

TECHNICAL NOTES

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

TN – RANGE - CA - 56

November 13, 2013

Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health

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.