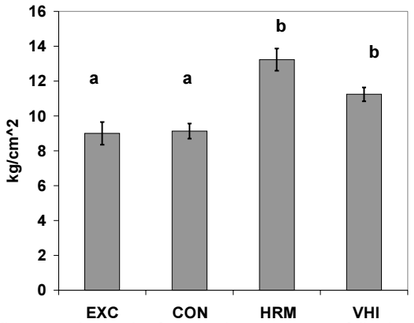

Figure 2. Soil compaction under four grazing treatments, following three years of treatment. EXC = livestock exclosure; CON = conventional, low-density, long-duration grazing; HRM = high-intensity, short-duration grazing; VHI = very high-intensity, short-duration grazing to simulate herd impact. Different letters denote significant differences in the degree of soil compaction (df=3, F=15.308, P=0.006).

Plant Cover

We found plant cover to be fairly similar among treatments, ranging from 78% to 88% (Fig. 4). Year-to-year variation in total plant cover was not significant, whereas treatment type was a significant factor (df=3, F=9.87, P<0.0001). At a finer scale of inspection, total plant cover measurements showed the HRM treatment to be consistently lower than the EXC and CON treatments by about 7-9%. Furthermore, the

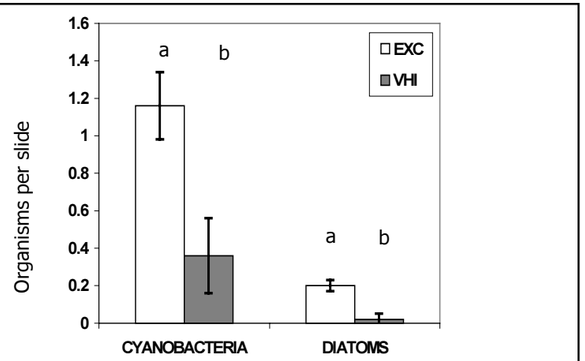

Figure 3. Abundance of cyanobacteria and diatoms in exclosures (EXC) and very high-intensity (VHI) plots following two years of treatment. Different letters denote significant differences in abundances (df=1, F=8.98, P=0.0047).