

Justification for Recommended Changes to SRM Vision and Mission Statements

Rangelands are increasingly confronted by multiple challenges, including climate change, land conversion and fragmentation, biodiversity loss, and marginal profitability of livestock production. Recent United Nations approval of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) for 2026 by 102 countries, including the U.S., demonstrates that global rangelands are confronting a common set of persistent problems. These problems collectively marginalize the tremendous value of rangelands and require a concerted effort to develop and implement more effective and well-integrated stewardship strategies. Increasing recognition and momentum of the IYRP provides a tremendous opportunity for SRM to expand and diversify its membership and impact by addressing global as well as national, rangeland challenges. In fact, SRM currently enjoys a strong and growing international presence, even though it is not widely recognized or promoted by the Society. This international capacity will become of even greater importance to SRM as it assumes a central role in organization and function of the North American region of the IYRP. The SRM International Affairs Committee (IAC) is recommending that the SRM vision and mission statements be modified to more clearly describe the current scope of the Society and to position it to further expand its impact at this opportune time.

A bulleted justification for adoption of the recommended modifications to the vision and mission statements are presented below. Collectively, these changes would position the Society to more effectively promote rangeland stewardship in the 21st century.

Commitment to international involvement:

- Long-term international participation with Mexico and Canada
- Overlapping membership with the International Rangeland Congress
- International scope of both SRM journals
- Strong support for the IYRP by the Board of Directors
- International representation on the Board of Directors
- Large, active International Affairs Committee
- Numerous Society members with vast international experience and networks

Potential global activities:

- Coordinating organization for North American region of IYRP
- Contribution to global IYRP initiatives and programs
- Sharing of knowledge resources via multiple venues
- Expanded recruitment of international members
- Develop professional network linking other rangeland societies

Benefits to SRM from greater international engagement:

- Increased global recognition and relevance
- Larger, more inclusive and diversified membership
- Educational opportunities for younger generations of SRM members
- Expanded scope and impact of both Society journals
- Opportunity to contribute to global stewardship recommendations