

**University of Idaho, College of Natural Resources****Entity/Project Website:** <https://www.uidaho.edu/cnr>**Project Lead:** *Jason Karl (jkarl@uidaho.edu)***Project Duration:** *3 years***Project Title:** A National Grazingland Information System: Expanding GlobalRangelands.org Through a Grazingland Thesaurus and Mobile Content Access**Project in a Sentence:** We will leverage the considerable expertise and resources of the Rangelands Partnership (RP), developers of the suite of GlobalRangelands.org websites, to develop a grazinglands thesaurus that will improve the effectiveness of finding and delivering key grazingland management to conservation planners and other land managers.**Project Elevator Pitch:** The development of systems to organize and deliver available knowledge to support adaptive management has been identified as one of the grand challenges to maintaining resilient grazingland systems. Organization of such information systems, however, is hindered by the distributed nature of resources across the internet and the lack of consistent tagging of content for effective searching. Topic-specific portals like Global Rangelands ([globalrangelands.org](http://globalrangelands.org)) aggregate resources from disparate sources, but a standard vocabulary to tag resources for searching is needed to improve relevance of search results. Additionally, mobile devices have created an opportunity to take grazingland resources into the field in situations where internet connectivity is not available. To meet the grand challenge of delivering accurate, relevant, and timely information to grazingland professionals, a new approach is needed for efficiently discovering, locating, and saving handbooks, technical notes, and other reference materials. This new approach must be built on a grazingland-specific thesaurus of terms and developed in a way that leverages existing internet resources while recognizing the offline nature of grazingland management work. We propose to leverage the Rangelands Partnership, a collaborative effort of rangeland researchers, extension specialists, and librarians from 19 western US states, to develop and implement a grazingland thesaurus within the Global Rangelands platform, identify and tag a core set of reference materials, and make that information available via an online/offline mobile application.**Deliverables:** This project will produce:

1. A grazingland-specific thesaurus of concepts that can be used to tag information resources (e.g. manuals, handbooks, scientific literature) at the document or paragraph level for more efficient and relevant searching.
2. A set of core grazingland reference materials tagged using the thesaurus, and
3. A web-based, mobile-friendly application with online/offline capabilities that provides a search interface for discovering and delivering relevant grazingland resources

**Participating Partners:** This project is led by the University of Idaho and University of Arizona, and is a high-priority project for the Rangelands Partnership, a collaborative of range extension professionals and librarians from 19 states in the western US.