

Range

Range Station

KEY TOPICS

1. Basic rangeland knowledge, to include: identification of state grass, plant I.D. and definitions, importance of rangelands in Montana.
2. Range Ecology Processes - definition of ecological sites (soil-plant-geological or landscape relationships), ecological processes (energy flow, nutrient cycle, water cycle and plant succession).
3. Rangeland Management - stocking rates/carrying capacity, general types of grazing systems, improvement practices (fencing and water developments), wetland, riparian and upland communities, monitoring.
4. Basic knowledge of livestock and wildlife interactions, forage preferences, forage overlap, and habitat requirements.
5. General knowledge of the Rangeland Health Assessment process.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Define rangeland, % of state encompassed by rangeland, importance of rangelands.
2. Identify state grass of Montana, differentiate between plant types (grass, forbs, shrub, and trees), identify parts of a grass and/or grasslike species.
3. Define rangeland ecological sites, understand ecological process, understanding of all definitions inclusion to all key topic areas.
4. Understanding of basic rangeland management concepts, i.e. grazing systems, stocking rates, and rangeland improvements, monitoring.
5. Understanding of Best Management Practices (BMPs) on rangeland and how different communities (wetland, riparian, and upland areas) interact.
6. Recognize different classes of livestock and understand their interaction with wildlife species.

7. Basic understanding of the indicators used to assess the specific attributes and ecological processes for Rangeland Health.

Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health Technical Reference 1734-6 is also used. You can download it at the following.

Copies of TR 1734-6 are available from:

www.blm.gov/nstc/library/techref.htm