



Society for Range Management

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www.rangelands.org #respectontherange

November 13, 2017

Dr. Shannon Neibergs, Director
Extension Risk Management Education Western Center
Washington State University Extension
222 N. Havana
Spokane, WA 99202

RE: Proposal to USDA Extension Risk Management Education Western Center “*Mentorship Training for Western Producers*”

Dear Dr. Neibergs:

The Society for Range Management (SRM) supports Quivira Coalition’s proposal to USDA ERME for their project “Mentorship Training for Western Producers.” We look forward to being an Advisor to this project. The leadership team of SRM is excited to engage with the Quivira Coalition in all ways possible to extend current scientifically valid information on the use and management of rangelands to ranchers, producers, and all other users of rangeland resources. The Mission and Vision of the Society for Range Management is to provide leadership for the stewardship of rangelands based on sound ecological principles through a well-trained and highly motivated group of professionals and rangeland users working with productive, sustainable rangeland ecosystems. Partnering with the Quivira Coalition will provide a critical link between the professionals who generate and disseminate the science of rangeland management (SRM), and the producers and ranchers who will utilize that science to encourage and promote superior range management principles at the local level (Quivira Coalition).

This project strongly aligns with SRM’s Mission and Vision and we in SRM will strive to make this partnership work at the international, national, regional, and local scales. Our SRM network consists of an array of Sections and Chapters that spans North and Central America, and we have active members throughout the world. Our Sections and Chapters offer a wide array of locally applicable information transfer sessions (both technical sessions and rangeland tours) to highlight successful range management to local ranchers, producers, and land managers. Our international Society also sponsors an annual meeting, which draws close to ¾ of our member base of 2200 individuals to a central location each year where we celebrate management successes and present, debate, and dialogue new and emerging strategies for improved use of rangelands. We will welcome the Quivira Coalition to create, promote, and deliver their own symposia, sessions, or workshops in conjunction with our annual meeting, and thereby improve the interaction between rangeland professionals and managers and those that live on and make their living from rangelands.

As Advisors to the project, SRM's leadership team, Board of Directors, and our staff and members, will help with these project activities as an in-kind contribution to the project. Specifically, SRM will:

- Promote our SRM resources and meetings and connect ranches, farms and mentors to available educational materials.
- Advertise mentor trainings, networking events or conferences locally and regionally, and throughout SRM's national and international sphere.
- Utilize all SRM resources and communication outlets, including partnership networks, publications, newsletters and social media to support and promote this project.
- Invite a mentorship training workshop or presentation at our annual upcoming meetings (Reno/Sparks, Nevada, January, 2018, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota, January 2019, and Denver, Colorado in February, 2020) and assure that the Quivira Coalition is well-received and welcomed with the inclusion that SRM strives to maintain in all our activities.

We are grateful for the opportunity to support the Mentorship Training for Western Producers project. We encourage the ERME Western Center program to support this proposal. Please contact me with any questions about our participation in the program. I can be reached at 520-309-5412 or by email (lhowery@ag.arizona.edu).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry D. Howery". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Dr. Larry D. Howery
President, The Society for Range Management