

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
6200 Jefferson NE, Room 305
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109
Phone: (505) 761-4400 Fax: (505) 761-4462
Web site: www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov

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NEW MEXICO BULLETIN NO. 290-9-01

SUBJECT: INV – 2009 NATIONAL RESOURCE INVENTORY (NRI) REMOTE SENSING
AND GRAZING LAND FIELD STUDY ANNUAL INVENTORY DATA
COLLECTIONS

TO: All Offices

Purpose. To provide all offices information on the data collections for the 2009 NRI remote sensing and grazing lands field study in New Mexico.

Expiration Date. December 31, 2009

The annual collection of NRI data for New Mexico is underway. Data collected by the NRI teams and field office staff validate and augment the remote sensing data collection conducted from aerial photographs by the Remote Sensing Laboratory (RSL) in Portland, Oregon. The NRI data collected locally includes multi-year cropping histories, from Farm Service Agency (FSA) records, verification of soil erosion factors, whether the land is under an active Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation plan, and whether under Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) contract. In addition and NRI grazing land field study is performed annually.

The support of local NRCS and the FSA personnel is essential to the efficient collection of this supporting data. Local visits to the field offices and FSA offices are necessary for many counties. Area or state office staff will coordinate with experienced field staff for the most efficient and accurate data collection. Contact and visits to the field offices for the remote sensing project will be staggered in July, August, September, and October.

The remote sensing NRI project in New Mexico will inventory 449 segments (formerly termed "Primary Sample Units" (PSUs)) having 838 points. All counties are included in this year's sampling except Los Alamos County, the list is attached. The number of segments per county varies according to land use and statistical stratification designs. About 30 minutes per segment is required when field office assistance is needed for data collection. Not all segments in a county will require field office assistance and is dependent on the location and past data entry history. One of the NRI collection team members will perform the data entry. The deadline for New Mexico to complete the annual NRI remote sensing project data collection is **October 15, 2009**.

(MORE)

The grazing land data collection project involves field data collection at 96 segments in 11 New Mexico counties, noted on the attached list. Field office staff should be prepared to help with landowner contacts for permission and access. The field office is invited to accompany and assist with data collection in their counties. It is an excellent field experience in rangeland data collection and includes discussion of ecological sites, soil map units, rangeland health, plant identification, plant production, and conservation needs. Trained data collectors will be assigned to the 11 counties and will contact the local field offices.

If you have any questions, please contact Gerald Stratton, Soil Scientist/NRI Coordinator, by email at gerald.stratton@nm.usda.gov or phone at (505) 761-4490.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dennis Alexander".

DENNIS ALEXANDER
State Conservationist

Attachments

NEW MEXICO REMOTE SENSING NRI SEGMENTS

COUNTIES	TOTAL
Bernalillo	7
Catron	4
Chaves	14
Cibola	3
Colfax	6
Curry	56
De Baca	11
Dona Ana	32
Eddy	19
Grant	4
Guadalupe	5
Harding	9
Hidalgo	6
Lea	18
Lincoln	1
Luna	9
McKinley	5
Mora	14
Otero	6
Quay	36
Rio Arriba	14
Roosevelt	48
Sandoval	10
San Juan	34
San Miguel	5
Santa Fe	5
Sierra	6
Socorro	16
Taos	9
Torrance	3
Union	24
Valencia	10
	449

NEW MEXICO GRAZING LAND SEGMENTS

FIPS	STATE	COUNTY	NUMBER OF SEGMENTS
35003	NM	Catron	5
35005	NM	Chaves	6
35006	NM	Cibola	10
35013	NM	Dona Ana	6
35027	NM	Lincoln	11
35031	NM	McKinley	8
35035	NM	Otero	11
35039	NM	Rio Arriba	7
35047	NM	San Miguel	11
35053	NM	Socorro	12
35057	NM	Torrance	9
			96