

Promoting the social, ecological, and economic sustainability of rangelands through the development and widespread use of the criteria & indicators for rangeland assessments, and by providing a forum for dialogue on the sustainability of rangelands.

CONTACTS:

R. Dennis Child

970.491.3316

dennis.child@colostate.edu

Kristie Maczko

970.295.5985

kristiem@cnr.colostate.edu

SRR WEBSITE:

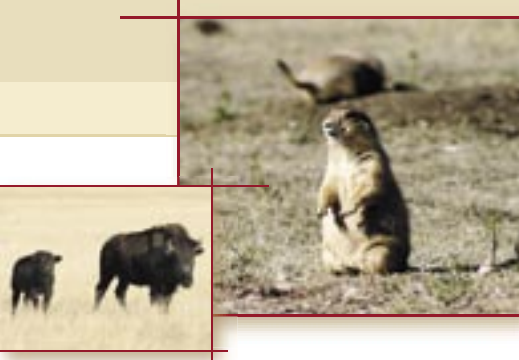
<http://SustainableRangelands.cnr.colostate.edu>

SUSTAINABLE RANGELANDS ROUNDTABLE

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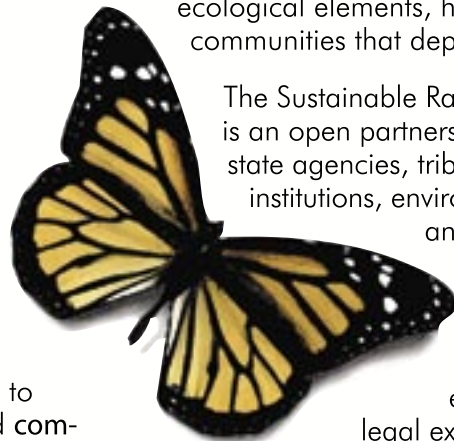


Sustainable Rangelands Monitoring and Reporting Initiative

The quality of life we enjoy in this country depends upon rangelands and related resources - clean water, wildlife habitat, minerals and energy, livestock forage, open vistas, and recreational opportunities. Some individuals value rangelands for non-consumptive products like biodiversity, carbon sequestration, or a setting for solitude and spiritual renewal, while others depend on rangelands for their livelihood.

Despite the importance of rangelands, their sustainability is not currently monitored. To better understand rangeland ecology and its relationship to social and economic systems, we need common methods to inventory, monitor, and report on rangelands and their uses. Monitoring and management for sustainable rangelands accommodates current societal needs, while simultaneously conserving resources for future generations to meet their needs.

“Sustainable management” will be a significant change in the way organizations address rangeland



resources. Sustainability focuses upon providing a desired mix of products and services for current and future generations, thereby acknowledging that people are an important component of rangeland ecosystems. Inclusion of social and economic aspects of sustainability, in parity with ecological elements, highlights the well-being of communities that depend upon rangelands.

The Sustainable Rangelands Roundtable (SRR) is an open partnership of over 75 federal and state agencies, tribal governments, academic institutions, environmental organizations, and resource user groups. Participants total more than 150 rangeland scientists and managers, ecologists, sociologists, economists, policy and legal experts, and industry representatives. Relationships formed through SRR activities allow groups with varied interests to work together toward mutually beneficial goals.

The Sustainable Rangelands Roundtable promotes social, ecological, and economic sustainability of U.S. rangelands, as well as associated resource assessments based upon periodic inventory and

monitoring of SRR criteria and indicators. Criteria are explicit goals of sustainable management, but are too general to monitor directly. Each criterion is characterized by measurable indicators to demonstrate trends over time.

SRR’s standardized monitoring and reporting framework will provide comprehensive national rangeland data. Consistent inventory and monitoring information may enable Congress, agencies, and constituents to more accurately assess effects of conservation programs and management actions, ultimately improving agency delivery of effective, efficient land management actions and conservation programs upon which landowners depend for advice and assistance.

Comprehensive rangeland information, consistently collected coast to coast and border to border, will benefit everyone. Potential outcomes include improved coordination and cooperation among agencies and organizations and enhanced resource allocations for rangeland management and science. However, SRR indicators must first be universally adopted and used to track trends in rangeland resources, economics and communities.