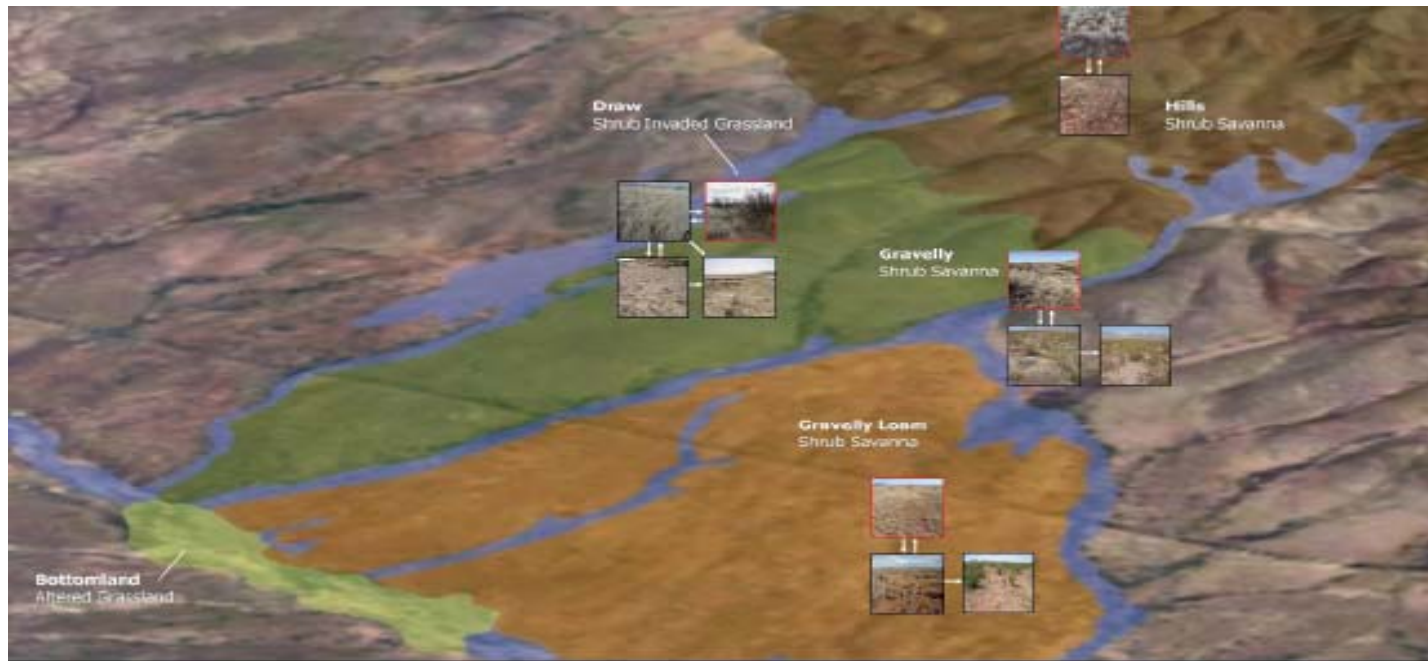


WELCOME TO THE ECOLOGICAL SITE DESCRIPTION TECHNICAL WORKSHOP



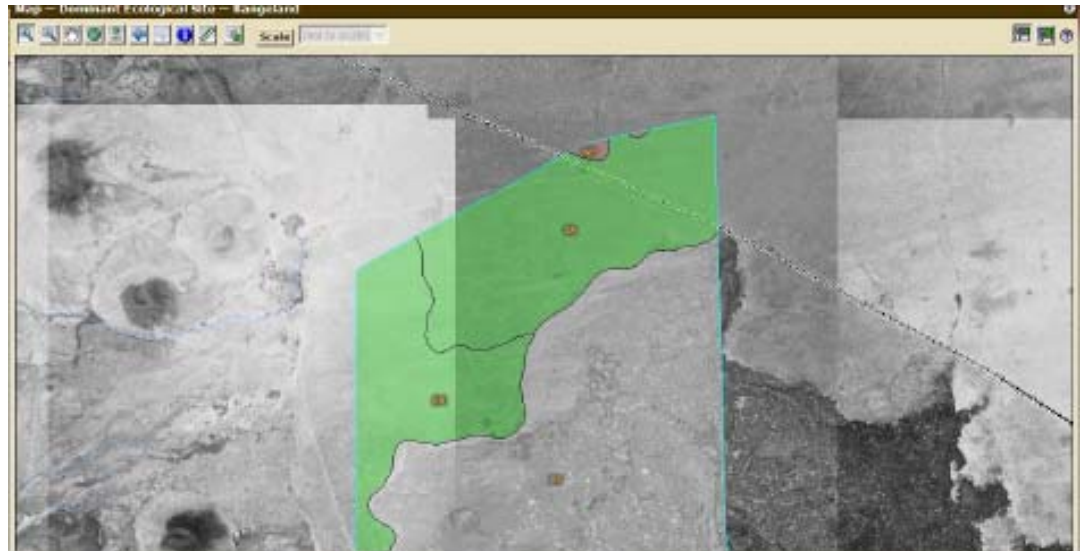
If you are not registered for the SRM Annual Meeting---you should be!!!

Ecological Site (ES) “a distinctive kind of land with specific soil and physical characteristics that differs from other kinds of land in its ability to produce distinctive kinds and amounts of vegetation and in its ability to respond similarly to management actions and natural disturbances”

Ecological Site Description (ESD): An ESD is the documentation of the characteristics of an ecological site and the interpretation of its properties as related to use and management.

Importance of ESDs and FSGDs

- Ecological Site Descriptions (ESD) will enhance NRCS **conservation planning** operations by providing information describing the interactions among soils, vegetation, and land management.
- ESD's and Forage Suitability Group Descriptions (FSGD) provide **a common framework** for communication.





Importance of ESD and FSGDs

- ESD's and FSGD's **provide a foundation** to assess the condition of current resources, monitor changes, assess management opportunities and predict outcome of management decisions.
- **Web Soil Survey linkage** allows the user to obtain current ecological site description data for the soils on their operating unit through a geospatial interface.
- ESDs **capture and present** the corporate and scientific knowledge.
- ESDs provide **valuable information for credit** trading networks, restoring landscapes invaded by exotic/invasive species, and reducing wildfire risks.
- ESDs have **broad acceptance** by agencies, partners, NGOs, and others.

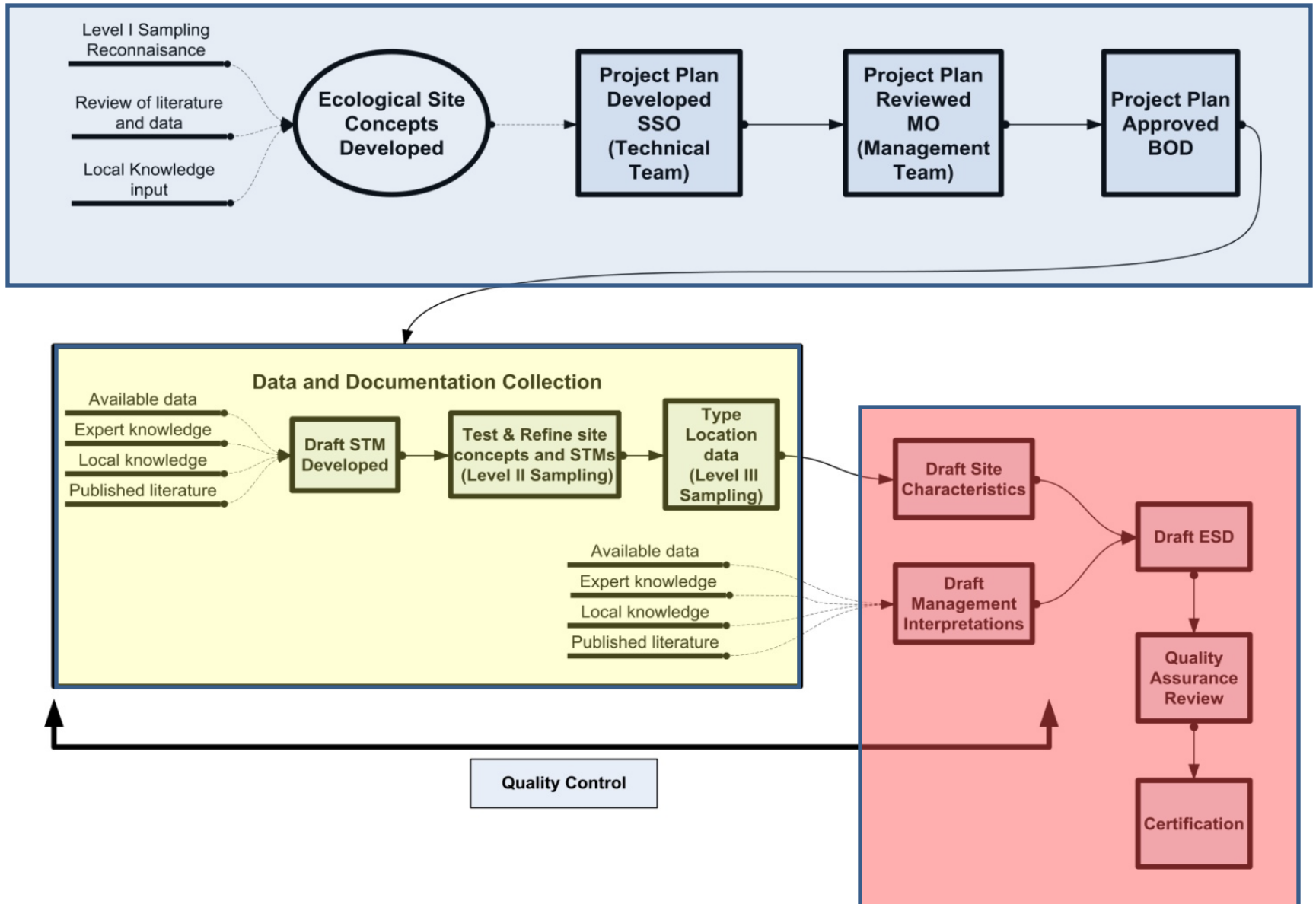
SYNTHESIS of a WORKSHOP

Las Cruces NM 18-20 November 2010

1. The workshop and **demonstrated leadership participation** and commitment to the topic thoroughly indicated that these agencies must be fully committed to development of ESDs for the nation's rangelands.
2. There is a very real sense from technical staff working in the field that **ESDs have relevant, real application** as a management tool based on science.
3. The agencies, in any coordinated, integrated manner, **are not yet ready** to develop ESDs on a large, national scale until the proposed recommendations resulting from this workshop are advanced.
4. Moving forward will require **training and projects where all participants can contribute**. There are regional, interagency examples of successful ESD projects that can serve as models.

(Havstad and Brown)

ECOLOGICAL SITE INFORMATION WORKFLOW



WORKSHOP ORGANIZATION

- ESD IMPLEMENTATION AND DEVELOPMENT
 - REGIONAL AND NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE
- ESD DEVELOPMENT TOOLS
 - SOURCES OF INFORMATION
- INTEGRATING INFORMATION TO ENHANCE ESDs
 - INTERPRETATION TOOLS

1 Km

Morning Coffee 10; Lunch 12:30; Afternoon Coffee 3:10