



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
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**BIOLOGY TECHNICAL NOTE NO. NM-61**

**SUBJECT: ECS –Wildlife Habitat Monitoring Methods**

**Purpose.** To distribute information to area and field offices.

**Effective Date.** Effective upon receipt.

**Filing Instructions.** File in office reference library also maintained on NRCS New Mexico Technical Resources website: <http://www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/tech-notes/bio.html>

**Explanation.** To provide habitat monitoring methods which can be used to quickly and accurately assess vegetative habitat requirements; for the purpose of 1) documenting current conditions or trends, 2) making informed land management decisions based on field investigation, 3) and for evaluating the impacts of management or land treatments.

Wildlife habitat monitoring protocol is provided to be used as conservation planning and evaluation tool, as needed. Biology Technical Note 61 includes protocol on the following methods; however, these methods may be modified and other methods may be used.

- Visual Obstruction Method using a Cover Pole, used to estimate the density and structure of vertical vegetative cover.
- Line Intercept Method, used to determine canopy cover and plant composition.
- Photo Documentation, used to visually monitor change over time from a fixed point.



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State Resource Conservationist

*Attachments*

