

Rangeland Soil Health in the U.S.

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Assessing what is known about the soil health of the western U.S. rangelands is important as we move forward in developing management systems designed to improve soil health while maintaining economic viability. This paper will review what we know and what our knowledge gaps are with regard to grazing and rangeland management practice impacts on soil health (or soil quality) related properties as well as productivity and resilience of these systems. Emphasis will be placed on the Western regions of the U.S. Information will be drawn from published scientific literature and long-term experiments currently in progress. This will be placed within the context of the mission of the new USDA/NRCS Soil Health Division.