

## Rangeland Improvement Project System – RIPS Introduction

Welcome to the introduction to Rangeland Improvement Project System, RIPS. My name is Phillip Cooley and I am one of the RAS and RIPS user reps at the National Operations Center. After this training, you should be able to create a new project record, edit an existing project record, create a maintenance record for an existing range improvement project, abandon a range improvement project, and produce an assignment of range improvements report to be used during the transfer process.

Some background on RIPS. RIPS is a legacy system which provides management data regarding range improvements such as spring developments, cattle guards, exclosures, and others. The current version of RIPS is the third range improvement tracking system used by the BLM since 1968. In 1993, the General Accounting Office reported to congress that BLM's range improvement project database is incomplete and inaccurate. So based on these findings BLM issued guidance on the use of RIPS to record and track range improvement projects on BLM administered lands. IM 2001-27 established policy that all projects must be entered into RIPS. Exceptions to this include projects associated with facility asset management, abandoned mine lands, HazMat, natural resource damage assessment, and threatened and endangered species. It also established policy to use FFS codes to link RIPS projects to BLM financial systems. Offices that do not enter projects in RIPS may not receive 8100 allocation in the following year. To get a user account for RIPS, you will need to complete Form 1260-12. After this form is completed with all the appropriate

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signatures, fax the form to the RIPS user reps at 303-236-6450 or 303-236-3508. Form 1260-12 can be found at NTC Knowledge Resource Center. After the form has been received by the user reps, you will receive your user account information.

There are two working environments in RIPS. Production is the environment used to store and report actual data for all range improvement projects on BLM administered lands. Test training is the environment used to test new features to ensure they work properly before being deployed in production. This environment can also be used by field users for training, practice, and whatever else without changing the actual data. RIPS production can be accessed at the following BLM internal web address. RIPS test training can be accessed at the following BLM internal web address.

For questions regarding this or other RAS or RIPS training sessions, please contact the RAS and RIPS user reps. Leon Pack is located at the National Operations Center. Leon has been a user rep for the RAS and RIPS systems since 1989. I am also located at the National Operations Center, and I've been a user rep for RAS and RIPS since 2005.