

SRR STRATEGIC GOALS

Updated 7/27/05 – 7/28/05 by SRR Strategic Planning Meeting in Denver, CO

INITIAL BRAINSTORM SESSION:

Promotion of Rangelands Sustainability Paradigms

- Get agency heads around table (USDA, USDI, & others)
 - How do we contact directly other organizations' heads (NGO, Universities, etc.)?*
- Capture some of the language that will convince leaders in other organizations that they have a reason to be supportive of this effort
 - Help them understand how this will benefit them & their constituents
- Needs to be an outreach mechanism (newsletter, brochure, etc.)
- International activities

Promotion of Assessment of Rangeland Sustainability

- Clearinghouse function for rangeland indicators (Short-term)
Sharing out of information from over the years from all members of the roundtable
- Data catalogue / Meta-Data for the 64 indicators (short-term)
Two phases: 1. Quick & Dirty Evaluation 2. Look at more comprehensive list
- Pilot projects: "Mock" Report – done in a year
 - ID a data-rich geographic area
 - Create a real product
 - Can use to show other organizations, NGOs
- 2010 Report (Long-term)
 - Whatever that would look like
- Standardized Resource Assessments (Long-term)
- Consistent Reporting System (Long-term)
- New Institutional Arrangements
 - e.g. Ted Heintz meetings
- All of the players in the past to be re-involved, how they will use our work

Research

- Create University consortium & funding (short-term)
- Facilitate a national forum for periodic review of C & I research
 - Beyond just SRR
- Working to influence funding agencies' sets of priorities (Long-term)
- Need to have a plan of action to deal with current indicators & future emerging
 - Need to be able to cross-walk between old & new data
- Making an effort to gather the data, paper into an electronic form

Coordination

- Need to re-incorporate groups that used to be a part of SRR (NGOs & Agencies)
 - Need to reinvigorate our support
- Need to make stronger links between agencies, NGOs & universities

GOAL # 1:

Promote Rangelands Sustainability Paradigms

Objective A: Form SRR working group to develop a list of products useful to NGOs including costs and benefits of using criteria and indicators for:

- Private landowners
 - Professional societies
 - Environmental groups
 - Conservation groups
 - Trade and business organizations
 - Policy-makers (Local, Tribal, State and Federal)
 - Non-consumptive land users
 - Department of Defense
 - Universities and other research interests
 - Other interested parties
- **Tactic 1:** John Peterson will visit with GLCI members in September about possible/desirable outcomes
 - **Tactic 2:** Dick Loper will visit with PLC and State Grazing Board in September if possible/desired
 - **Tactic 3:** Delphi on affordable products within SRR

Objective B: Facilitate a meeting of agency heads in 2005 to encourage adoption of paradigms of rangeland sustainability and the use of an ecological, economic and social indicator framework for assessing the sustainability of rangelands

- **Tactic 1:** Develop materials and briefings for SRR Agency members to present and brief their respective Head prior to meeting
- **Tactic 2:** GLCI (meeting location) will work with SRR to facilitate the logistics of holding an Agency head meeting. Invitations to be out by end of September (NCBA, GLCI, NACD, SRM). Alternative locations are NACD or CEQ. Invites to FS, BLM, NRCS, F & WS, ARS, CSREES, NASS, USGS, BIA, ERS, *VP-office* (another meeting: DOD, DOE, NSF, NPS, US Census)
- **Tactic 3:** Convene a briefing at the Asst. Secretary level

Objective C: Identify and make contact with Farm Bill managers (Congress and USDA) and evaluate their receptiveness to including language on rangeland sustainability (No later than October)

Objective D: SRR will investigate the pros and cons of a rangeland FACA, including potential appointment of SRR members to FACA for both USDA & USDI.

- **Tactic # 1:** John Peterson will research USDA
- **Tactic # 2:** Dick Loper & J.O. Ratliff will research USDI (*By next meeting*)

Objective E: Explore UN-funded/World Bank (internationally-funded) workshop focused on international rangeland issues... (possible prelude to 2008 meeting in China – SRR act as the catalyst for this workshop)

GOAL # 2:

Facilitate the development of an unbiased estimate of the status and trends of ecological, social and economic measures (criteria & indicators) of rangeland sustainability

Objective A: Agencies will generate reports:

- a. Using selected indicators
- b. Targeted to selected audiences
 - Agency decision-makers
 - NGO decision-makers
 - Academic decision-makers
- c. To influence development for a long-term allocation of fiscal resource to address emerging policy issues

Uses:

1. Decisions for “adaptive management”
2. Allocation of funds for “ecological restoration” in degraded areas
3. Raise consciousness of social, economic and ecological “value” (importance) of rangeland, by seeking associations between selected indicators

- **Tactic 1:** John Mitchell will lead completion of the progress report to use as a preliminary report to agencies and partners (internal – October 2005, external publish – March 2006)
- **Tactic 2:** The Federal agency working group with others will lead completion of the first full report. Need to get agreement on the next set of indicators, identify convening lead authors and other contribution authors. Identify data sets with the most useful data out of the ~27 indicators (also considering the allocation of fiscal resources). Determine outline within one year, final report complete in 2010.

Objective B: Serve as a facilitator for coordinating rangeland indicator development activities

Uses:

1. Focus on local, regional, national and international sustain. rangeland activities
2. Tracking institutional arrangements at all levels

Objective C: Compilation of metadata for SRR criteria & indicators using FGDC data standards

Uses:

1. Utility of common data communication
 - **Tactic 1:** Plan, coordinate and hold a bi-annual workshop to update information on data sources, data gaps, data incompatibilities, institutional gaps and data quality with the goal of working toward full population of the SRR criteria and indicators

GOAL # 3:

Promote Ecological, Economic, and Social Research

Short-Term Objectives:

Objective A: By the summer of 2006, identify what needs to be known for specific indicators to make it useful as an indicator of sustainability (refine what questions the research needs to answer)

Tactic 1: We will develop a report (or reports) that:

- identifies and prioritizes the specific research needs for each social, economic, and ecological indicator including their sensitivity to change.
- identifies the research needed on how the outcomes of national programs (e.g., EQIP, CRP, GRP) can be predicted and shown by indicators.

Tactic 2: We will provide the report(s) to the outreach committee to present to agency leadership and funding organizations.

Tactic 3: Create a policy/resolution statement that can be promoted by organizations for funding.

Objective B: Create a university and federal research consortium by summer of 2006.

Tactic 1: Representatives of SRR meet with representatives of W192 in October 2005 in Anchorage, Alaska.

Tactic 2: A regional research proposal will be developed and submitted through university channels by Spring of 2006.

Objective C: Develop a research needs funding proposal that will be broadly supported by the SRR participants.

Tactic 1: SRR should develop the proposal with broad input from stakeholders (agencies would be participants, not the lead).

Tactic 2: SRR criteria groups would be assigned the task of using the research needs reports (including priorities) to develop the funding proposals for each criterion.

Long-Term Objectives:

Objective D: SRR will facilitate periodic national forums to review C&I research.

Tactic 1: Each forum will highlight on-going and completed research.

Tactic 2: These reviews will prioritize indicators with the highest research needs and potential usefulness to assess rangeland sustainability.

Objective E: Promote the availability of data for research needs, analysis, and interpretation from all sources (federal, state, university).

Tactic 1: We will promote the digitization, internet posting, and cross-walk between existing data collection methods and new data collection methods of regional and national data sets.

Tactic 2: We will promote the development of new technology to collect and analyze data that supports the assessment of rangeland sustainability.

Objective F: Promote the adoption of SRR research needs to funding agencies.

Tactic 1: Use the identified research priorities to work with funding agencies to incorporate them into their funding priorities.

Tactic 2: Promote a proper allocation among ecological, economic, and social indicators.

Tactic 3: Identify specific funding sources for research.

a. Federal agencies – USFS, USGS-BRD, ARS, ERS, NASS, Rural Development, NRI, Congressional appropriations, etc.

b. Private foundations

Tactic 4: Find the funds to hire authors to write a book on the state of our knowledge about sustainable rangelands.

GOAL # 4:

Effectively communicate & coordinate to further rangeland sustainability and its assessment

Objective A: Conduct bold and aggressive in-reach, outreach, and marketing initiatives resulting in recognition of the importance of sustainable rangelands and the wide acceptance of ecological, economic and social criteria & indicators.

- **Tactic 1:** Update and continue to Implement Outreach Plan and associated audience/activity master matrix.
- **Tactic 2:** Update and continue to Develop suite of materials for different constituencies and stakeholders
- **Tactic 3:** Explore possible coordination of outreach activities with other sustainable resource roundtables and other related C&I efforts (especially CEQ).
- **Tactic 4:** Develop a method/approach for measuring how SRR is perceived.

Objective B: Generate broad support and participation in joint efforts through the SRR Charter process

- **Tactic 1:** Approach all organizations that have participated in SRR to date and encourage their signature by December 2005.
- **Tactic 2:** Hold a high level leadership meeting of signing organizations to roll out SRR strategic plan and obtain concurrence for the strategic plan.
- **Tactic 3:** Encourage signatories to participate in the implementation of the strategic plan.

Objective C: Communicate the role of SRR relative to other sustainability, indicator, and monitoring efforts in order to differentiate SRR's work and appropriately position SRR to participate in associated efforts.

- **Tactic 1:** Develop suite of materials for different constituencies and stakeholders.
- **Tactic 2:** Characterize the groups and contact person by their relevance to SRR and how work could be coordinated.

Objective D: The SRR will facilitate coordination between other roundtables, agencies, and organizations involved with data collection and analysis, criterion and indicator and data set development.

- **Tactic 1:** Facilitate development of coordination mechanisms across resource systems towards a national indicator strategy.
- **Tactic 2:** Facilitate the establishment of institutional arrangements to assemble existing data to populate Rangeland C&I.
- **Tactic 3:** Coordinate development of national rangeland monitoring system (not this phase of the SRR strategy).
- **Tactic 4:** Facilitate development of a cross-walk among the several rangeland indicator sets developed by agencies, NGOs, etc. with the goal of promoting future integration of rangeland indicators by using common definitions and protocols.

- **Tactic 5:** Continue to provide a forum over the next 3 years for dialogue among stakeholders addressing acceptance and use of Rangeland C&I at the national, regional and local scales.