

Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24)
NMDA's Healthy Soil Program
Resource Concern Guide Sheet for RANGELAND

This guide sheet is designed to help you select agricultural/conservation practices to address your existing soil health-related natural resource concerns on rangeland. It is intended as a starting point rather than as an exhaustive list of all resource concerns and agricultural practices that can address existing resource concerns. These agricultural practices align with those promoted by the New Mexico office of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The three-digit codes associated with NRCS New Mexico Practice Standards are listed and hyperlinked below to provide additional information.

The soil health principles as defined in the 2019 Healthy Soil Act are listed below. They correspond with the numbers in the right-hand column of the chart that follows.

- 1) keeping soil covered
- 2) minimizing soil disturbance on cropland and minimizing external inputs
- 3) maximizing biodiversity
- 4) maintaining a living root
- 5) integrating animals into land management, including grazing animals, birds, beneficial insects or keystone species, such as earthworms

Resource Concern	Agricultural Practice on Rangeland	Soil Health Principle
Decreased plant productivity and health Lack of overall forage production and health of existing plant species	Prescribed grazing (528)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
	Native grass and/or pollinator habitat establishment (550), (327)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
	Temporary fencing * (382)	--
	Organic-based soil amendments (compost, manure, biochar, etc.) (484), (590)	3
Insufficient plant species and composition Plant community composition of warm-season grasses, cool-season grasses, forbs, and shrubs not consistent with management goals	Prescribed grazing (528)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
	Native grass and/or pollinator habitat establishment (550), (327)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
	Cover crops to improve soil fertility/plant diversity (340)	1, 3, 4, 5
	Temporary fencing * (382)	--
	Organic-based soil amendments (compost, manure, biochar, etc.) (484), (590)	3
Lack of soil biodiversity A lack of diversity among the plants, animals, and soil organisms interacting with the soil	Prescribed grazing (528)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
	Native grass and or pollinator habitat establishment (550), (327)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
	Cover crops to improve biodiversity (340)	1, 3, 4, 5
	Temporary fencing * (382)	--

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Resource Concern	Agricultural Practice on Rangeland	Soil Health Principle
Low soil organic matter Lack of organic materials at various stages of decomposition within the soil	Prescribed grazing (528)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
	Native grass and or/pollinator habitat establishment (550)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
	Cover crops to improve soil organic matter (340), (327)	1, 3, 4, 5
	Temporary fencing * (382)	--
	Organic-based soil amendments (compost, manure, biochar, etc.) (484), (590)	3
	Bale grazing (E528P)	1, 5
Soil erosion (wind and water) Presence of eroding soil (soil movement both on to and off of the land) due to wind or rain	Prescribed grazing (528)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
	Native grass and or pollinator habitat establishment (550), (327)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
	Cover crops to maintain soil structure and increase infiltration (340), (327)	1, 3, 4, 5
	Temporary fencing * (382)	--
	Organic-based soil amendments (compost, manure, biochar, etc.) (484), (590)	3
Water infiltration and percolation Poor water movement into and within the soil (ponding of water after rain events)	Prescribed grazing (528)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
	Native grass and or pollinator habitat establishment (550), (327)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
	Cover crops to maintain soil structure and increase infiltration (340)	1, 3, 4, 5
	Temporary fencing * (382)	--
	Organic-based soil amendments (compost, manure, biochar, etc.) (484), (590)	3

* Temporary fencing does not directly correlate to a soil health principle but instead must be utilized in conjunction with other agricultural practices and an overall management plan.