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FUNCTION

"NUTRIENT CYCLING AND ENERGY FLOW" "RECOVERY MECHANISMS";
"Research Needed"; "NATIONAL INVENTORYING AND MONITORING
SYSTEM"; "Minimum Data Set"; "Standardize Indicators and
Methods"; "National Sampling System"; "Periodic Sampling Needed";
"TRANSITION TO RANGELAND HEALTH ASSESSMENTS"; "Intermediate
Steps"; "Preserving Continuity During the Transition"; "CHALLENGE
TO RANGE SCIENTISTS AND MANAGERS"; "1 Rangelands are Important
"; "RANGELAND MANAGEMENT AND USES"; "CONCERN ABOUT THE
STATE OF U.S. RANGELANDS"; "Federal Management of U.S.
Rangelands"
"Present State of Rangelands" "ASSESSMENTS OF RANGELANDS";
"DEFICIENCIES OF ASSESSMENTS"; "UTILITY OF CURRENT METHODS
AND DATA"; "URGENT NEED FOR NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS"; "2
Rangeland Health "; "GOALS FOR NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS";
"STANDARDS FOR RANGELAND ASSESSMENTS"; "Rangeland Health";
"Categories for Rangeland Assessments"; "DEFINING BOUNDARIES";
"THRESHOLDS BETWEEN ECOLOGICAL STATES"; "PROCESSES OF
CHANGE"; "THRESHOLD OF RANGELAND HEALTH"; "EARLY WARNING
LINE"; "MULTIPLE STATES AND TRANSITIONS"; "ROLE OF RANGELAND
HEALTH IN RANGELAND MANAGEMENT"
"Goal of Range Management" "Additional Information Needed to
Determine Appropriate Management"; "Rangeland in Extreme
Environments"; "3 Current Methods of Rangeland Assessment ";
"DEVELOPMENT OF CURRENT THEORY AND PRACTICE OF RANGELAND
ASSESSMENTS"; "Early Development Of Survey Methods";
"Standardization of Rangeland Surveys"; "New Theoretical Foundation
for Rangeland Surveys"; "SUCCESSION AND CLIMAX COMMUNITIES";
"SUCCESSIONAL STAGES AND RANGELAND ASSESSMENT";
"SUCCESSIONAL STAGES AS CONDITION CLASSES"
"ADOPTION OF THE SUCCESSION-RETROGRESSION MODEL BY FEDERAL
AGENCIES" "APPLICABILITY OF THE SUCCESSION-RETROGRESSION
MODEL"; "LINKS BETWEEN OTHER BRANCHES OF ECOLOGY AND
RANGELAND SCIENCE"; "CURRENT AGENCY RANGELAND ASSESSMENT
THEORY AND PRACTICE"; "Site Classification"; "RANGE SITE
CLASSIFICATION"; "ECOLOGICAL SITES AND TYPES"; "Evaluation of
Range Condition and Ecological Status"; "RANGE CONDITION (SCS)";
"ECOLOGICAL STATUS (USFS AND BLM)"; "Trend and Apparent
Trend"; "NEW METHODS NEEDED TO ASSESS RANGELAND HEALTH";
"Site Classification"; "CLASSIFICATION BASED ON CLIMAX CONCEPT"

Sommario/riassunto

Rangelands comprise between 40 and 50 percent of all U.S. land and serve the nation both as productive areas for wildlife, recreational use, and livestock grazing and as watersheds. The health and management of rangelands have been matters for scientific inquiry and public debate since the 1880s, when reports of widespread range degradation and livestock losses led to the first attempts to inventory and classify rangelands. Scientists are now questioning the utility of current methods of rangeland classification and inventory, as well as the data available to determine whether rangelands are being degraded. These experts, who are using the same methods and data, have come to different conclusions. This book examines the scientific basis of methods used by federal agencies to inventory, classify, and monitor rangelands; it assesses the success of these methods; and it recommends improvements. The book's findings and recommendations are of interest to the public; scientists; ranchers; and local, state, and federal policymakers.