



Colorado State University
EXTENSION 

Monitoring Apps

1. LandPKS, free

Allows you to monitor soil/ site characteristics, photos, locations, cover, and dominant species.

Requires assessing at least a little soil and estimating a dominant soil texture. Prompts you to take photos facing N, E, S, and W. Also has simplified monitoring techniques to assess cover. Easy to use and picture-based (versus plant species or scientific-name based).

The app uploads data to an online portal into a spreadsheet. Very handy, but data is public. You name the data, however, so unlikely someone would search and find your specific name.

<https://www.landpotential.org/landpks.html>

2. PastureMap, \$\$

Tracks grazing moves, duration in a pasture, location of water tanks,

gates, monitoring points, stocking density, and more. Allows you to draw the site and shape of your pasture in on digital maps and record how long you are in each pasture. Can also track the grazing records for each herd and calculate Average Daily Gain.

<https://pasturemap.com/how-it-works/>

3. CowPoopAnalyzer, free

Allows you to assess forage quality based on cow pies. Not kidding! You take photos of a cow pie, and then the app compares your photo to pictures where the crude protein and digestibility is known for an estimate of these attributes in your pasture.

Look for "CowPoopAnalyzer" in your App store.

4. GrassSnap, free

Allows you to take photos of a pasture or range (see below). Photostamps the photos with the location, direction, and dates the photo. Appears to stretch photos on your phone, but they are OK when you download to your phone, print or save. Other features on the app were developed for Nebraska and not applicable in CO.

<https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/centralsandhills/grasssnap/>





Monitoring on Public Lands

If you are primarily concerned with monitoring on public lands, it is IMPERATIVE you check with whatever agency manages the allotment (Forest Service, BLM, State Lands). It would be best to calibrate your methods with methods they are using.

The Colorado Resource Monitoring Initiative features a comprehensive list of methods approved by all agencies. This is a good place to start.

Monitoring Manuals and resources from the Colorado Resource Monitoring Initiative are available at:

<http://www.coloradocattle.org/coloradoresourcemonitoringinitiative.aspx>

If you need help deciding on methods, and weighing pros and cons, Extension can help.

Contact regional specialist in range management, Retta Bruegger at (970) 988-0043 with questions.

Resources for understanding more about your land

Dryland Pasture Condition Assessment & Guidelines for Colorado Small Acreages

Excellent resource walking you through assessing dryland pasture production, carrying capacity, watching for invasion by weeds, and how to manage grazing. Easy to read and follow.

<http://rangemanagement.extension.colostate.edu/land-and-livestock/dryland-pasture-condition-assessment-guidelines/>

Or just Google "Dryland Pasture Assessment Guidelines."

Web Soil Survey

Can help you identify what ecological site you are on and a wealth of other information.

<http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm>

Guide to Poisonous Plants

A searchable, online database of plants known to be poisonous to animals.

<http://rangemanagement.extension.colostate.edu/animal-health/toxic-plants/>

USDA Plants Database

Search plants by common name or scientific name. Lots of information about each plant including origin, identifying characteristics and photos.

<https://plants.usda.gov/java/>

On Pasture

Online magazine that translates "research and experience into practices you can use now," ranging from pasture management to livestock handling.

<https://onpasture.com/>

Pasture management

Information on grass growth in early fall

<http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/sfn/F14pasture>

Grass Growth and Response to Grazing Fact Sheet

<http://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/natural-resources/grass-growth-and-response-to-grazing-6-108/>

Managing Small Acreage Pastures During and After Drought

<http://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/natural-resources/managing-small-acreage-pastures-during-and-after-drought-6-112/>

Grass Growth and Regrowth for Improved Management- Resources from Oregon State University

<http://forages.oregonstate.edu/regrowth/how-does-grass-grow>

