



Advances in Evaluation of Rangeland Health in Northern Mexico

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Rangelands provide products and services such as livestock, wood, carbon sequestering, recreation, water catchment among others important for life sustainability. However, range degradation is an increasing problem all around the world. New approaches on range evaluation are needed to be applied in order to cope with changing demands of society. In northern Mexico, the range health concept has been incorporated as well as the new approaches developed by different agencies from the U.S. federal government. Since the late 90's, about 300 people from different Mexican agencies had participated in courses related with evaluation and monitoring of range health. In 2005 a regional project was conducted on the short grass prairie at the Chihuahuan Desert, where over 600 points were evaluated. Also, in Chihuahua State, bunch grassland, halophytic grassland and some shrublands had been evaluated and in about 20 ranches health range monitoring points were established. The methodology of range health has been incorporated in programs for graduate and under graduate programs at different universities. Field courses have been carried out where this integral methodology for range health has been transferred to technicians and producers. Individuals working on the diffusion and application of this methodology, have more sites to evaluate as well as more people to train. Where Mexico and U.S. share similar concepts, methodology and data bases, efforts and resources can be shared on range management practices and decisions.

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