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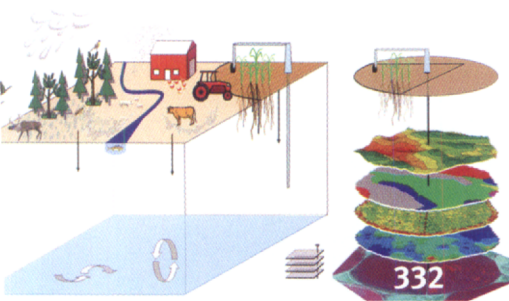
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Need more improvements

I would like to add a few comments about the recent article in the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* describing the proposed new protocols for the National Resource Inventory (NRI) [Spaeth, et al. 2003. New proposed National Resource Inventory protocols on nonfederal rangelands. *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* 58(1):18A-21A]. As background for your readers let me explain that I spent over 30 years in teaching, research, and extension in range management at the University of Arizona, with a primary interest in rangeland inventory and monitoring. I have also been involved for many years in the efforts of the Society for Range Management to encourage coordination among government agencies to achieve a national rangeland reporting system similar to the NRI. The interagency cooperation described in this paper is an

encouraging step in the right direction, but, in my opinion needs to be expanded to all rangelands, including those administered by the BLM, Forest Service, Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Defense Department, tribal lands, and others. A number of groups, including Society for Range Management, National Association of Conservation Districts, Public Lands Council, and some environmental groups are currently working to together to further this aim. The authors of this paper deserve much credit for furthering this objective as representatives of their several agencies, i.e. NRCS, BLM, and ARS.

The article in question is mainly a general overview of the proposed new protocols and does not provide much detail.

I commend the authors for their work in developing and improving the NRI protocol. However, I believe there are

some further improvements that can be made to better serve the purposes of this national survey, especially if it is eventually extended beyond non-federal lands.

—Lamar Smith, *Cascabel Range Consultants, Benson, AZ*

Readers are invited to express their views on land and water management.

Please make your letter less than 150 words. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

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— Deb Happe, Editor