



## Rangeland Assessment and Update of Soil - Ecological Site Correlation for Dinosaur National Monument

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During 2007-2008, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) rangeland management specialists, biologists, and soil scientists from Colorado and Utah correlated soils to ecological sites and conducted rangeland assessments on grazing allotments within Dinosaur National Monument through an interagency agreement between the NRCS Colorado State Office and the USDI National Park Service (NPS). We classified soils, inventoried vegetation, and assessed rangeland health on selected soil map units within each upland ecological site in each grazing allotment. Vegetation inventories followed the NRCS protocol for ecological site description, using a combination of double-sampling and ocular estimation of species composition by aboveground annual production. The Monument is located in the Western Range and Irrigated Region, and the Rocky Mountain Range and Forest Region. The lower elevation sites are in the Warm Central Desertic Basins Major Land Resource Area (MLRA 34B), including Semidesert Sandy Loam and Semidesert Loam (Wyoming big sagebrush [*Artemisia tridentata wyomingensis*]). The mid-elevation sites are in the Cold Central Desertic Basins (MLRA 34A), primarily Rolling Loam (mountain big sagebrush [*A. t. vaseyana*]). The higher elevation sites are in the Wasatch and Uinta Mountains (MLRA 47), including Deep Loam and Mountain Loam (mountain big sagebrush), Mountain Stony Loam (browse), and Mountain Windswept Ridge (black sagebrush [*A. nova*]). Pinyon-Juniper (*Pinus edulis* - *Juniperus osteosperma*) sites occur across all 3 MLRAs. Soil - ecological site correlation will assist the NPS with rangeland management and will be used by the NRCS to develop state and transition models for ecological site descriptions.

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