Title: 718 How to gather background information for an ecological site

Type: X Skill  □ Knowledge

Performance Objective: Trainee will be able to…
- Gather appropriate up-to-date background information related to an ecological site.

Target Proficiency:
□ Awareness  □ Understanding  □ Perform w/ supervision  
X Apply independently  □ Proficiency, can teach others

Trainer Preparation:
- Be familiar with the assigned reading and review material in the lesson plan that follows.
- Have on hand examples of relevant background information for several existing ecological sites.

Special Requirements: 
None

Prerequisite Modules:
None.
Module may be done in conjunction with the following related modules:
- 701 How to access and use the Ecological Site Information System
- 703 How to access ecological site information within Web Soil Survey
- 704 How to access and use the PLANTS Database
- 719 How to locate, access, and use local flora information

Notes:
None

Authors: 
Johanna Pate
Charles Stemmans

Approved by: 
Shawn McVey
The Five-Step OJT Cycle for **Procedural** Training (Skill)
### OJT Module Lesson

**Title:** 718 How to gather background information for an ecological site

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHAT</th>
<th>WHY, WHEN, WHERE, HOW, SAFETY, QUALITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Cycle Step 1** | You and trainee review the objectives of the module.  
You and trainee read and review:  
- National Ecological Site Handbook  
  Section 631.11C - Gather Background Information  
- Interagency Ecological Site Handbook for Rangeland,  
  Section 3 - Gather Background Information (page 24)  
Note: An electronic copy of reference materials can be found on the National Grazing Lands Team SharePoint site. |
| **Cycle Step 2** | Using the background information you have on hand for an ecological site, demonstrate where this information is located using local and national sources as appropriate for the trainee’s area.  
Good sources are:  
- Maps (e.g., aerial photos, digital maps, topographic maps, and geology maps)  
- Soil survey information (Web Soil Survey via a selected AOI relevant to the selected ecological site)  
- Published soil survey manuscripts (which may provide historical information as well as descriptions of range sites in the area)  
- FOTG and eFOTG (which provides records of previous efforts to describe and separate the landscape by Ecological Function)  
- Vegetation information, such as species lists  
- Written and oral histories  
- Existing ecological site description(s)  
Types of background information you are looking for include, but are not limited to:  
- Current ecological (synecological) information  
- Past vegetation history (historical literature)  
- Past vegetation data (historical literature)  
- Vegetation and ecological classifications and descriptions  
- Plant species (autecological) information  
- Natural disturbance regimes  
- Botanical references  
- Physical environment |
• Soil surveys and other land system inventories
• Hydrologic information
• Zoological information
• Data or records from farms, ranches, and research stations
• Interviews with long-time residents and land managers
• Conservation plans (site inventories)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cycle Step 3</th>
<th>Coach trainee as trainee locates similar background information for another site.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cycle Step 4</td>
<td>Repeat Cycle Step 3 without coaching.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycle Step 5</td>
<td>Provide feedback and debrief trainee. Reinforce specific items as needed until trainee is able to independently gather background information for an ecological site.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OJT Module Lesson Measurement of Learning

Title: 718 How to gather background information for an ecological site

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHAT</th>
<th>WHY, WHEN, WHERE, HOW, SAFETY, QUALITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trainee’s learning is measured.</td>
<td>During project activities, assign this task to the trainee. Sign off on performance when target proficiency is achieved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow-up</td>
<td>Follow-up should be done within 6 months to make sure training is retained.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Performance Report Form

Complete attachment: Trainee Performance Report Form template.pdf

or

SF-182
Trainee and/or supervisor access AgLearn to verify completion of the module via its SF-182