

NEW MEXICO

Knowing the health status of the country's rangeland is needed if these unique and valuable ecosystems are to be maintained. However, monitoring rangeland health can be time consuming and expensive. Researchers at the Jornada Experimental Range Research Unit in Las Cruces, in conjunction with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), have developed protocols for measuring rangeland health that take 38% less time and provide higher data quality. These methods are now being used by NRCS to monitor approximately 400 million acres of rangelands in the continental US.



Red-flowered hedgehog
(*Echinocereus coccineus*)