



Natural Resources Conservation Service
California State Office
430 G Street, Room 4164
Davis, CA 95616
(530) 792-5600

November 13, 2013

RANGE TECHNICAL NOTE NO. CA – 56

SUBJECT: Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health

Purpose: To transmit the above named Technical Note

Effective Date: When contents are received.

Background:

The science of assessing rangelands is changing as concepts and protocols continue to evolve. The concept of rangeland health was advanced as an alternative to range condition (National Research Council 1994). The ecological status concept is currently used by most range professionals as the basis for inventory and assessment.

The attached document, *Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health – Version 4* (BLM-TR-1734-6) was produced by BLM, authored by representatives from BLM, NRCS, USGS, and NRCS. It describes a protocol using observable qualitative indicators to interpret and assess rangeland health. The document is also available at the following website:

<http://www.blm.gov/nstc/library/techref.htm>

Qualitative assessments of rangeland health provide land managers and technical assistance specialists with a good communication tool for use with the public. This technique, in association with quantitative monitoring and inventory information can be used to provide early warnings of resource problems.

Filing Instructions:

This Technical Note and new Index will be filed electronically in the California eFOTG under the hierarchy: Section I, Technical Notes, Range <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/efotg>

Field Offices may also optionally file hard copies in three-ring binder with other “Subject” Technical Notes. If a hard copy is maintained, update the Index with new entries.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Hedt", written over a horizontal line.

TOM HEDT
State Resource Conservationist

Attachment: BLM Technical Reference 1734-6, version 4

Distribution: O

