

Soil Quality

A foundation for rangeland health and productivity

What is soil doing for you?

Rangeland soil quality affects:

- Plant productivity
- Rangeland health
- Wildlife habitat
- Vegetation changes
- Establishment and growth of invasive plants
- Erosion potential
- Nutrient availability for plants
- Water quality and yield
- Carbon sequestration
- Air quality
- Resilience of rangeland after disturbances or climate change



What are you doing for the soil?

To protect soil function and rangeland health:

- Maintain or increase litter cover on the soil
- Increase or maintain plant production
- Promote diverse species with high root biomass
- Decrease the number and size of bare areas
- Reduce soil surface disturbance, especially in arid areas
- Minimize grazing and traffic when the soil is wet
- Use prescribed burning to prevent fuel build-up
- Assess and monitor soil quality and vegetation for early indication of changes in soil function and rangeland health

For more information:
See the SQI website at <http://soils.usda.gov/sqi>
and the Rangeland Soil Quality Information Sheets.