



## **Implementing a Database- and User-Driven Portal: Metadata and Technical Issues, and Results of User Survey**

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This presentation describes the development of the Rangelands West technical architecture and specifically the metadata database. Issues encountered in fully realizing the potential of a database-driven information system and in financially maintaining such a system led to implementing a needs assessment study conducted in summer and fall 2008 by the Western Rangelands Partnership (WRP). The purpose of the research was to gather responses from a wide range of private and public land managers, extension personnel, and research scientists involved with rangelands, regarding their information needs related to rangeland issues. Our methods for obtaining this data included an anonymous voluntary online survey distributed to key stakeholders identified by WRP representatives from a number of different states as well as follow-up interviews and focus groups. The needs assessment data is being used to define user requirements to further develop and enhance the Rangelands West web portal and affiliated websites. The ultimate outcomes will be improved online resources and services that will facilitate better land management and decision-making for rangelands.

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