

An interagency group (BLM, NRCS, USGS, ARS) is hosting a 3.5 day course covering the rangeland assessment protocol described in "Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health". The course also includes a 1/2-day introduction to quantitative methods used to support the qualitative indicators. The protocol is currently being applied by the BLM, NRCS other federal and state agencies, NGOs and private consultants.

Participants in past courses have included agency professionals, public and private land managers, consultants, university professors and advanced undergraduate and graduate students.

Both courses will include revisions to the originally published protocol (Version 3.0: <http://www.ftw.nrcs.usda.gov/glti/pubs.html>) as described in <http://fresc.usgs.gov/products/papers/rha.pdf> and in Pyke et al., 2002. A draft of version 4.0 will be provided to course participants.

There is no registration fee. Participants are responsible for travel to Mesquite, meals and lodging (below).

For registration (on a space-available basis), please contact Julie Decker (Julie_Decker@tc.blm.gov -- 602-906-5507). We are tentatively planning to repeat the course in late spring or early summer.

Course: Interpreting and Measuring Indicators of Rangeland Health

Date: February 10 - 13, 2004

Location: Oasis Resort & Casino
897 W. Mesquite Blvd.
Mesquite, Nevada 89027

Lodging: Oasis Resort & Casino
call toll free for reservations 1 (800) 21-OASIS
\$27.99 per night
cut-off date for block of rooms is January 19th (but there should be plenty of rooms available) at the Oasis or in the other Mesquite casino hotel)

Instructors: the 4 co-authors of the protocol (Mike Pellant, Pat Shaver, Dave Pyke and Jeff Herrick)

Please note that the course begins in the classroom at 8:00 am on Tuesday and that field trips are planned for Tuesday afternoon and all day Thursday. The field exercises planned for Wednesday morning should occur close to the training room. The class will end with a half day in the classroom on Friday. Ending times are somewhat flexible and largely

dependent on the logistics and our accomplishments on the field exercises. We will do our best to end the days by 5:30. On field days please come prepared with appropriate clothing, food and water.

Pyke, D.A., J.E. Herrick, P. Shaver, M. Pellant. 2002. Rangeland health attributes and indicators for qualitative assessment. *Journal of Range Management* 55:584-597.