



Challenges in Developing Ecological Site Descriptions for Riparian Areas

Kendra Moseley¹ and Jack D. Alexander²; (1) USDA-NRCS, (2) Synergy Resource Solutions, Inc.; Contact Author Email: jack@countgrass.com

California NRCS was tasked to develop Ecological Site Descriptions (ESD) for riparian areas. Numerous challenges presented themselves, including lack of undisturbed reference areas, lack of manualized protocols, and lack of ESD templates. California NRCS assembled a team of State and regional NRCS specialists, and private contractors to develop a riparian ESD, field sampling protocols, and an ESD template. Recognizing that funding, information, and expertise would vary between sites and years, the team developed multi-tiered protocols and templates. This presentation summarizes the riparian ESD development process, challenges and opportunities encountered during the process, and suggestions for future development. Lessons learned in California are applicable throughout the West. Discussion will include adaptation to other areas.

2009. 62nd Society for Range Management Annual Meeting. Paper No. 14-6.