



Systematically Improving Ecological Site Description Delivery in New Mexico

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An Ecological Site Description (ESD) characterizes the physical and biological traits of an ecological site and includes interpretations for wildlife, hydrology, and resource use. ESDs are stored in the Ecological Site Information System (ESIS), where they are accessed by a wide variety of private, tribal, state, and federal personnel. Since 1983, ESDs were grouped by their respective Major Land Resource Area (MLRA). In December 2003, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) revised the MLRA map and concepts, necessitating the task of restructuring ESD classification, storage, and access. New Mexico NRCS accomplished this task while correlating its ESD classification with Arizona NRCS and Texas NRCS and without losing any data or ESD links to the National Soils Information System (NASIS), which powers the main point of delivery for soils information on the internet called Web Soil Survey.

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