



# The Range Rider

Society for Range Management – Colorado Section Newsletter

Volume 68, Number 2

Fall / Winter 2018

## From the President Stuff Happened in 2018

By Dan Nosal, President

In the spring newsletter my message was titled “Stuff Doesn’t Just Happen.” I went on to talk about how it takes dedicated folks to make things happen. I believe that happened this past year. I will attempt to highlight some accomplishments.

The June CSSRM summer tour was a success as we teamed with Pawnee Buttes Seed Company for a two-day event. The first day was organized by **Ben Berlinger** and **Emmett Jordan** as we highlighted the many accomplishments at the Jordan Angus Ranch, our 2017 Excellence in Rangeland Conservation awardee (see page 14-15). The evening of the first day concluded with a barbeque and CSSRM Board of Directors meeting at Hudson Gardens sponsored by the West Greeley Conservation District. The second day was organized by **Don Hajar** and the very capable Pawnee Buttes Seed Company staff as we toured sites in Weld County associated with water issues. I thought the tour was very successful as over 100 people attended.



(Continued on page 3)

## 2020 Annual Meeting Planning News

By Julie Elliott, Planning Committee Co-Chair

Planning for co-hosting the 2020 SRM International Meeting in Denver with the Wyoming section is moving along, but we need more volunteers. Even a few volunteers would make a large impact. I haven’t counted officially, but Wyoming might be beating us on the volunteer count and we have twice as many members. Feel free to contact me to join in!

[Julie.Elliott@co.usda.gov](mailto:Julie.Elliott@co.usda.gov).



**Have you seen our 2020 promotional video yet?**

Check it out on the events page of our new website: <http://www.cssrm.org/events.html>

## Fall Workshop

### From A to Z: AgrAbility to Zeedyk!

By Clare Hydock, President-Elect

Hi everyone! I hope you are as excited as I am about the upcoming CSSRM fall workshop, “From A to Z: AgrAbility to Zeedyk” November 6 to 8 at the Wine



Country Inn in Palisade, CO; <https://coloradowinecountryinn.com>

We have presentations on those two topics as well as: targeted livestock grazing, a rancher’s perspective, Western Landowners Alliance, Mesa County Land Trust, the Palisade Insectary, how climate change is affecting pollinators, and wild horses. As an added bonus, we’ve arranged tours of the Palisade Insectary on November 6 at 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. For those interested (meet at the Insectary, located at 750 37-8/10 Road, Palisade).

(Continued on page 4)

## Inside This Issue

1	From the President, 2020 Meeting, Fall Workshop
2	CSSRM Representatives & Committee Chairs
3	From the President Continued
4 – 8	Fall Workshop (Info & Registration)
9 – 10	FFA Range Judging and Plant Identification Contests
11	CSSRM Membership Update
12	New CSSRM Website Launched & A Volunteer’s Heart
13	Awards Committee Update & CSU Range Club Update
14 –16	Summer Workshop & Fall Tour Recaps
17 –18	Incoming CSSRM Board Members

## **CSSRM Representatives**

The following CSSRM representatives can be contacted for more information on Section activities.

### **PRESIDENT**

Dan Nosal  
USDA-NRCS  
Franktown, CO  
303-218-2632 X 106  
daniel.nosal@co.usda.gov

### **PRESIDENT ELECT**

Clare Hydock  
USFS  
Delta, CO  
970-852-9791  
chydock@fs.fed.us

### **PAST PRESIDENT**

Josh Saunders  
USDA-NRCS  
Akron, CO  
970-427-3358  
josh.saunders@co.usda.gov

### **SECRETARY**

Dixie Crowe  
CSU Equine Reproduction Laboratory  
Fort Collins, CO  
970-213-0691  
livestocklounge@gmail.com

### **TREASURER**

Lana Pearson  
USDA-NCRS  
Pueblo, CO  
719-740-0741  
Lana.pearson@co.usda.gov

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Joshua Tashiro  
USDA-NCRS

Sami Dinar  
USDA-USFS

Michael Butterfield  
DC Open Space

Vacant seat

Sarah LeVane—CSU  
Range Club President



## **2018 CSSRM Committees and Chairs**

### **Youth Activities**

Ben Berlinger

### **Information & Education**

Randy Reichert

### **University Student Affairs**

Paul Meimen

### **Membership**

Kathleen Delzell

### **Investments**

Joe Brummer

### **2020 Planning Committee Co-Chairs**

Julie Elliott and Chuck Butterfield

### **Awards**

Ariana Gloria

### **Webmaster**

Josh Tashiro

### **Historian**

Josh Tashiro

### **Annual Meeting**

Clare Hydock

### **Nominations & Elections**

Josh Saunders

### **Budget**

Josh Saunders

### **Newsletter**

Dixie Crowe and Josh Saunders

### **Know anyone not getting the newsletter?**

Have them update their email address in  
their membership profile on  
<http://rangelands.org>.



## **From the President** (Continued from page 1)

In July the new website sub-committee comprised of **Dixie Crowe**, **Josh Tashiro**, and **Retta Bruegger** accomplished their goal as our new website is now up and running (see page 12)! Not only does it look fantastic, but it will also save us money and be more user friendly! Thanks to all three of these members for the united team effort to provide the section with a benefit that will last for many years!

September provided an opportunity for CSSRM to be one of the sponsors for a workshop hosted by the Quivira Coalition at the Badger Creek Ranch near Canon City. **Josh Tashiro** assisted with the organization of this workshop. I hope we can continue to cooperate on these types of educational opportunities.

The CSSRM September fall tour was organized by **Andee Leininger** and **Ben Berlinger** as we traveled south of La Junta to the Leininger Ranch (see page 16). Almost 30 people were in attendance as we viewed the range management principles applied by Andee and her parents on the ranch. We thank the Leininger's for opening their ranch to provide us with this great learning opportunity!

The November 6-8 CSSRM annual meeting in Palisade is shaping up to be a good one as President-elect **Clare Hydock** is leading the planning committee. The three-day event is titled "Rangelands from A to Z" and promises a variety of topics for everyone (see page 1, and 4-8).

As past president, **Josh Saunders** has been beating the bushes to encourage participation for president-elect and Board of Directors member positions for the coming year (see page 17-18). In addition, he has worked diligently to develop a 2019 budget proposal for the November 6 Board of Director's meeting that is open to all members. Speaking of the budget, we managed to stay within budget for 2017 and are on track to do the same for 2018. A presentation of the budgets will take place during the annual business meeting on November 7, so don't miss out to make your voices heard!

**Julie Elliott** continues as co-chair of the SRM 2020 meeting in Denver, which CSSRM is jointly hosting with the Wyoming section. We had a successful planning committee meeting in Laramie and another meeting is scheduled for November in Fort Collins. Many CSSRM members are involved in the planning committee, but there is still a need for more. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Julie (see the 2020 Planning Update on page 1 of this issue for contact information). It is a rewarding experience that builds camaraderie among members!

I would also like to recognize the many contributions from long-time staff member **Vicky Trujillo** at the national SRM office. Vicky is a member of CSSRM through the parent society and is always quick to advertise our events on the SRM website and Range Flashes that she sends out. She has also been very helpful in providing CEU's for the tours and other events we attend. Thank you Vicky for your attention to detail, smiling face, and lovely personality!

And finally, I would like to commend our CSSRM Secretary **Dixie Crowe** for stepping up and volunteering to compile all the articles and do the layout for this newsletter. We officially do not have a newsletter editor and Dixie graciously accepted this responsibility amongst everything else she must do! Many thanks Dixie!

As my year as CSSRM President is starting to wind down, I would like to thank the many people who step forward to make this organization continue to not only function but do it efficiently and successfully. Because as I've said before "Stuff doesn't just happen, it takes dedicated people to make it happen!" I hope to see you all somewhere... down the trail and out on the range!



## Colorado Section Society for Range Management Fall Workshop November 6-8 (Continued from page 1)

Hotel rooms are available for \$93 a night and you **must** call the hotel to reserve your room using the group code 'CSSRM Fall Workshop' (970) 464-5777.

Registration is now open via Eventbrite (see page 7 for the link or visit our website [www.cssrm.org/events](http://www.cssrm.org/events)). Many thanks to CSSRM member Nakayla Lestina for volunteering to set this up for us! Early registration ends October 21 so don't delay, register today! Registration is \$60 for regular members and \$25 for students and recent graduates; each includes the awards banquet on Wednesday night.

Registration for vendors is \$100 and includes vendor space and one banquet ticket; additional employees will cost \$25 each and includes the banquet. Vendors – please contact us today to reserve your space!

The banquet will be a Southwestern buffet including: Achiotte chicken (gluten free) with black bean corn relish, beef fajitas with a variety of side vegetables, rice, beans, along with gluten free and regular tortillas.

I want to thank CSSRM members Kait Evensen and Cindy Villa for their flyer contest submissions. I couldn't decide between them all so I declared them both winners. Congratulations Kait and Cindy! See their entries below and on page 5. Please visit our website for the full-size versions and share them (and the newsletter) far and wide so we can attract as many people and vendors as possible. This meeting is open to the public.

You are welcome to come early or stay late to tour a winery, see historic downtown Palisade, head over to the Colorado National Monument, drive up to the Grand Mesa, etc.

**The full workshop full agenda can be found on page 6, registration details can be found on page 7, and a mail-in registration form is available on page 8.**

(Continued on page 5)



**RANGELANDS FROM A TO Z**

**COLORADO SECTION  
OF SOCIETY  
FOR  
RANGE MANAGEMENT**

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
Nov 6-8, 2018**

[WWW.CSSRM.ORG](http://WWW.CSSRM.ORG)

A Rancher's Perspective  
CO AgriAbility Project  
CO West Land Trust  
Biological Weed Control  
Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Range  
Meadow & Riparian Restoration  
Palisade Insectary Tour w/Dr. Bean  
Pollinators & Climate Uncertainty  
Targeted Grazing  
Values of Range Management

**Board Meeting Nov. 6  
Workshop Nov. 7-8**

**Wine Country Inn  
Palisade, CO  
970-461-5777**

\$60 Registration (thru 10/21/18); \$70 after 10/21/18  
\$25 Student/Recent Grad  
\$100 Vendor- \$25 for additional employees  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangelands-from-a-to-z-agrability-to-zeddyx-tickets-49652127851>

Contact- Clare Hydock: (970) 852-9791; [chydock@fs.fed.us](mailto:chydock@fs.fed.us)



## COLORADO SECTION SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

# From A to Z; AgrAbility to Zeedyk

WINE COUNTRY INN: PALISADE, CO: NOVEMBER 6-8, 2018

### 6TH

- PALISADE INSECTARY TOUR: 1 AND 2 PM
- BOARD MEETING 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

### 7TH

- WORKSHOP REGISTRATION: 8:00 AM
- WORKSHOP: 8:45 AM - 4:30 PM
- AWARDS BANQUET: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

### 8TH

- WORKSHOP: 8:00 AM-12:00 PM

SEE WEBSITE FOR LIST OF SPEAKERS & THEIR TOPICS: [HTTP://WWW.CSSRM.ORG/](http://www.cssrm.org/)

### REGISTRATION (INCLUDES AWARDS BANQUET)

- STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES: \$25
- NON-STUDENTS: \$60

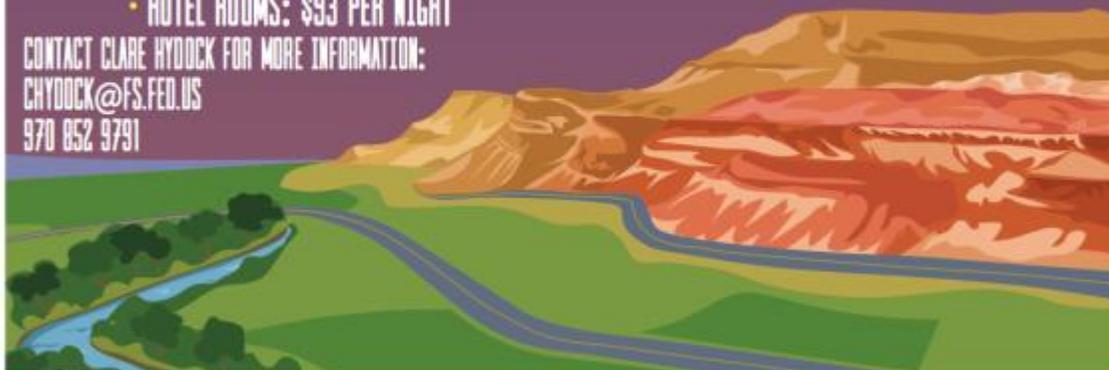
### VENDORS

- \$100: INCLUDES A DISPLAY TABLE AND REGISTRATION FOR 1 EMPLOYEE
- ADDITIONAL EMPLOYEES: \$25 EACH

### LODGING

- HOTEL ROOMS: \$93 PER NIGHT

CONTACT CLARE HYDOCK FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
CHYDOCK@FS.FED.US  
970 852 9791



"A PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY DEDICATED TO SUPPORTING PERSONS WHO WORK WITH RANGELANDS AND HAVE A COMMITMENT TO THEIR SUSTAINABLE USE"  
501(c)(3) non-profit organization

## Full Workshop Agenda

### Tuesday, November 6

- 1:00-4:00 p.m. Insectary Tours
- 4:00-6:00 p.m. CSSRM BOD Meeting Dan Nosal, CSSRM President
- 6:00-7:00 p.m. Exhibitor Set-up

### Wednesday, November 7

- 7:00-8:00 a.m. Exhibitor Set-up
- 8:00-8:45 a.m. Registration
- 8:45-9:00 a.m. Welcome and Introduction Clare Hydock, CSSRM President -Elect
- 9:00-10:15 a.m. Targeted Grazing Panel—Targeted Sheep Grazing: Jared Llyod / Monica Klingler; Targeted Goat grazing: Doug Harris / Kyler McCarrel
- 10:15-10:45 a.m. Speaker 2 Rancher: Janie VanWinkle
- 10:45-11:00 a.m. Break/Exhibitor Interaction*
- 11:00-11:45 a.m. Beyond Forage: The Values of Rangeland Management in a Broader Context Kenyon Fields, Western Landowners Alliance
- 11:45-1:00 p.m. Lunch/Exhibitor Interaction*
- 1:00-2:00 p.m. Colorado AgrAbility Cande Leathers and Robert Andrews, AgrAbility Program
- 2:00-3:00 p.m. Mesa County Land Trust: Ilana Moir
- 3:00-3:15 p.m. Break/Exhibitor Interaction
- 3:15-4:00 p.m. Climate Change Effects on Pollinators Dr. David Inouye
- 4:00-4:30 p.m. Any questions for any of the speakers, evaluations, banquet reminder & reminder of Thursday's session Clare Hydock
- 4:30-6:00 p.m. Happy Hour/Free Time*
- 6:00-8:00 p.m. SRM Business Meeting, Banquet, Awards Ceremony Dan Nosal, CSSRM President

### Thursday, November 8

- 8:00-8:15 a.m. Welcome and Introduction Clare Hydock, CSSRM President -Elect
- 8:15-9:15 a.m. Meadow and Riparian Restoration: What is It and How Can It Provide More Flexibility in Your Grazing Management? Dr. Tom Grant, Restoration Ecologist
- 9:15-10:15 a.m. Biological Weed Control in Range Management Dr. Dan Bean, Director of Biological Pest Control - Palisade Insectary
- 10:15-10:30 a.m. Break/Exhibitor Interaction*
- 10:45-11:45 a.m. The Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Range
- 11:45-12:00 p.m. Wrap up and evaluation



Ballroom where the workshop will be held.



(Continued on page 7)

## Colorado Section Society for Range Management Fall Workshop November 6-8 (Continued from page 6)

### Fall Workshop Highlights (for the full agenda see page 6)

- There is a section Board of Director's meeting on Tuesday, November 6 from 4-6 p.m.; all are invited to attend.
- The workshop will kick off on November 7 with a full-day of spectacular presentations followed by a short business meeting and the annual awards banquet.
- Thursday November 8, We will start at 8:00 a.m. and be done by noon.
- You are welcome to come early or stay late to tour a winery, see historic downtown Palisade, head over to the Colorado National Monument, drive up to the Grand Mesa, etc.

### Registration Details

Category	Cost
Regular members	\$60 – includes dinner at the awards banquet Wednesday night
Students & recent graduates	\$25 – includes dinner at the awards banquet Wednesday night
Vendors	\$100 – includes vendor space and one banquet ticket, please add \$25 for each additional banquet ticket

***Vendors – please contact us today to reserve your space!***

You can register online now through Eventbrite at

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangelands-from-a-to-z-agrability-to-zeedyk-tickets-49652127851>

**(For mail-in registration, fill out the registration form on page 7)**

### Pay it forward

Would you like to “pay it forward” by sponsoring a student's attendance? If so, please let me know and I'll put you in touch with interested students and recent graduates. Students and recent grads: if you want to be matched with a sponsor please get me your contact info. You are the future of rangelands and we want to keep you engaged!

### Contact us

More to come so stay tuned! If you want more information or have any questions please feel free to contact any of the Planning Committee members: Retta Bruegger, (970) 988-0043, [retta.bruegger@colostate.edu](mailto:retta.bruegger@colostate.edu); Sami Dinar, (303) 999-6954, [samanthabdinar@fs.fed.us](mailto:samanthabdinar@fs.fed.us); Dan Nosal, (303) 688-3042, [dan.nosal@co.usda.gov](mailto:dan.nosal@co.usda.gov); Roy Roath, (970) 817-1085, [roy.roath@colostate.edu](mailto:roy.roath@colostate.edu); or myself at [chydock@fs.fed.us](mailto:chydock@fs.fed.us) (970) 852-9791.

### Hotel accommodations

Check out the Wine Country Inn for photos & more. Rooms are \$93 a night with the special booking code CSSRM Fall Workshop. <https://coloradowinecountryinn.com>

***See you there!***

(Continued on page 8)



# Rangelands from A to Z Registration November 6 - 8, Palisade, CO

Name (Please fill out a sperate form for each member)

Company

Job Title

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Email

<b>Category</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Regular Members	\$60 - includes dinner at the awards banquet Wednesday night
Students/Recent Graduates	\$25 - includes dinner at the awards banquet Wednesday night
Vendors	\$100 - includes vendor space and one banquet ticket, please add \$25 for each additional banquet ticket

Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to: CSSRM**

**Mail your payment and registration form to:** Clare Hydock  
2739 Ridge Road  
Delta, CO 81416

**Registration must be post-marked by October 20 to guarantee a meal for the banquet.**

\*Walk-in registrations will be accepted the day of the workshop but we won't be able to guarantee you will get a meal at the awards banquet.

## Fall FFA Range Judging and Plant Identification Events

By Ben Berlinger, Youth Activities Chair

FFA Range Judging is getting into full swing. Preparations are underway for the upcoming **regional events** as well as the **Eastern Colorado State** FFA Range Judging and Plant Identification Career Development Exercises (CDE's). The first of these activities, Northeast Colorado Regional FFA Range Judging, was held on September 17 at the Prairie School in New Raymer. This event was hosted by the Prairie FFA Chapter. The Southeast Colorado Regional contest was held on September 26 at the Rocky Ford fairgrounds. This event was hosted by the Fowler and Rocky Ford FFA Chapters. The state event is scheduled for October 3. It will be held on the campus of Northeast Junior College in Sterling, with the hosting chapters being Lone Star and Merino FFA.



Plant ID judging at Regional Contests involves identifying the common names of 30 range plants along with important characteristics of each plant.

Colorado Section SRM members who assisted with these educational youth events included: Josh Saunders, Josh Tashiro, Dan Nosal, Kimberly Diller, Randy Reichert, Andrea Leininger, Monica Klinger, and Ben Berlinger.

FFA range judging involves the students in judging the condition of two ecological sites. Several attributes are determined by the students including ecological site name, plant composition, range condition class, vegetation basal and litter cover, suggested stocking rate, apparent rangeland trend, and recommended best management practices.



State FFA Range Judging requires the students to know the common names or 50 range plants along with the characteristics important to range management.

The CSSRM presents plaques at each of the award ceremonies for these events. Our Section recognizes high scoring individuals for combined scores on site judging and plant identification, as well as the high individual score on the plant identification. We also present the overall high scoring individual at the state contest with a check in the amount of \$200. Our Section's presence at these youth events is well recognized and appreciated by the students, FFA officers, and Ag teachers. Stay tuned for the results and how these high school FFA students performed in the next Range Rider issue!

CSSRM members or local individuals wanting more information or desiring to assist with any of these exciting and education youth events may contact Ben Berlinger, CSSRM Youth Activities Chair, at 719-469-3895 or [bberling@bresnan.net](mailto:bberling@bresnan.net).

(Continued on page 10)

## Fall FFA Range Judging and Plant Identification Events (Continued from page 9)

FFA range judging places the students in the field to make real-life judgments about the past grazing management and best management practices to recommend for range improvement.



FFA site judging requires students to understand several qualities relating to evaluating an ecological site.



# Membership Update

By Kathleen Delzell, Membership Chair

Greetings from your new Section Membership Committee Chair. I'm a relatively new member of SRM; I joined in 2010. I had attended Section tours and Parent Organization (SRM) Annual Meetings with my husband for many years. After Bob died I needed to know how to manage land we'd bought in 1964. It is in a Conservation Easement now and my daughters and grandchildren look to me to learn how to best take care of this land we love here in Archuleta County.

Three months ago, I volunteered to be part of our Colorado Section Membership Committee. Clare Hydock, our current President-Elect, encouraged me to be the Chair, so here I am. Thank you, Claire.



## Membership by the numbers

I am just learning how to read the data captured by our SRM Business Office-Allen Press. As I looked at their report, CSSRM currently has 197 paid members. Those living in Colorado fall into the following categories:

Regular Members & Family	111
Life Legacy & Family	20
Emeritus	12
Apprentice	8
Student	17
Commercial	1

Twenty-eight of our members live in 15 other states. Sixteen of those 28 have chosen Colorado as their second Section.

The Allen Press print-out includes members from last year who did not renew in 2018. Thirty-five of those are not students and I am going to contact them to see if they'd like to join SRM again. After that I'll see if I can locate the student members from 2017 who didn't renew.

## Voting for 2019 SRM Officers

Election for SRM 2019 officers begins Tuesday, September 4 and closes Friday, October 19. If you have not already seen the candidates' bios, they are available at: <http://rangelands.org/srm-election-of-2019-officers/>

Six of you should have received paper ballots; the rest of us have opted for electronic voting. Either way, if you have any question please contact either SRM Headquarters (303) 986-3309 or the SRM Business Office - Allen Press (785) 865-9456 or toll free at (800) 627-0326.



## CSSRM Launches New Website

By Dixie Crowe, Section Secretary

We're thrilled to announce our new website launched this summer. The new site seamlessly replaced the old site at the same web address [www.cssrm.org](http://www.cssrm.org). The new format will allow us to easily add new information, update events, add photos, and Range Rider newsletter pdfs without having to rely on an outside programmer or learn to use html code. It is also flexible enough to allow for future expansion into a possible member's only section and e-commerce. We've added more information on our youth opportunities, from high school to college students. We hope you'll take a moment to check it out. We also appreciate proofreaders, so feel free to contact us with corrections. Special thanks to Retta Bruegger and Joshua Toshiro for helping create our new site.



## A Volunteer's Heart

By Josh Saunders, Past President



*"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart"*

*- Elizabeth Andrew*

Many thanks to Andee Leininger and Courtney Hurst for volunteering to join the Board of Directors and to Joshua Tashiro for entering the President-Elect position. These folks are busy people who just happen to have a big heart for people and causes! The Colorado Section is a good cause and it is full of good people! It takes volunteers with a giver's heart to keep the business of this organization moving forward.

With almost 200 members, I will say that I was a little bummed when no nominations from the membership came in. But, hey, I was asked three times to be the President-Elect. I think that at some point in time, if you are engaged in some capacity with the Section...at some point you may say to yourself, "You know, I should give back something to the Section." And so it was with me.

## Colorado State University Range Club

By Dixie Crowe, Section Secretary & Range Club Alumni



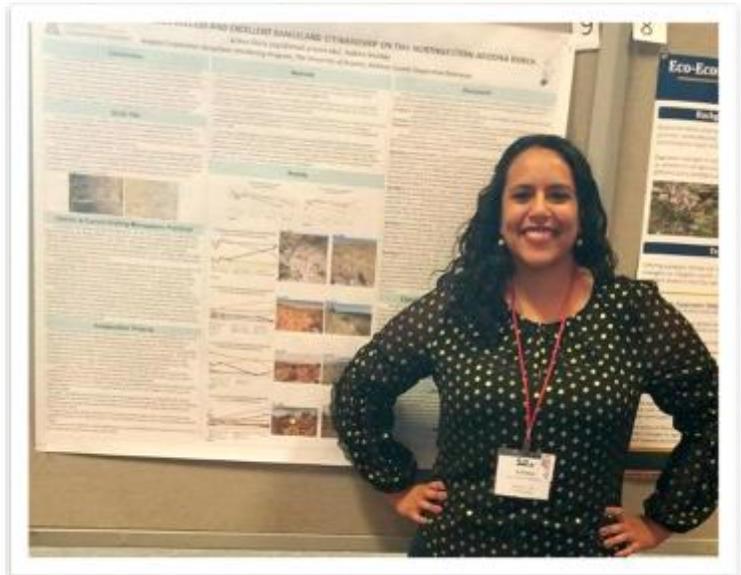
The Colorado State University Range Club is busy preparing for the competitions scheduled for SRM Minneapolis in 2019. Weekly practices for the Undergraduate Range Management Exam (URME) and plant identification are underway. Students who will participate in the Rangeland Cup are waiting for this year's prompt.

Club members will participate in another rangeland project at Henderson Mill in mid-October as part of their fundraising to attend the annual SRM meeting. Many students also plan to attend the fall meeting and workshop in Palisade in November and look forward to networking with members and listening to speakers.

## Awards Committee Introduction & Updates

By Ariana Gloria

My name is Ariana Gloria and I graduated from Colorado State University back in 2014 with a degree in Rangeland Ecology and Management. Since then, I worked in southeast Oregon as an intern with the BLM, in the Denver-Metro area of Colorado as an ecological restoration technician, and most recently in the Mojave Desert as a research specialist for the Arizona Cooperative Rangeland Monitoring Program with the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension. After nearly three years in Arizona, I have returned home to Colorado and now work as a rangeland technician at the Central Plains Experimental Range, which has been an amazing and eye-opening experience so far.



At the CSSRM breakfast meeting during the International SRM Annual Meeting in Sparks, NV earlier this year, I had the chance to volunteer and step-up as the new CSSRM Awards Committee chair. As a University of Arizona Cooperative Extension employee in Arizona, I was able to attend Arizona section SRM meetings and workshops and I absolutely loved it; learning so much and always meeting new people who shared similar interests. As soon as I got back to Colorado, I knew I wanted to be just as involved in the Colorado section and saw the opportunity to run the Awards Committee as a great way to do so.

### Awards Updates

This year, we received nominations for all four CSSRM awards; Trail Boss, Outstanding Publication or Contribution, Outstanding Young Professional and Excellence in Rangeland Conservation. The deadline to submit any more nominations for this year has closed. The 2018 award winners will be announced at the fall annual meeting in Palisade and we hope you will join us for the ceremony Wednesday November 7.

If anyone missed this year's deadline, please keep in mind that CSSRM takes nominations for these awards every year by the June 30 deadline. Nomination forms are available on our website <http://www.cssrm.org/awards.html> and can be submitted any time prior to the deadline. For 2019, we eagerly anticipate more remarkable nominations.

## Colorado Section SRM Two-Day Summer Ranch Tour: Huge Success!

By Ben Berlinger, Youth Activities Chair

The Colorado Section Summer Ranch Tour held on June 20-21 was a huge success by any measure! There were 110 participants registered for what turned out to be a perfect day of weather and shared knowledge on the range. The Jordan Angus Ranch, owned and operated by the Emmett Jordan family of Briggsdale, was our gracious host for this first day's educational range management event. The ranch was awarded the CSSRM Excellence in Rangeland Management for 2017.

The morning involved 30 agriculture teachers visited the ranch to learn about and improve their skills regarding the protocol involved with FFA range judging. Ben Berlinger, Youth Activities Chair, led the group through the steps involved with teaching FFA students about range judging.

In the afternoon, the first stop for the event included a range management and monitoring discussion where Emmett explained key points regarding his grazing management strategy. Multiple pastures are used on a short duration grazing rotation. Short grazing period are followed by recover periods that allow plants to adequately restore vigor and root systems. The schedule of grazing and rest periods is adapted based on monitoring information gathered by Emmett. Permanent transects, photo points, and harvesting plots, along with the use of aerial photos from a drone, are monitoring techniques used on the ranch. Dan Nosal and Josh Saunders demonstrated various range monitoring techniques and discussed grazing management systems, plant growth, and grazing response with the participants.



The ranch tour began at the headquarters of the Jordan Angus Ranch with introductory remarks from the group leaders. Dan Nosal, CSSRM President, welcomed the participants. Photo by Ben Berlinger



Andy Steinert (far left) and Clarke Harshbarger (right with white hat and microphone) using a rainfall simulator to demonstrate how soils with different levels of vegetation cover allow infiltration or runoff of rainfall. Photo by Dixie Crowe

Andy Steinert and Clarke Harshbarger, NRCS Soil Scientists, talked about *Life below the ground*. They used a soil pit to enlighten participants about range management and soils, and grazing management and soil health. A rainfall simulator was used to demonstrate the effects of different soil-plant cover conditions on infiltration and runoff as related to range management. The final stop for the day included wildlife as indicators of rangeland ecosystem health. Angela Dwyer, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, and Troy Florina, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, gave an interesting talk about shortgrass prairie birds and rangeland terrestrial species habitat provided by healthy rangeland.

(Continued on page 14)

**Summer Ranch Tour** (Continued from page 14)



Clarke Harshbarger (2nd from left) and Andy Steinert (4th from left) discussed soil characteristics in two soil pits they dug on the property. Photo by Dixie Crowe.



Clarke Harshbarger demonstrates water movement around a soil aggregate. Photo by Dixie Crowe.



Josh Saunders demonstrates range monitoring techniques along a transect. Photo by Dixie Crowe.

The ranch tour concluded with a Board meeting and delicious grass-fed beef BBQ sponsored by the West Greeley Conservation District. The gathering was held at the Houston Gardens which is the District's natural resources educational facility located in Greeley. The Colorado Section SRM wishes to thank the Emmett Jordan family and Jordan Angus Ranch for hosting an informative and educational Summer Ranch Tour.

The second day of the two-day event was the 2018 Grass Tour sponsored by the Pawnee Buttes Seed Company of Greeley. Don Hijar and his planning committee directed the group on an interesting and extremely informative tour about water issues in northeastern Colorado. During the day, the participants learned about the *Shape of Water*, and saw how water is used in Weld County, "Buy & Dry"

properties, and storage and distribution of water. The Colorado Section wishes to thank Pawnee Buttes Seed Company for joining with us to help make the event such a huge success!



Emmett Jordan talks about the grazing management strategy being implemented on the ranch. Photos by Ben Berlinger.



## CSSRM Fall Tour Held at Leininger Ranch

By Dan Nosal, President

A successful fall tour was attended by 27 people at the Leininger Ranch south of La Junta on September 21. Barb and Zane Leininger, along with their daughter Andee, hosted the group. Barb introduced the history of the ranch, their ranching philosophy, and details of their current operation. Miles of water pipeline and cross-fencing have been added since the Leininger's purchased the ranch in 1995. They have worked hard to ensure proper grazing management and herd health, two of their top priorities.

The first stop of the morning took us to the Jack Canyon state land leased property south of the main ranch. Here we viewed the many water development and fencing improvements that the Leininger's have implemented to facilitate prescribed grazing. Barb explained that this controlled grazing practice has allowed for shorter grazing periods and longer recovery periods to improve the rangeland condition on the entire ranch.



CSSRM members enjoy the tour at the Leininger Ranch in September. Photo by Dan Nosal.



Andee (left) and Barb Leininger (right) accepting the framed Blue Grama print from CSSRM. Photo by Dan Nosal.

After a delicious catered lunch, the group was ready to look at sites near the headquarters that were mitigated for Rocky Mountain Juniper control utilizing an excavator mulcher. The mulcher can grind an entire tree and scatter the mulch for residue that decomposes on site. A lively discussion ensued about carbon sequestration of this process versus prescribed burning.

CSSRM would like to thank the Leininger's for allowing us to conduct this tour on their property.

CSSRM presented Andee and Barb Leininger with a Blue Grama framed print in gratitude for hosting the fall tour.



## Meet Your Incoming CSSRM Board Members

Compiled by Josh Saunders, Past President

### Josh Toshiro, President-Elect

I am honored to be nominated for President-Elect for the Colorado Section of Society for Range Management. I am currently the Rangeland Management Specialist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for both the Headwaters of the Arkansas River and the South Platte Field Offices. My work is aimed at helping our producers manage and enhance their lands. In this collaborative process, we work together to build relationships aimed at promoting resilient ecosystems and livelihoods for the years to come.

Originally, from the northeastern edge of Denver, and with a history of farming in my family, I naturally steered down the agricultural path. Through the aid of some very dear friends of mine, I had the opportunity to spend time during my summers in the mountains of Colorado working on a cattle ranch. That led me to attend Colorado State University, where I received a BS in Rangeland Ecology with a concentration in Range and Forest Management in 2011. During my time at CSU, I was not able to participate in SRM due to my athletic requirements but did my best to keep in touch with what was going on within the organization with help from my peers and my advisor Paul Meiman. This led to my career with NRCS, where it began in Fort Collins, Colorado, as an intern in 2010 under John Fusaro. Then I was transferred to Kremmling, Colorado in 2011 under the direction of Mark Volt, and then onto Fort Morgan in 2012 under my mentor, Josh Saunders as a full-time employee. I have been at my current position in Canon City, CO since the end of 2014. During my time with NRCS, I have assisted numerous landowners and operators with inventory and analysis of their resources, which has

contributed to many rangeland & ranch management decisions being made or changed. I am also a member of the Colorado Cattleman's Association, and the National Cattleman's Beef Association. Currently, I am serving on the board of directors of the Colorado Section and have enjoyed my time and involvement with the society, it has taught me a lot about the society and the community we represent. As President Elect I would like to continue with the themes and vision set by previous years leaders. I believe it will be a great experience and a chance to give back to the range profession and to continue to advance the cause of sound and innovative rangeland management into the future.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Josh Tashiro*



(Continued on page 18)

## Meet Your Incoming CSSRM Board Members (Continued from page 17)

### Andee Leininger, Member at Large

Andee Leininger grew up on a cow/calf operation in SE Colorado. After spending half of her life in a drought, She became interested in Range Management and how management might affect rangelands during drought. She attended the University of Wyoming where she earned a B.S. of Rangeland Ecology & Watershed Management, along with a B.S. of Agroecology and minors in Soils & Reclamation. Andee currently lives in Hugo, CO where she works as a Range Management Specialist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. She recently became a Certified Professional in Rangeland Management through the Society for Range Management. Helping landowners understand Range Management and the impact it can have on a person's life/business is one of her long-term goals. The other goal is to manage the family ranch one day with the knowledge gained in college, her career and SRM. Her hobbies include photography and travelling.



### Courtney Hurst, Member at Large

Since earning my Masters of Natural Resource Stewardship from Colorado State University in 2006, I've pursued professional opportunities in natural resources and land management. These opportunities include: working with Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT), serving as the Stewardship Director at the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust (RiGHT), and working with George Whitten and Julie Sullivan as their 2015 New Agrarian Apprentice through the Quivira Coalition. Currently, I'm the South Central Resource Specialist with the Colorado State Land Board (SLB). I'm passionate about soil health, range health and collaborating with producers. On the weekends, I can be found with my dog, Blue, exploring this beautiful state.

