**2019 Interpreting and Measuring Indicators of Rangeland Health Classes**

**What & Why**
Participants in this four day course will learn how to apply Version 5 (2019) of the Interagency “Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health (IIRH)” qualitative assessment protocol and learn how to quantify (measure) selected core indicators. Version 5 includes changes in format, modifications to some of the 17 indicators (including how the Functional/Structural Groups indicator is assessed), use of community phases in the reference state to prepare or revise reference sheets and supporting information to conduct an IIRH assessment.

Field staff and others familiar with Version 4 are encouraged to participate in this training given the changes incorporated into Version 5. The protocol is widely applied by individuals and agencies to provide early warning of potential ecological problems, improve communication on rangeland health and to help prioritize monitoring programs. Interpretations made with Version 5 should be consistent with those made with Version 4 at the rangeland health attribute level provided that similar reference information is used.

**Who:**
- Individuals with little or no experience with the IIRH protocols.
- Anyone interested in learning about and applying Version 5 revisions.
- Individuals who need to work with others to communicate how well ecological processes on rangelands are functioning.
- Anyone involved in managing, educating others, and using rangelands.

**When and Where:**

**BLM National Training Center (NTC) Classes**
- April 9-12 - Las Cruces, New Mexico (ARS Jornada Experimental Range).
- May 7-10 -- Winnemucca, Nevada.
- May 21-24 - Prineville, Oregon

**Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Class**

To be determined. NRCS employees can sign up for NTC classes per directions below.

**Contact:** David Kraft david.kraft@ks.usda.gov

**Required pre-class INTERNET based assignments:**
- Ecological Concepts [16 Minutes]
- Stratification (54 minutes)
- Quantitative Methods Videos on: 1) Line Point Cover, 2) Canopy Gap, and 3) Soil Stability

ALL of these assignments are located on the NTCs Knowledge Resource Center (KRC) at: [http://www.ntc.blm.gov/krc/viewresource.php?courseID=813&programArealId=90](http://www.ntc.blm.gov/krc/viewresource.php?courseID=813&programArealId=90).

Another monitoring and assessment resource is the Landscape Toolbox web site: [http://www.landscapetoolbox.org](http://www.landscapetoolbox.org)  CHECK IT OUT!
Daily Class Schedule:
Each class day’s activities assume knowledge of the previous day. Consequently, participants are asked to commit to being present throughout the course. Please plan your travel accordingly (you must be present for the entire class to receive credit).

- **Tuesday 8-5pm:** Classroom/and late afternoon field instruction
- **Wednesday and Thursday 8-5:** Field application of the IIRH protocol
- **Friday 8-12:** Classroom-Interpretation and application of IIRH assessments

**Instructors:**

**NTC Instructor Cadre:**
- Jeff Herrick (ARS) ~ Mike Pellant (retired BLM) ~ David Pyke (USGS)
- Pat Shaver (retired NRCS) ~ Gregg Riegel (FS) ~ Emily Kachergis (BLM) ~ Beth Newingham (ARS) ~ David Toledo (ARS) ~ Josh Tashiro (NRCS)

**NRCS Instructor Cadre Lead:** David Kraft (david.kraft@ks.usda.gov) 785-823-4557

**Sponsors and Participant Information:**

This course is sponsored by BLM’s National Training Center (NTC) and NRCS’s National Employee Development Center for the purpose of encouraging the use of this Rangeland Health assessment tool by federal, state agencies, and others. Participants are responsible for their travel expenses, including transportation to the classroom, meals and lodging. We will either carpool or use buses to travel to field sites.

**Tuition:**

**NRCS Class:** No Tuition

**BLM NTC classes:**

- There is no tuition for all federal employees or current federal contractors or cooperators.
- In accordance with NTC policy non-federal participants for this class are required to pay tuition of $1100. After you submit your request to attend this class through DOI Learn (see instructions below) you will be placed on the waitlist and receive additional instructions on how to pay the tuition. After your tuition payment is processed you will be moved to the official class roster, if space is available.
- **Tuition Waiver:** The tuition requirement for non-federal participants may be waived for those engaged in partnerships with or stake holders with any federal agency associated with this class, current contractors with any federal agency associated with this class (including GBI) or associated with academia. For questions related to tuition and tuition waivers please contact Steve Bird (NTC), 602-906-5544.
Information on Signing Up for the Class

For DOI Employees-

Log into your DOI Talent Account and request the training. Your Supervisor must approve your request, once you are approved you will be placed on a WAIT LIST for this class. DOI Talent will notify you of your wait list status.

About two weeks before the start of the class you will receive an email from DOI Talent stating that you are booked or enrolled in the class you may also receive additional prework and logistical information at that time.

For Interns and NON-DOI Employees –

IMPORTANT: You MUST enter in the course and class you want to attend (see below). You can find the instructions and the request form here: https://www.doi.gov/doitalent/nondoi_learners

Here are the basic instructions:

- There are 3 sections to the form; "Username and Password", "More Details" and "Other Fields"; you MUST complete ALL THREE sections and enter data into EVERY field. See specific instructions for several fields below, other fields are self-explanatory.

- 'Username' field: insert the email address where you wish to receive system notifications. This will be your DOI Talent username. Please ensure that the spelling of your email address is correct in both the username and email address fields.

- The "Comments" field: indicate the specific COURSE NAME and whether or not you've attended training with us before or have been affiliated with DOI in the past.

- The "Bureau" field: select the BUREAU that is offering the course you wish to attend.

- The "Affiliation" field : select the option that most closely matches your situation

Please use YOUR phone number, not you work phone number (in case our data stewards need to get a hold of you). Use YOUR email address. Once this is completed and your account has been approved (7-10 days) you will be placed on the WAIT LIST for the course/class that you have requested.

The wait list is a good place to be. Typically 3-4 weeks before the start of a class you will receive an email stating that you are “Booked” for the requested training, at that time you may also receive other logistical information. For questions, please contact Steve Bird (NTC), 602-906-5544.