

Handbook

SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT WILDLIFE HABITAT COMMITTEE HANDBOOK

August 2001
as amended September 2001,
February 1, 2003 and June 15, 2010

I. HISTORY

The Wildlife Habitat Committee (WHC) was originally established as an ad-hoc group by past-president Bill Laycock in 1988. He asked that the group respond to 4 questions: 1.) should the Society for Range Management (SRM) form special interest groups in which members can find a home and focus for their professional activities, 2.) if formed, should the group be standing committees, task groups, or something else, 3.) specifically, should the Society for Range Management have a special interests or work groups dealing with wildlife and wildlife habitat issues, and 4.) if so, what should the role of this group be? Actions were taken to form a task group to address wildlife habitat concerns, and in 1989, the committee was designated the Wildlife Habitat Task Group. The committee's status changed from task group (temporary status) to the permanent Wildlife Habitat Select Committee in 1991.

Since its inception, the WHC has worked to strengthen the role of SRM in issues relating to wildlife habitat management and research. It has sponsored or co-sponsored a number of symposia relating to wildlife habitat issues, published wildlife-related material in Rangelands, and has published a book detailing the ecology of wildlife resources on rangelands.

II. MISSION STATEMENT

To make known the ecology and management behind topical wildlife habitat issues, to foster a productive working relationship with non-SRM wildlife groups, and to provide leadership on developing a vision for defining and meeting future wildlife habitat challenges.

This mission implies three major roles:

- 1) We are a source of information for the Society and other interested groups.
- 2) We assist with liaison with non-SRM wildlife groups.
- 3) We help define and solve future problems

III. COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS

- 1) Provide information on wildlife and wildlife habitat to entities seeking such information.
- 2) Bring pertinent wildlife-related issues before appropriate SRM entities.
- 3) Organize symposia and develop publications relating to habitat ecology and management of rangeland wildlife species.
- 4) Foster and maintain productive relationships with non-SRM wildlife groups.
- 5) Provide input on pending state or federal legislation, or resource management decisions that affect rangeland wildlife or wildlife habitat.

IV. LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE AND MEMBERSHIP

1) CHAIR AND CHAIR-ELECT. Leadership of the WHC will be provided by a committee Chairperson and Co-Chairperson (Chair-elect) as selected by the WHC membership. The Chair-elect will be nominated by the WHC membership one year prior to the beginning of the term. The term of service shall be one year. The Chair will be responsible for 1) Representing the WHC and responding to SRM board requests, 2) Circulating information provided from the board or other sources that are relevant to the committee, 3) Chairing the annual WHC meeting which includes arranging meeting rooms, 4) Providing the annual Committee report to the board.

2) SUBCOMMITTEES. Due to our short annual meeting time, committee leadership should make use of subcommittees (SC's). SC's will consist of two to three members, one of which will act as SC chair. SC members will be volunteers or chair appointee's, whichever comes first. The purpose of SC's is to address issues important to the WHC, or matters left unresolved at the annual meeting. Topics addressed by SC's may include, but should not be limited to, organizing symposia, providing recommendations for committee action on pertinent issues, and gathering background information on issues as required by the WCH. The SC chair will make known the findings of the SC to both the WHC chair, and the WHC communications director, at which time the SC may be disbanded.

3) COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR (Chair-Elect). Because the WHC meets only once a year, it is imperative to maintain communication between annual meetings. The communications director (CD) will be responsible for 1) disseminating information to WHC membership and other entities (e.g. SRM Board of Directors, other professional organizations), 2) attending the pre Annual Meeting with the board to help improve communications between the board and the committees and 3) providing a forum for WHC membership to express ideas and concerns relating to wildlife habitat issues between annual meetings. Both of these responsibilities can, for the most part, be addressed with the WHC web site, and/or newsletter. It will be the responsibility of the CD to maintain the WHC web site and newsletter. The position of CD is the Chair-elect. Term of service shall be one year.

4) MEMBERSHIP. Membership on the WHC is open to all SRM members. The official list of committee membership will be the sign-in list from the annual meeting, along with anyone who does not attend the annual meeting but notifies the WHC Chair, Chair-elect, or Communications Director of their desire to become or remain active. It is the responsibility of those not present at annual meetings to inform the WHC of their desire to become or remain active on the committee. Only those persons on the official list of committee members will receive materials from the CD.

V. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SRM COMMITTEES

The WHC will work with other SRM committees on areas of mutual concern and will bring rangeland wildlife issues of mutual interest to their attention.

VI. RELEVANCE TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN

The WHC will promote the mission of the SRM by strengthening our role in the stewardship of rangeland wildlife habitat. The WHC will provide an avenue for the Society to expand the role, scope, and extent of participation of range professionals in natural resource management. Publications and symposia generated as a result of the WHC will help increase public awareness of the range management profession and improve public perception of range management as a natural resource management profession.

