



Rangelands West Partnership

This project improved and expanded the Rangelands West Web portal, providing cutting-edge, science-based information on local, national, and global rangeland ecology and management issues to increase the economic, environmental, and human health benefits of rangeland management.

Who cares and why?

Rangelands cover 70% of the land area of the 11 western states and provide many ecological services, including forage production, wildlife habitat, watersheds, and recreation. Rangelands managed by federal and state agencies are commonly used by livestock operators as a critical part of ranch systems. Managing and conserving these lands is hindered by the limited ability of state land-grant universities (LGUs) to provide quality information and support through the Internet. This requires collaboration among subject, information, and technology experts. The Rangelands West Partnership has brought together rangeland specialists and agricultural and natural resource librarians from 19 western LGUs to tackle this challenge. By collecting, creating, evaluating, and organizing relevant data, information, and learning materials, the Partnership provides researchers, educators, and public and private land managers with electronic access to the full scope of research and educational information on rangeland ecology, management, and conservation.



Covering 70% of the land area, rangelands are the most extensive class of lands in the western states. Map courtesy of rangelandswest.org.

What has the project done so far?

For over 12 years, a team at the University of Arizona (UA), made up of rangeland scientists, librarians/information specialists, and IT experts, has been creating a Web portal of rangeland management resources. This led to the formation of the Partnership and the Rangelands West portal (<http://rangelandswest.org>). The current portal contains a searchable database of around 1,500 publications and links to news on hot issues, journal articles from the Society for Range Management (SRM), and



Dr. Mitch McClaran shows WERA-1008 members around a 50,000 acre site where over 100 scientists study southwestern agricultural rangeland sustainability (left). Rangelands provide livestock forage, wildlife habitat, and watersheds that help filter drinking water (right, USDA photo).

