



Assessment of Rangeland Practices to Enhance Wildlife

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We examined the purported benefits of rangeland management practices on amphibians, bats, birds, predators, reptiles, small game, and ungulates (some of which were outlined in the USDA-NRCS National Conservation Practice Guidelines). We associated experimental data with rangeland practices from the peer-reviewed literature. Our objective was to provide an evidence-based assessment of the rangeland management practices that potentially influence wildlife. We reviewed >500 articles related to rangeland management practices on U.S. rangelands. Overall studies concentrated on how rangeland practices influenced various aspects related to vegetation and other attributes of wildlife habitat. From these data, assumptions have to be made as to how the effects influenced productivity and recruitment as in most cases these critical aspects of life history were not measured. Valuable data are available as to how rangeland practices influence vegetation in some areas but adequate conservation practices could not be developed without additional research that addresses how the practices influence productivity and recruitment of wildlife.

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