

# PRESS RELEASE

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## HUNTSINGER RECEIVES W. R. CHAPLINE RESEARCH AWARD FROM THE SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT (SRM)

Dr. Lynn Huntsinger, Professor and Russell Rustici Chair in Rangeland Management at the University of California, Berkeley, received the *W.R. Chapline Research Award* at the Society for Range Management’s (SRM) 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting, Technical Training and Trade Show in Denver, Colorado, February 16-20, 2020. The *Chapline Research Award* gives special recognition to members of the Society for exceptional and sustained research accomplishments in rangeland science and associated disciplines including the biology and ecology of plants, wildlife and domestic livestock and characteristics of the ecosystems they inhabit.



Dr. Huntsinger has made exceptional contributions to rangeland science and management through her path-breaking research on rangeland social-ecological systems, her international engagement, public communication, and innovative teaching. Dr. Huntsinger pioneered the field of human dimensions of rangeland management and focused the attention of rangeland science on rangelands as integrated social-ecological systems. By the 1990s, it was clear that ecological science and technical solutions alone would not solve fundamental rangeland management challenges. Rangeland science needed to address social and cultural values, landowner behavior, public policies, and communal institutions.



L to R: SRM President (2019) Dr. Clayton Marlow with 2020 W. R. Chapline Research Award recipient, Dr. Lynn Huntsinger, and nominator Dr. María Fernández-Giménez (Colorado State University).

Dr. Huntsinger’s early work on private rangeland landowners’ and public land managers’ attitudes, values and management behavior, was the first rangeland social science in North America to focus on social and cultural aspects range management. Another of her papers laid the foundation for studying rangelands as linked social and ecological systems. Further work identified the interdependent fates of public and private rangelands and theorized a potential threshold in ranchers’ perceptions of ranch viability in the face of urbanization, beyond which ranch sale and land conversion become inevitable. Dr. Huntsinger co-introduced the term “working landscape,” now widely used to express the understanding that landscapes

used for grazing produce multiple benefits for people and nature. Her recent research advances the concept of social-ecological ecosystem services in rangelands and demonstrates how cultural landscapes and their benefits are produced and maintained by the interaction of natural processes and human management.

Dr. Huntsinger’s international collaborations in China and Spain have produced influential articles, a special issue of SRM’s scientific journal *Rangeland Ecology and Management* on Integrated Social-ecological Approaches to Sylvopastoralism, and a book on Mediterranean Oak Woodland Working Landscapes. Her mentorship of young international scholars has helped launch multiple careers, and through them, the trajectory of rangeland social-ecological research globally. She led the USDA International Delegation on Rangeland Ecology and Management to China and has addressed the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Spain, Italy and Argentina, among other examples.



**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.

Dr. Huntsinger translates science into management and policy and communicates with diverse rangeland stakeholders with exceptional impact. She helped lead the public engagement process for the Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Plan, and has served on the National Academy of Sciences Committee to Review the BLM Wild Horse and Burro Program, the BLM and Minerals Management Science Advisory Board, the NW Great Basin Resource Advisory Council (BLM), the Malpai Borderlands Group Science Advisory Board, and the Central Coast Rangelands Advisory Board.

Dr. Huntsinger, who serves as Associate Dean for Instruction and Student Affairs in the UC Berkeley College of Natural Resources, has been identified repeatedly as a superb teacher and mentor who has influenced generations of undergraduate and graduate students through her innovative pedagogy, creative course design, and empowering mentoring. She developed new courses such as Culture and Resource Management and Americans and the Global Forest, which drew students from across the university and integrated social, cultural, political and ecological dimensions of natural resources.

In sum, for her exceptionally innovative contributions to rangeland science, management, engagement and education it is with great honor that we recognize Dr. Lynn Huntsinger with the Society for Range Management's most esteemed *W. R. Chapline Research Award* for 2020.