

List of NRCS indicators degraded rangeland related to belowground carbon storage. The following are indicators of degraded Rangeland according to the NRCS published technical reference guide "interpreting indicators of rangeland health (2005). Project Must fall under the designation "Extreme" or "Moderate to Extreme" for indicators 1 and 2, and "Slight to Moderate, Moderate, Moderate to Extreme or Extreme" for indicator 3 to qualify as degraded.

Bare Ground

Indicator	Degree of Departure from Ecological Site Description and/or Ecological Reference Area(s)	
	Extreme	Moderate to Extreme
Bare Ground	Much higher than expected for the site. Bare areas are large and generally connected	Moderate to much higher than expected for the site. Bare areas are large and occasionally connected

Soil surface Loss or Degradation

Indicator	Degree of Departure from Ecological Site Description and/or Ecological Reference Area(s)	
	Extreme	Moderate to Extreme
Soil surface Loss or Degradation	Soil Surface horizon absent. Soil structure near surface is similar to, or more degraded than that in subsurface horizons. No distinguishable difference in subsurface organic matter content	Soil loss of degradation seere through site. Minimal differences in soil organic matter content and structure and subsurface layers.

Annual Production

Indicator	Degree of Departure from Ecological Site Description and/or Ecological Reference Area(s)			
	Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate
Annual Production	Less than20% of potential production for the site, based on recent weather	20-40% of potential production for the site, based on recent weather	40-600% of potential production for the site, based on recent weather	60-80%0% of potential production for the site, based on recent weather

Crediting Rates: Eligible rangeland project crediting rates are based on appropriate below-ground carbon sequestration rates according to land resource region, as well as status of the land (degraded or nondegraded) prior to inception of project. rates are as follows (in metric tons of CO2 per acre per year)