



## **Ecological Site Descriptions from Paper Copy (Hidden on a Shelf in the Office) to Web-Based Technology (Available Anytime)!**

Justin D. Clary; USDA NRCS; Contac Author Email: [justin.clary@tx.usda.gov](mailto:justin.clary@tx.usda.gov)

USDA-NRCS has developed Ecological Site Descriptions (ESD's) to meet the needs of various customers, whether they may be small ranch landowners, ranchers, forest land owners, land managers, consultants, federal agencies, state agencies, or the public. ESDs is a document developed for each unique ecological site based on site characteristics, ecological dynamics, plant communities, site interpretations, and supporting information. Due to the technology advancement that is available to the public and the government, the transfer of ESD information has gone from paper copy to web-based sites to reach out to our ever-changing customer base. An effective Forest or Rangeland ESD is collaboration between the State Range Management Specialist (RMS), State Forester, State Soil Scientist, Zone RMS, and Resource Soil Scientists. The ESD must be correlated with the appropriate soil, as this will eventually underpin another technology tool: Web Soil Survey. ESD's are developed using collection of information gathered from NASIS, Soil Data Mart, Range Site Descriptions, resource inventory data, Workgroups, and reviewers. ESD are strengthened from technical contributions outside the Agency as well. Web-based technology has allowed ESD's to be published on the web and be linked to different websites to interact with even more customers. ESD's are approved and posted on the Ecological Site Information System under the Plants Database website, the Web Soil Survey, and even in the Texas eFOTG. This will allow the customer to obtain the information they want any time of day with high speed internet access whether it may be soils or ecological dynamics.

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