# Rangelands West

## AgNIC Annual Report*
### Time Period - October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2007

**Rangelands West** (rangeland ecology and management)

- Rangeland West Partners:  Colorado State University, Idaho State University, Kansas State University, Montana State University, New Mexico State University, North Dakota State University, Oklahoma State University, Oregon State University, South Dakota State University, Texas A&M; University of Alaska; University of Arizona; University of California, Davis and Berkeley; University of Hawaii, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, University of Nevada-Reno, University of Wyoming, Utah State University, Washington State University

1. Overall assessment of accomplishments, outstanding successes, and challenges during the 12 month period.

Accomplishments/Successes:

- Held 6th annual Western Rangelands Partnership meeting in March 2007 at the University of Arizona.  There were 38 attendees representing 14 partner states with 5 states unable to send a representative.
- Completed expenditures and activities funded through a Western SARE grant which ended in May 2007.
- Established governance structure including voting on an Executive Committee and a charter for the organization.
- Established preliminary standing committees including Annual Meeting, Outreach, Technical, and Policy and Standards.
- Completed initial redesign of database-driven Rangelands West portal and demonstrated it at the annual meeting; new functionality included stronger search capabilities, upload of images and files, scope notes for the new hierarchy for browsing, and revised metadata entry form (http://rangelandswest.org)
- Activated new portal for public use during the summer of 2007.
- Finalized scope notes in October 2007 for all major and sub-categories included in the hierarchy for browsing.
- Compiled list of suggestions for improvements to the site for inclusion in funding proposals.
- Received approval from Western CARET Deans to fund Rangelands West $1,000 annually per institution for the purpose of maintenance and enhancements.

Challenges

- Implementing the new metadata system has been more difficult than anticipated

- Finding time and resources to add new content continues to be problematic for the partners; some sites have not been updated in the past year.
- Need for stable funding to support technical infrastructure so that new content products and services can be developed and new funding streams pursued.
- Initiating work of standing committees has been slow and roles and operating procedures still need to be defined.
- New portal infrastructure has experienced some technical difficulties that still need to be fixed (i.e. memory leak, etc.)

2. Projects planned for next 12 month period.
- Follow-up with Western Caret Deans on procuring funds from each state.
- Submit a proposal to the internal strategic initiatives program from the UA Libraries to implement a version three portal design as an open source, OAI-compliant system, with ability to utilize Web 2.0 applications.
- Follow-up with FAO on possible collaboration & adding international content.
- Explore potential collaboration with "forestandrange.org" initiative.
- Encourage partners to focus on adding quality content to their state sites
- Completely revise and update "hot topics" section.
- Develop clear technical requirements document including (1) ability to search repository of journal articles, full-text & other materials; (2) organize search results by relevancy to users; (3) achieve OAI-compliance.
- Review and determine appropriate metadata standards and role of partners in populating the metadata database
- Review and provide quality control of metadata records/proper use of keywords and locations
- Organize the 7th Annual Meeting to be held in March 2008 at the UA

**Statistics\* (for Home Page and Arizona Site) – October 1 to September 30**

| Month | Hits | Sessions (if available) | Reference Questions (if available) |
|---|---|---|---|
| October | 54,114 | 8,567 | 1 |
| November | 54,989 | 8,387 | 2 |
| December | 43,469 | 11,339 | 0 |
| January | 54,063 | 11,407 | 1 |
| February | 55,240 | 10,165 | 1 |
| March | 79,943 | 11,868 | 1 |
| April | 62,541 | 12,314 | 2 |
| May | 53,957 | 12,202 | 3 |
| June | 46,191 | 12,850 | 1 |
| July * | 16,990 | 4,255 | 1 |
| August * | 3,061 | 781 | 1 |
| September * | 2,819 | 841 | 2 |
| **TOTAL** | **527,377** | **104,976** | **16** |

* Incomplete data for website visits