

## **Feral Pig Disturbance Ranking Handout-WAP Workshop-April 2013**

**Excerpts taken from:**

### **Development, Implementation, and Evaluation of Management Tools to Reduce Feral Swine Damage at Avon Park AFR, Florida**

Interim Report, Year 1  
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#### **Severity and extent of pig damage**

*Category 1: Surficial rooting* (see Figure 1A for examples)

Foraging at or just below the surface  
Rooting depth less than 6 inches  
Fewer than 33% of plants uprooted and/or consumed  
Less than 33% bare soil

*Category 2: Moderate rooting* (see Figure 1B for examples)

Foraging below the surface  
Rooting depth 4 to 8 inches  
33% to 66% of plants uprooted and/or consumed  
Up to 66% bare soil

*Category 3: Extensive rooting* (see Figure 1C for examples)

Foraging below the surface  
Rooting depth 4 to 12+ inches  
Greater than 66% of plants uprooted and/or consumed  
Over 66% bare soil

*Category 4: Wallow* (see Figure 1D for examples)

Open depression created by “rolling” activity of hogs in sand and/or muck soils  
Devoid of vegetation  
Often retains water, creating new hydrologic feature

## **Time since pig damage occurred**

### *Category 1: Less than or equal to 1 week*

Freshly overturned soil, with little or no effect of wind or rain on the surface of the broken soil

Overturnd vegetation is still green incolor; may or may not be moderately wilted

Exposed roots are still intact and pliable

Disturbed vegetation has not resprouted

No new plants have sprouted up in areas of bare soil

### *Category 2: Less than or equal to 1 month*

Overturnd soil shows some signs of weathering

Overturnd vegetation is yellowing and/or wilted

Exposed roots are intact but dry

Disturbed vegetation shows initial signs of regrowth (budding leaves and stems)

Seeds may have just sprouted in areas of bare soil

### *Category 3: 2 to 3 months*

Overturnd soil is weathered and beginning to settle or flatten

Overturnd vegetation is mostly dead (depending on soil adherence to the roots)

Exposed roots are dry, brittle, and beginning to break off

Disturbed vegetation shows signs of regrowth (extended shoots and stems)

Plants sprouted in areas of bare soil becoming distinguishable (to genus, possibly species)

### *Category 4: 4 to 6 months*

Overturnd soil is weathered and partially settled

Overturnd vegetation is dead and beginning to decompose

Exposed roots are dry and broken off, soil is falling away from root balls

Disturbed vegetation has moderately recovered

Plants sprouted in areas of bare soil are distinguishable (to species)

Figure 1 A. Examples of Category 1 Damage-Surficial rooting



Selective feeding-cutthroat grass



Surface soil pushed up in shallow mounds



Vegetation Uprooted



Figure 1B. Examples of Category 2 Damage-Moderate rooting



Cutthroat grass uprooted and soil turned over



Patchy removal and/or consumption of vegetation



Subsurface feeding in wet, mucky soils



Figure 1C. Examples of Category 3 damage Extensive/Severe rooting



Deep rooting

down to mineral soil



Soil pushed up in tall mounds



Thorough destruction of plant community

Figure 1D. Examples of Category 4 Damage-Wallow



Shallow depression from pig rolling in mud



Wallow created  
after recent feeding



Deep wallow along a movement corridor, holding water