

CONSERVATION SYSTEM GUIDES (CSG) for Pastures and Rangeland



**National Conference for the Plant
Materials Program and Grazing
Land Specialists, 2/23-26/2004**

CONSISTENCY

- CHECK OUT OTHERS' APPROACH
- ASK QUESTIONS
- SEEK CONSENSUS (in & out of NRCS)
ON
 - *CONSERVATION SYSTEMS*
 - *RESOURCE CONCERNS*
 - *REPORTABLE UNITS*
 - *PRACTICE IMPACT*
 - *AND WITH OTHER DATABASES, e.g. NRI*

Summary Report, 1997 National Resources Inventory, Revised December 2000

Tables

Table 10 - Estimated average annual sheet and rill erosion on nonfederal land, by state and year (data in tons/acre/year)

State	Year	Cropland			CRP land	Pastureland
		Cultivated	Noncultivated		Total	
Alabama	1982	7.6	0.8	7.2	----	0.6
	1987	6.5	0.5	6.0	3.0	0.5
	1992	7.0	0.5	6.3	0.6	0.5
	1997	6.7	0.5	6.0	1.0	0.5
Arizona	1982	0.6	0.3	0.5	----	0.2
	1987	0.6	0.2	0.6	----	0.1
	1992	0.6	0.2	0.6	----	0.1
	1997	0.7	0.2	0.6	----	0.1
Arkansas	1982	3.8	0.8	3.7	----	1.1
	1987	3.8	0.6	3.7	0.7	1.1
	1992	3.5	0.6	3.4	0.7	1.2
	1997	3.5	0.6	3.4	0.6	1.1
California	1982	1.2	0.7	1.1	----	0.2
	1987	1.1	0.8	1.0	2.4	0.2
	1992	1.0	0.5	0.8	1.1	0.1
	1997	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.1

DOCUMENTATION

- **WHERE DID PRACTICE AND SYSTEM EFFECTS ESTIMATES COME FROM?**
- **BE PRECISE WITH UNIT OF MEASURE USED**
 - e.g. acre-inches of runoff, is it average annual or runoff event specific?

QUALITATIVE TOOLS

- **USE FOR RESOURCE CONCERNS WHERE QUANTITATIVE DATA MAY BE NO MORE PRECISE (just looks like it is)**
- **RANGELAND HEALTH &**
- **PASTURE CONDITION SCORING**

QUAL. TOOL EXAMPLE

- **Using Pasture Condition Scoring**
- **RESOURCE CONCERN: Plant Condition – Productivity, Health and Vigor**
- **Treat Pasture land use to RMS level**
 - **Baseline:** vigor - **3**; % desirable plants - 3 (40-60)
 - **System Effect:** vigor - **5**; % desirable plants - 5 (>80)
 - vigor defined: **3** - slow growth recovery for time of season, &/or yellowish-green plants between dark green urine & dung patches, &/or insect/disease loss, &/or mid-day wilting. **5** - rapidly growing plants (at max. for time of season), evenly green plants throughout, no discernable disease or insect problem.