants, including herbaceous vines, regardless of size, and woody plants < 3.28'
- *Woody vines* - all woody vines > 3.28'

*Source: ERDC/EL TR 10-16, p. 20*