

May 14, 2022

Board of Directors  
Society for Range Management (SRM)

To Whom It May Concern:

The recent United Nations (UN) designation of 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) has stimulated tremendous interest and activity within the International Affairs Committee (IAC) of SRM. Committee members have expressed the need for greater recognition of, and involvement in, international activities on behalf of the Society. Concern has further been expressed that existing SRM linkages with Mexican and Canadian members may be weakening, which would represent a great loss for SRM in the North American context. In addition, younger members have expressed great interest in the development of a larger and more inclusive Society membership. The IAC thus offers two proposals and poses a question for consideration by the BOD.

The first proposal is to revisit the SRM vision and mission statements to ensure they best reflect and promote international activity and recognition. It has been 20 years since the current vision and mission statements were developed, and a great deal of change has subsequently occurred. Reflection on the current goals, purpose, and future aspirations for the Society may prove to be a valuable activity to enhance relevance as well as promote growth and impact. A justification for proposed modification of the vision and mission statements, along with the 2020 SRM letter of support for IYRP to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), are attached. Does the BOD feel that the current vision and mission statements are adequate? If not and the BOD approves this proposal, the IAC would be willing to recommend several alternative vision and mission statements for consideration by the BOD and Society membership.

The second proposal is to formally assign responsibility to the IAC for coordinating IYRP activities going forward *as they directly pertain to SRM*. IAC members possess the greatest interest and maintain the largest professional networks regarding global rangelands within SRM. While an SRM-IYRP task force still exists (Barry Irving and Jim O'Rourke are the co-chairs), we hear it may be winding down now that the IYRP has been formally designated. Consequently, SRM needs an entity to fill this gap, and this can be the IAC. The BOD representative to the IAC would keep the BOD informed of all relevant activities.

Lastly, we pose a question to the BOD. Given the momentum generated by UN approval of the IYRP, we wonder if SRM is contemplating yet how to "seize the moment" and craft a growth and diversification strategy that embraces rangeland globalization. This is obviously a complicated matter. It requires thinking about the nuts and bolts needed to better operationalize international involvements in ways that truly welcome and incentivize a large and new cadre of stakeholders. Other fiscal models may also need to be considered to promote the long-term viability of SRM on the world stage. This all goes well beyond merely editing the SRM vision and mission statements, as noted above.

Your timely consideration of the two proposals and the question is greatly appreciated. Please contact the IAC if further information is required.

Sincerely,



D. Layne Coppock  
Professor Emeritus and IAC Chair, 2022-2023