



Southwest Strategy

Members include the States and Tribes of Arizona and New Mexico, the Departments of Defense, Interior and Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency

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Dear Participant:

As the Southwest Strategy (SWS) Rangeland Management Work Group Regional Executive sponsor and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service State Conservationist in New Mexico, it is my pleasure to *WELCOME* you to the first of several "New Mexico Interagency Rangeland Monitoring" work shops to be held in the state. This is one of the many products developed in collaboration with partners in the southwest.

Proper use and management of our rangeland resources has created a demand for uniformity and consistency in rangeland health measurements methods in the state of New Mexico. As a result of this interest in January 2000, the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts (NMACD) along with the New Mexico Cattle Growers and the New Mexico Grazing Land Conservation Initiative requested from Southwest Strategy to develop an interagency uniform approach to rangeland monitoring for ranchers in the State. The federal and state agencies involved with Southwest Strategy began to develop materials to assist in the request. This effort expanded in 2001 to include other representatives and organizations (see acknowledgement on backside of handbook).

The Rangeland Management Work Group functions under the guidance of providing support and assistance to Southwest Strategy agencies to institutionalize unified and participative approaches to grazing as a component of multiple use rangeland management by removing barriers, gathering information, and coordinating management across jurisdictional lines. The federal agencies involved in the Southwest Strategy fully support and participate in the interagency coordinated planning efforts with our state agency partners through the existing Coordinated Resource Management Memorandum of Understanding in Arizona and New Mexico. My counterpart and Regional Executive sponsor for the work group is Carl Rountree, Associate State Director for Bureau of Land Management in Arizona.

The goal of Southwest Strategy is a community development and natural resources conservation and management effort by federal, state, tribal and local governments. Through this effort the partners will work in collaboration with each other and the public to restore and maintain the cultural, economic and environmental quality of life in the states of Arizona and New Mexico.

If you are not aware of SWS or would like to learn more about the effort, please contact Bill Maxon, Executive Director, at (505) 248-6914. If you would like to learn more about the activities of the SWS Rangeland Management Work Group, please call George Chavez at (505) 761-4421.

Sincerely,

ROSENDO TREVIÑO III
State Conservationist - NM
USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service