

# TECHNICAL NOTES

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U.S. Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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TN – RANGE - CA - 58

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## ANNUAL GRASSLAND RDM MONITORING & EVALUATION GUIDE

Standard monitoring on annual grasslands utilizes the Residual Dry Matter (RDM) guidelines established by University of California Agriculture & Natural Resources (UCANR) in their publication 8092, “California Guidelines for Residual Dry Matter management on Coastal and Foothill Annual Rangelands”. This document establishes guidelines for amount of RDM required to protect the soil from erosion and to create a suitable micro-climate for seed germination after the fall rains begin. Guidelines are based on percent woody cover, slope and precipitation zone.

Along with RDM, other factors can be monitored on annual grassland including, annual rainfall, soil surface conditions, grazing intensity and current species composition. Each of these factors can be evaluated using this spreadsheet. It can be used during the initial resource inventory as well as during a prescribed grazing monitoring program.

This form was developed by Michael Higgins, Range Specialist in Hanford and Julie Finzel, UC Livestock & Natural Resource Advisor in Kern County with assistance from Ceci Dale-Cesmat, State Rangeland Management Specialist.

If you have any questions or need additional assistance with this form, contact your Area Range Specialist, or contact Ceci Dale-Cesmat, at 530-792-5658, or Ceci.DaleCesmat@ca.usda.gov.

### **Filing Instructions:**

The Assessment Tool will be filed on the eFOTG in Section I > Resource Assessment Tools > Annual Grassland RDM Evaluation Guide.

The cover Technical Note will be filed on the eFOTG in Section I > Technical Notes > Range > TN-Range-CA-58