

Rangeland Restoration Projects for the Badia Region of Jordan

Statement of Proposed Work

By Richard Phillips

In 2008-09 we plan to build on the successful “Community Based Rangeland Rehabilitation Project” done by the Jordan Badia Research and Development Center (BRDC). This BRDC project, with financial and technical support from USDA Forest Service, demonstrated that arid land micro water harvesting techniques, coupled with sound biology and community support, can result in re-vegetation of denude lands. NMSU is currently working with BRDC to evaluate the economic potential for these restoration techniques on the economic impact of poor rural villages in Jordan.

BRDC plans to develop two additional rangeland restoration projects during the 2008-09 planning period. One will be located in the Bayir in eastern Jordan; one of the lowest rainfall zones in the country. The second project will be to rehabilitate a previous government rangeland project in the west of Ma’an. Both sites will present a challenge, but will serve as local demonstrations for best practices in rangeland management.

NMSU will provide technical and project support for both of these projects. Our arid land range management scientist will work with BRDC and USDA Forest Service Scientists to design, layout, and establish the study. They will also actively participate in the range management and grazing schedule. NMSU scientists, building on its long history of leadership in arid land range management, will help build capacity within BRDC.

NMSU agricultural economists will assist BRDC in developing a range management budget and financial assessment for these studies. Establishment and management costs will be tracked by treatment, and a cost/benefit analysis of on-site biomass production versus purchased feeds. The economist will also analyze the socio-economic benefits associated with establishing rangeland restoration in economically depressed rural Jordanian villages.

NMSU will continue to provide project management capacity building support to BRDC. It will also assist with continuous education training for BRDC professionals and coordinate training opportunities in the U.S.