

Ecological Site Descriptions & State & Transition Models

ECOLOGICAL SITES....

Ecological Sites provide a consistent framework for classifying and describing rangeland and forestland soils and vegetation; thereby delineating land units that share similar capabilities to respond to management activities or disturbance.



ESD'S

Ecological Site Descriptions are reports that provide detailed information about a particular kind of land - a distinctive Ecological Site. ESDs provide land managers the information needed for evaluating the land as to suitability for various land-uses and capability to respond to different management activities.



ESD'S CATEGORIES

Site Characteristics - physiographic, climate, soil, and water features

Plant Communities - plant species, vegetation states, and ecological dynamics



ESD'S CATEGORIES

Site Interpretations - management alternatives for the site and its related resources

Supporting Information - relevant literature, information and data sources



STATE AND TRANSITION MODELS

State-and-transition models have received a great deal of attention since the introduction of the concept to range management in 1989. State and transition models are key components of ecological site descriptions.



STATE AND TRANSITION MODELS

STMs are one way of describing the multiple states and associated ecosystem services that a particular site can achieve; thresholds and ecological resilience of individual states to stressors; and underlying roles of management practices and natural processes in pushing a site between states

