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The system is based on five primary categories by criteria which are visible on, or inferrable from, remotely sensed data. The chosen criteria are (I) Zones, (II) Features, (III) Composition and/or Position, (IV) Condition and/or Pattern and/or Morphology, (V) Presence. A secondary categorising structure permits the ready classification of mixed data, i.e. when a mapped unit consists of a mixture of surface cover types or features. Multiple entries, to allow for features which can be categorised into more than one primary group, are permitted.

Coding of features is generally numeric to facilitate transfer of the recorded data between interpreter, recorder, operator and computer files.

Conclusion

The data recording book described provides a useful basis for development as a standard issue for use by field observers and air photo and image interpreters. Further discussion with other researchers and end users of the resultant data is required before the schema could be recommended and/or adopted as a universal data recording standard for the region. The system is simple enough in concept but the number of possible entries required for some features would be cumbersome until the user was thoroughly familiar with the given range. This is however a criticism common of most in-the-field recording systems.