

Status of Report to Congress for Completion of Standard Soil Survey and Ecological Classification

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House Markup to 2002 Interior Appropriations Bill

- The Appropriations Committee expects the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior to prepare, within 9 months of enactment, a coordinated 10-year plan and budget identifying the cost of completing standardized soil surveys and ecological classification on all rangelands for use at local management levels.

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- The Committee also expects the Secretaries to devise a plan to determine standardized monitoring and assessment methodologies and project costs that would be needed to carry out a periodic National Cooperative Rangeland Survey.

Challenges of Report and Potential to Deliver Product

- An interagency group met in Washington D.C. to develop consistent data guidelines
- Standard soil survey is defined as meeting NCSS standards
- Order 3 or higher soil surveys were considered meeting requirements except where low intensity of management made Order 4 or higher surveys adequate

Challenges of Report and Potential to Deliver Product

- Rangeland was considered to include grassland, shrubland, pinyon-juniper woodland, oak savannah, and other non-forested ecosystems.
- Acreage figures were derived from the NASIS soil survey schedule
- Ecological classification status was considered to be same as soil survey status.

Challenges of Report and Potential to Deliver Product

- If funding were made available to complete soil surveys on rangeland in 10 years do the agencies, principally NRCS, and private contractors have the capability to complete the job?
- Standardizing monitoring and assessment methodology between Federal agencies and multiple scales will be daunting task

Agency Soil Survey Needs

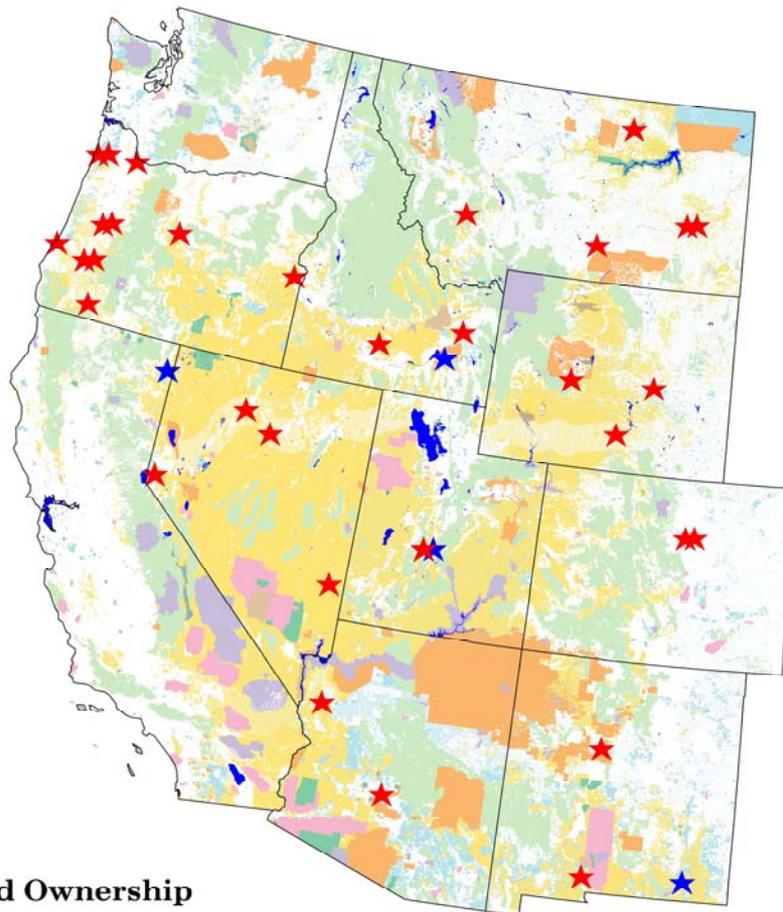
Agency	Acres range-land	Acres Survey complete	Acres survey needed	Acres update needed
BLM	255.7	203.7	36.9	15.1
USFS	96.2	65.9	30.5	55.6
NPS	55.1	8.3	46.7	1.5
Native American			23.9	
Private			7.8	

Soil Survey 10 Year Costs

Agency	10 Year costs (millions)
BLM	\$ 221
USFS	\$407
NPS	\$172

Bureau of Land Management Soil Scientists and Soil Conservationists

May 21, 2002



Land Ownership

Private	Water
State	USFWS
BLM	County
USFS	DOD
NPS	Other
BIA	BOR

★ Soil Scientists
★ Soil Conservationists

Rangeland Monitoring/Assessment



- Current methods
- Key rangeland health indicators
- Existing consistency in methods/indicators
- Develop consistent monitoring/assessment methodologies at local and national scales