Dataset: **Altai\_TEK\_rangeland\_quality\_time\_series.csv**

Topic: Herder recollections of historical rangeland conditions in the Altai Mountain region of Russia, Mongolia and China

For more details: see Paltsyn et al. / Environmental Management (2019) 64:40–51

Contact: Giorgos Mountrakis, SUNY-ESF, 1 Forestry Drive Syracuse, NY 13210. 315-470-4824 gmountrakis@esf.edu

Description:

We compiled time series of herder recollections of rangeland quality during July–August 2015 and August 2016 via standardized interviews with 187 local herders on summer pastures throughout the Altai Mountain region: in Ulaankhus and Nogoonnuur somons of Bayan-Olgii Aimag, Mongolia (n = 53); Kosh-Agach district of Altai Republic, Russia (n = 51); Katon-Karagay district of Eastern Kazakhstan region, Kazakhstan (n = 34); and Altai prefecture of Xingjian, China (n = 49). Most herders were long-term tenants of the sites (mostly intermontane valleys) where we interviewed them: average duration of tenure at a given interview site had been 11.5 years in Kazakhstan, 14.9 years in Russia, 15.4 years in China, and 26.0 years in Mongolia. Each interview lasted 30–40 min on average and each was conducted at the herder’s summer camp in the Kazakh language in Mongolia and China and in Russian in Russia and Kazakhstan without translators by local collaborators (two in Mongolia and China, three in Russia, and one person in Kazakhstan) each of whom had worked in their respective interview area for >20 years (Russia, Mongolia, and China) and >7 years in Kazakhstan. Questions were standardized among countries and interviewers trained in delivery prior to initiating surveys. During each survey herders were asked to recall an estimate of the quality their summer pasture for each year in sequence between 2006–2015 (2006–2016 in China) using the following scale: “bad”, “average”, and “good”. Location of the herders’ summer camps were recorded with a handheld GPS unit (Fig. 1) enabling us to link the historical record of herder recollection of rangeland condition with the satellite-derived estimates for the same summer pastureland.

These data are subset from a larger dataset from the same set of herder interviews in which further interviews were conducted to assess the social, economic, cultural and environmental status of each herder; those data are being synthesized, are available from the authors on request, and will be made available post-publication.

Variable definitions:

Region – study area

YEARS – Year for which herders were asked to recall grazing conditions in their grazing range

BAD – Number of herders interviewed who recalled that year as being “bad” for grazing

MEDIUM - Number of herders interviewed who recalled that year as being “medium” for grazing

GOOD - Number of herders interviewed who recalled that year as being “good” for grazing