

# Native American Rangeland Management Training Initiative



## What Are We Doing?

We are partnering with tribal governments to help their natural resource staff address challenges that impact the sustainable management of rangelands in Indian Country.

## How Will We Do It?

We will provide training and resources that are individualized and adapted to tribal natural resource managers, their academic backgrounds, and their unique community needs. All training will meet NRCS/BIA compliance standards, but will have strong consideration of tribal traditional and cultural values. We will use interactive online courses in conjunction with tribal or regional workshops to address specific needs, and offer access to advisory support to help with problem-solving, research ideas, management challenges, and professional development. Advisory groups will be developed in close collaboration with tribal staff. We include components for tribal students, outreach tools for tribal communities, and an inter-tribal natural resources website. BIA staff and NRCS tribal liaisons are welcome.

## When Will We Do It?

The preliminary Rangeland & Soil Ecology online course begins **March 11, 2019**, and is limited to 30 students. However, program enrollment is open throughout 2019 and 2020. Online courses will be offered several times a year, as will other follow-up courses. Workshops will take place based on tribal preferences and schedules once online courses have been completed.

For more information or to enroll contact Dr. Diana Doan-Crider at [diana@animopartnership.org](mailto:diana@animopartnership.org) or call 830-431-2770

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and the USDA Forest Service  
Hosted by the Society for Range Management



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## Online Rangeland Management & Ecology Fundamentals Course

FREE 7 Week Online Course through Oregon State University – *eligible for Continuing Education Units*

Foundational rangeland ecology course that aims to equip students with basic ecological knowledge. By the end of the course students should be able to:

1. Explain the relationship among key ecosystem components and cycles using a systems approach.
2. Explain how key ecosystem components and cycles may be affected by disturbance.
3. Explain how different management approaches, methods and tools can sustain and/or bolster ecosystem structure and function.

### Fundamentals to be Covered:

- Biogeography
- Soil Principles
- Plant Morphology & Physiology
- Systems Thinking
- Nutrient & Water Cycles
- Species Biology
- Population Ecology
- Community Ecology
- Disturbance Ecology
- Livestock Grazing Management
- Wildlife Management
- Management Approaches & Tools

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## Tribal or Regional Custom Ecology Field Workshops

FREE 1-3 Day Field Workshops Led by Rangeland Professionals

**Step 1: Workshop Scoping Discussion:** (NARTI Team & Tribal POC).

- What are specific land stewardship issues?
- Recommendations for workshop structure and logistics.
- Designate tribal point of contact (POC).

**Step 2: Workshop Planning & Organization:** (NARTI Team, Tribal POC & Field Professionals).

- Focus will be on connecting concepts learned in course to landscape conditions and identified land stewardship issues.

**Step 3: Workshop Event:** (NARTI Team, Tribal POC, Field Professionals & Students).

**Step 4:** Creation of **regional advisory groups** comprised of agency partners, professional and tribal experts, and other field personnel to provide continuous field support for tribal staff.

**Step 5: Follow Up Courses & Workshops:** Inventory, Assessment, & Monitoring; Disturbance & Restoration; Grazing Management; and Special Topics as requested by tribal staff.

# Overall Program Scope

## Current Focus

Rangeland Management & Ecology **interactive online courses** hosted by Oregon State University, **workshops** tailored for tribal and/or regional needs, and the development of follow-up support teams. Natural resource tribal staff, BIA staff, NRCS tribal liaisons, and student interns welcome.



*Flexible for all academic degree levels. Eligible for Oregon State University & SRM Continuing Education Credits, and led by diverse group of Rangeland Science faculty.*

**Rangeland Management Tool-Kits** for outreach in both Native American and Hispano land-based communities.

*Audio-visual presentations, educational handouts Tribal Councils and communities, how-to's, videos, music, children's activities for classrooms, Boys & Girls Club and 4H, and more...*



**Inter-tribal natural resource information and management website.**

*General information & resources, information hub for tribes and Native non-profit organizations, project successes, grant information, inter-tribal calendar, student resources, and outreach toolkit downloads.*



Feasibility study for **accredited online soil & rangeland ecology course** for tribal college students.

*Designed to strengthen tribal college curricula, provide support for faculty in low enrollment natural resource management programs, and provide students with courses that increase employment opportunities in natural resources.*



## Our Partners



# Additional Information



## **Program Participation**

The information provided during the online courses will be directly connected to the workshop material. Tribal staff are expected to complete the online requirements before workshops will be scheduled. As other topics are introduced, we will provide short online courses to accompany additional workshops.

## **Funding**

This project has been funded by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service and the USDA Forest Service, and is hosted by the Society for Range Management (SRM). Costs covered include online course development and instruction, materials, workshop planning, and instructor and advisory group travel. Professional Development Scholarships with the SRM are available for tribal staff that complete the program. Travel scholarships to SRM conferences are available for student interns who complete the program.

## **Advisory Groups**

Advisory groups will be comprised of local and regional rangeland and soil experts (agency, university, non-profit), tribal professionals, and already existing natural resource and cultural partners with which the tribes have been working. Potential experts outside of the region that have relevant knowledge about special topics may be brought in as needed. We request that members of the advisory groups include these activities as part of their own work descriptions (via agency directives or extension responsibilities), or volunteer their time and energy. We request individuals that are motivated to assist tribal staff, that they be readily available to meet with and conduct site visits, and are able to make time to assist with workshop instruction. Travel costs will be provided if not covered by their respective employers.

## **Student Interns**

Student interns that are enrolled in community, two-year, or four-year college programs are welcome to participate upon entering into an internship agreement with their respective tribal government; however, that tribal government must also be participating in the program. The online courses that are offered in this program are not accredited, therefore college credit will not be available. If the feasibility study for the Tribal College Online Rangeland & Soil Ecology Course is favorable, students will likely be able to enroll and receive credit by late 2020 or early 2021.

## **Continuing Education Credits (CEU's)**

CEU's will be available through Oregon State University and the Society for Range Management.

## **BIA and NRCS Tribal Liaison Participation**

Liaisons are welcome to participate with permission from their respective agencies.