



## **Rangeland CEAP Literature Synthesis: Objectives and Goals**

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The Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) was initiated by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), and Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) in response to a general call for better accountability of societal benefits resulting from substantial increases in conservation program funding in the 2002 Farm Bill. The purpose of CEAP - the Conservation Effects Assessment Project - is to improve our ability to quantify the environmental effects of conservation practices. A science-based approach to conservation requires an understanding of the current state of knowledge on these effects. The objective is to enhance effective and sustained management of rangelands to improve soil, water, plant, and animal resources on rangelands. More than 35 scientists have contributed to this landmark synthesis of conservation practice related research. Scientific findings will be translated to NRCS practice standards and specifications, and into the NRCS planning process with private landowners. It is hoped that this synthesis will lead to a consensus for future rangeland management practices and approaches, provide suggestions for modified or alternative practices, and identify methods for environmental management and research at landscape and watershed scales that extend beyond the boundaries of conventional ecological sites. A preliminary finding is that there is a lack of research information at the spatial and temporal scale at which most rangeland conservation practices are implemented and how these practices interact with key ecosystem processes to provide ecosystem services.

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