

PRESS RELEASE

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DESPAIN RECEIVES OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR RESEARCH/ACADEMIA from the Society for Range Management (SRM)

Dr. Del W. Despain of Hurricane, Utah, received the Outstanding Achievement Award for Research/Academia at the Society for Range Management's (SRM) 70th Annual Meeting held in St. George, Utah, January 29-February 2, 2017. The Outstanding Achievement Award is presented by the Society for Range Management for outstanding achievement to members and other qualified individuals and groups working with rangelands.

Dr. Despain is a Research Scientist in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at the University of Arizona in Tucson, but resides in Southern Utah. He has provided leadership to the range profession for nearly 40 years. He is a unique combination of rangeland scientist and computer software developer. His Vegetation GIS Data System (VGS) software, designed for use on tablet computers in the field, has enabled greater and more efficient monitoring of both private and public rangelands. The VGS software has been used by county, state, federal, and tribal land managers as well as ranchers, consultants, students, and NGO's. Dr. Despain has successfully integrated an ecological perspective of data collection into a software platform that is easy to use with multiple sampling protocols. Thus, VGS has been successfully applied by users from all walks of life from ages 7 to 70, including those with no prior computer experience.

In addition to these efforts, Dr. Despain was an active partner in the University of Arizona Range Task Force, providing expertise on rangeland topics in a variety of areas. He is also an author or co-author of technical guides and reports, particularly related to rangeland monitoring and assessment. Dr. Despain is highly regarded by his peers in the range profession and is seen as a "go-to" resource for questions on monitoring methods and technical assistance. He has been recognized as a co-awardee for the Award of Excellence from the Western Extension Directors Association for the Reading the Range monitoring program and was part of the University of Arizona team that received the National Rangeland Research and Development Award from the US Forest Service in 2013.



SRM's 2017 Outstanding Achievement Award for Research/Academia recipient Dr. Del Despain with SRM President (2016) Dr. Val Jo Anderson

For his accomplishments and dedication to range, the Society for Range Management is proud to recognize Dr. Del Despain with the 2017 Outstanding Achievement for Research/Academia Award.



MISSION: Providing leadership for the Stewardship of Rangelands based on sound ecological principles.

VISION: A well-trained and highly motivated group of professionals and rangelands users working with productive, sustainable rangeland ecosystems.