

Ranch Sustainability Assessment: Monitoring and Business Planning WORKSHOP EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES - 2011

There were 25 respondents out of 80 people registered for the workshop at the Society for Range Management 2011 annual meeting; actual attendance was approximately 50 people. The response rate based on 50 people was 50 percent. One survey that appeared to contain mis-recorded responses due to confusion over the rating system was recalculated. The numeric responses were averaged and that number appears below. Questions that required an "x" as a response to indicate an opinion or category list the percentage of respondents who marked each answer. Responses to open-ended questions as well as voluntary, unsolicited comments are recorded verbatim.

RESPONDENT INSTRUCTIONS

Response to this survey is voluntary. Please do not put your name on this form. Results will be used to evaluate this workshop and your assessment of what you learned. Only aggregate data will be reported. Please circle your responses. Rate aspects of the workshop on a 1 to 5 scale:

- 1 = "Strongly Agree," or the highest, most positive impression
 - 2 = "Agree"
 - 3 = "Neither Agree nor Disagree," or an adequate impression
 - 4 = "Disagree"
 - 5 = "Strongly Disagree," or the lowest, most negative impression
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WORKSHOP CONTENT (Circle your response to each item.)

For each topic please indicate whether your knowledge has improved?

- | | |
|---|------|
| 1. Rangeland sustainability. | 2.32 |
| 2. Goals of sustainable ranch management assessment project. | 1.84 |
| 3. NRCS conservation planning and sustainable rangeland management assessment. | 2.00 |
| 4. NRCS financial and technical assistance for rangeland sustainability. | 1.88 |
| 5. Joint cooperative monitoring, federal grazing allotments and rangeland sustainability. | 2.28 |
| 6. Monitoring of soil and water indicators for rangeland sustainability. | 2.16 |
| 7. Monitoring of plant and animal indicators for rangeland sustainability. | 2.24 |
| 8. Monitoring of rangeland productive capacity indicators for rangeland sustainability. | 2.28 |
| 9. Evaluation of sustainable rangeland ecosystem services production potential. | 2.12 |
| 10. Monitoring social and economic indicators for sustainable rangeland management. | 2.2 |
| 11. Monitoring legal, educational, and institutional indicators for sustainable rangeland management. | 2.4 |
| 12. Sustainable ranching business planning concepts and methods. | 1.8 |
| 13. The business planning process for sustainable rangeland management. | 1.6 |

WORKSHOP DESIGN (Circle your response to each item.)

- | | |
|--|------|
| 12. I was well informed about the objectives of this workshop. | 2.08 |
| 13. This workshop lived up to my expectations. | 1.88 |
| 14. The content is relevant to my job. | 1.76 |
| 15. The workshop stimulated my thinking and learning. | 1.4 |
| 16. The examples provided in this workshop were sufficient. | 1.92 |
| 17. The difficulty level of this workshop was appropriate. | 2.2 |
| 18. The pace of this workshop was appropriate. | 2.24 |

WORKSHOP INSTRUCTORS (Circle your response to each item.)

19. The instructors were well prepared. **1.4**
20. The instructors were responsive and helpful. **1.32**

WORKSHOP RESULTS (Circle your response to each item.)

21. The workshop accomplished its objectives. **1.8**
22. I will be able to use what I learned in this workshop. **1.64**
23. The workshop was a good way for me to learn this content. **1.48**

WORKSHOP FEEDBACK (Check all that apply.)

24. How would you improve this workshop?
- | | |
|--|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provide better information before the workshop. | 36% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clarify the workshop objectives. | 28% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce the content covered. | 16% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increase the content covered. | 20% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Update the content covered. | 8% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improve the instructional methods. | 12% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Make workshop activities more stimulating. | 40% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improve workshop organization. | 0% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Make the workshop less difficult. | 4% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Make the workshop more difficult. | 4% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Slow down the pace. | 4% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Speed up the pace. | 4% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allot more time. | 20% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shorten the time. | 12% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | 24% |

Workshop Feedback Comments:

Reduce the content covered

- More in-depth for some subjects

Increase the content covered

- Examples of legal/multifunctional could have been more clear for some subjects
- Legal institutional indicators

Update the content covered

- Make sure book contains power points actually used by presenters.

Make workshop activities more stimulating

- Have more activities; I don't know how but it always helps.
- Would be great to include more activities so the audience is stimulated periodically – it helps with keeping people awake as well as learning and engaged.

Allot more time

- Or reduce content to better discuss some topics

- Multiday w/more hands-on activities

Shorten the time

- Workshop was good for a “train the trainee” workshop but for producers could be shortened and cover material through multiple short sessions.

Other

- More info on collaboration and “consensus building”.
- Provide an example of a pro forma balance sheet. Provide links to sample payment schedule worksheets and enterprise budgets.
- Essential process.
- Include some producer/operator participation (success story)
- Workshop was good but long maybe break it up or put it during first part of week instead of last day. So much information to process after taking it the whole week.
- Should do it earlier in the session.

25. What did you find most valuable about this workshop?

- Sustainable ranch management assessment guide book
- Business planning section
- EGS
- The economic/socioeconomics section increased my knowledge.
- Reiteration of principles of sustainable range mgmt.
- Information about the different federal agencies.
- Very thought provoking.
- Financial assistance
- The practical information and how to tie all these together – we talk about ecological, social and economic ideas all the time, but quantifying and measuring these things and showing practical application is often missed. This was great and showed reasonable methods to get there or move forward.
- Reviewing ecological indicators and the ecosystem services and business planning gave good, clear information.
- Ecosystem Goods & Services information
- Broadening our business plan, more comprehensive
- The class materials
- NRCS Opportunities
- Soil & plant monitoring methods
- Business planning

- The sustainable ranch management assessment guide will be great for me to help ranchers.
- Business planning.
- All helpful – best presentation I’ve seen on business plan creation
- Business planning
- Business planning.
- The role play helped to understand what was going on. It also helped wake the audience up and allowed for more participation from group.
- The interaction between audience & speakers.
- All
- It was a good review of holistic management decision making & management.
- Business Plan Outline
- All around a great workshop. To choose one I would say the Business Planning because it’s new info to me.
- Provided a better understanding of the work of the roundtable group.

26. What did you find least valuable about this workshop?

- All valuable, but much – monitoring, etc. I was familiar with so not new information – but good to see how relates to SRR indicators/business planning etc.
- I didn’t understand the legal institutional indicators section.
- Too much of the business planning – good info, just too detailed.
- Personally the talk re NRCS money is not totally applicable for my because I work in Canada and can’t use it – however it was still interesting and useful info to see what the U.S. has done and identify resources to use to help us get moving forward. Still very useful.
- Least relevant was the NRCS info yet sill valuable in understanding planning.
- Some of the material in the presentations seemed disorganized – such as the range monitoring indicators.
- Social & legal & economic sections, except for business planning section.
- Did not cover topic advertised. What were you trying to accomplish? Rangeland monitoring part not well integrated.
- Indicators could have been better explained.
- BLM/Forest Service did not.
- Can’t think of anything right now.
- It would have been nice to have had all the slides printed off. It is a pain to write and try to listen.

- N/A
- A lot of the material is parallel to holistic management. It was a lot of review. . .if others have not heard about holistic management/see it's important that they know.
- The approach of the NRCS presentation and how their programs fit into the goals/objectives of the sustainable ranch management concept.

27. Do you have any other comments?

- Have an example of a very simple business plan.
- I will definitely utilize info in my job.
- I keep hearing that SRM folks and holistic mgmt folks don't agree or get along but the info in the workshop book was extremely like that found in the HM book published years and years ago. I think it's interesting, and a good move in the right direction.
- Good workshop.
- Of all the talks/sessions I participated in this year at SRM this was one of the most useful and transferable to my real job and real management when I go home. The workshop was definitely worth it the only thing would try to get people moving/thinking/doing a bit more during the day to keep brains and bodies working and engaged. It would be really useful to have a resource book that has examples of the NRCS schedules for fencing etc or the economic farm analysis, etc. Maybe a website for the location plus a few pages to show examples. Thank you!
- For me this workshop was the best part of the conference. Thank you.
- Although social & economic factors contribute to sustainability the content was well known and time & content could have been significantly reduced.
- More interactions, more frequent/short breaks & healthier snacks. Talk about what the indicators are you keep talking about, I'm still not sure what all the SRR indicators are.
- It will be very difficult to apply the desired goal of presentation team to have ranchers apply this. The presentations for some things were way too brief. This felt more like a brief overview introducing program, except for business plan section. You need to do a better job linking monitoring part with discussion and input.
- Very well done.
- It would be beneficial to step through an example of the process in longer workshop to really get the hang of it.
- The workshop makes for a very long day. It is very information which is great. I think it should have been either earlier in the week or 2 days such as 2 mornings or 2 afternoons or one of each. Just sitting too long and not moving around a lot causes us to get tired.
- Loved the role play!
- It would be better to have a more detailed description of the workshop when registering.
- Great job! Thank you.

- Would like to see more information on this project at producer attended events.

DEMOGRAPHICS

28. For whom do you work?	
A. Federal agency	12%
B. State agency	12%
C. Local agency	8%
D. Tribal government	4%
E. Academia/Extension Service	20%
F. Private	28%
G. Other _____	24%
29. How long have you worked for that organization (circle)?	
<1 year	8%
1-5 years	36%
5-10 years	16%
>10 years	24%
Student	4%
Blank	12%
30. What is your highest educational level (circle)?	
BS/BA	16%
MS/MA	56%
PhD	12%
DVM	4%
Other	8%
Blank	4%