

Monitoring manual for grassland, shrubland and savanna ecosystems. Volume I: Quick Start. Volume II: Design, supplementary methods and interpretation.

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Abstract : This manual, which comes in two parts, describes how to monitor rangeland attributes: soil and site stability, watershed function, and biotic integrity. The first volume outlines how to establish a rangeland monitoring program, and lists a number of long-term monitoring methods such as photo points to visually record cover, line-point intercepts of cover and composition, soil stability tests, and belt transects for measuring perennial invasive plants. Short-term monitoring is also briefly outlined. The second volume provides more detailed guidance on monitoring program design, data analysis and interpretation. It also includes eight supplementary monitoring methods as alternatives to the line-point intercept system. Specific recommendations are given for designing monitoring programs to address issues including livestock production, habitat, fire, and invasive species. The use of state and transition models to evaluate monitoring programs sensitive to significant changes is also explained.

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