

National Resources Inventory



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What is the National Resources Inventory?

- The National Resources Inventory (NRI) program is the Federal Government's principal source of information on the status, condition, and trends of soil, water, and related resources in the United States.
- The NRI is conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and is based on scientific and rigorous sample survey protocols.
- Numerous legislative acts have mandated that NRCS collect natural resources data.

[The Rural Development Act of 1972](#) directed the Secretary of Agriculture to implement a land inventory and monitoring program and to issue a report on the conditions and trends of soil, water, and related resources at intervals not exceeding 5 years. The [Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act \(RCA\)](#) of 1977 and other supporting legislation augmented the statutory mandate for periodic assessment of the Nation's natural resources. To fulfill this requirement, the NRI program was developed to provide critical information regarding natural resources and to supplement the NRCS Soil Survey Program.

The NRI plays a key role in the development of conservation policy and programs for the nation. It serves to educate the public regarding natural resource issues and provides a comprehensive, nationally consistent source of data for researchers in many fields. It is also used by policymakers to make decisions about funding of natural resource programs. Informed and relevant decisions are best made when based upon scientifically derived data. The NRI has been developed to supply this type of information.

What is the NRI Grazing Land On-Site Data Collection Survey

- The NRI Grazing Land On-Site Data Collection Survey is conducted on NRI sites to obtain data that cannot be obtained or monitored in other ways.
- NRCS grassland specialists and other conservation specialists visit the sample site to observe resource conditions and make measurements of vegetation.
- Some of the items that will be estimated from the sample data are the amount of vegetation, its condition, type of vegetation, type of conservation practices, natural disturbances, and other observable conditions on these lands.
- This survey is being conducted on private grazing lands across the country. This includes native and non-native seeded grazing lands. It does not include hay land.



Why is the NRI Grazing Land On-Site Data Collection Survey important?

- The survey provides information related to the status and trends of the Nation's natural resources on rangeland and pastureland.
- These data are used to provide estimates of natural resource conditions that are critical to ensuring that the USA continues to have such things as high-quality drinking water, timber, wildlife habitat, and grazing products, and the most productive grazing lands in the world.

Where can I find more information or get assistance?

Visit our web page:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/north-dakota/national-resources-inventory-north-dakota>



How is the NRI Grazing Land On-Site Data Collection Survey conducted?

- On-site data are collected on both macro plots (150-foot diameter circular plots) and along two intersecting 150-foot transects.
- The type of data collected include land cover/use, landscape and soils, ecological site or forage suitability group information, rangeland health or pasture condition score, plant census and density, disturbance indicators, conservation practices, resource concerns, soil stability test, cover composition, canopy gaps, plant height, and species composition by weight or standing biomass. The methods used are found in the [Handbook of Instructions for the On-Site inventory](#)

How were sample sites selected?

- The NRI survey is a statistical sample design with sample sites selected on a county-by-county basis in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and certain Pacific Basin islands.
- These sites are periodically observed through a combination of photo interpretation and field office records to provide both status and trend estimates.
 - The NRI Grazing Land On-Site Data Collection Survey is conducted in the field on non-Federal pastureland sites in the 48 coterminous states, non-Federal rangeland sites in twenty states and on BLM managed rangeland sites in thirteen western states.
 - The non-Federal NRI Grazing Land sample sites are selected from the larger set of NRI sample sites.

What is done with the information from the inventory?

- The data will be entered into a data-recording device in the field.
 - Name and address will not be entered.
- The information will then be combined with data from the rest of the country to produce summary reports and in North Dakota to assist in development of ecological site descriptions.
 - The individual plot data will not be published.
- Landowners/Producers can request a copy of the results of the inventory. Contact your USDA-NRCS State Soil Scientist at (701) 530-2000 or 220 East Rosser Avenue | Federal Building | Bismarck, ND 58502-1458.

Is information kept confidential?

- Individual information will be kept confidential.
- NRCS does not link the data that is gathered to a name or other personal information.
- NRCS will not provide name, ownership information, or other personal information to any other Federal, State, local, private agency, or organization.

