



Call for Session Proposals – Wichita SRM 2027

Session Proposals DUE: JULY 17, 2026

The 2027 SRM Annual Meeting is now accepting submissions for proposals for the following types of sessions:

- Symposia
- Workshops
- Ignite
- Campfire

Proposals must be submitted, using the corresponding form (posted on the meeting website here:), to specialsessions@rangelands.org by **July 17, 2026**. Submissions that are incomplete or received after this deadline will not be considered.

Our Enduring Grasslands is the theme of the 2027 Annual Meeting in Wichita, Kansas. We invite your consideration of the concepts inherent in this theme as you prepare your presentations and posters for the meeting.

The idea behind “Our Enduring Grasslands” comes from the multiple meanings of “Endure”.

Enduring/Endure – Continuing or long lasting, remain in existence.

- Grasslands have been here longer than human history and withstood the test of time throughout generations of change and the stewards who cared for them. Even through the exponential changes of today, Grasslands endure.

Endure – to suffer

- Grasslands are the most threatened and least protected biome on the earth. The Great Plains are no exception. Conversion, encroachment, invasive species, land use changes; Grasslands have endured it all and yet still exist.

We hope to highlight the work professionals, universities, agencies, NGO’s, and producers who are all helping our rangelands to not only exist, but to thrive. Through our plenaries, we intend to focus on the main threats facing the Great Plains, like conversion, woody encroachment, invasive species and climate change. The management against these threats can look much different in the Great Plains than in the Western Rangelands, but the end goal is all the same. As you plan your Symposiums, workshops, and forums, keep the Enduring theme in mind with actionable outcomes that will support our rangelands and grasslands.

Session Format:

- Presentations: Presenters should plan to speak for a full 15 minutes. Session organizers will determine the structure of Q&A times.
- Both virtual and live-stream components will be included in the meeting. It is yet to be determined which sessions will be set up to live-stream; **NOT ALL SESSIONS WILL BE STREAMED**, and the **determination of said sessions will be up to the planning committee**. It is strongly encouraged that all speakers be physically present to speak. If they are not able to attend in person, they will be asked to provide a recording of their presentation to ensure quality of delivery.
- Per the above, bandwidth will determine the ability to live stream all sessions; confirmation will be provided once all session submissions have been received and are reviewed and accepted.
- Sessions requiring intense interaction among participants will be restricted to in-person delivery (Campfires and some workshops, for example).

The meeting schedule for the program will be structured **around 1 hour and 40 min blocks, with start/stop times of presentations synchronized at 20-minute intervals**. Sessions should allow for intermittent discussions (Q/A) and preferably also a slot for more in-depth discussion, such as at the end of the session. Session proposers are given considerable latitude on the number of speakers and the time allotted per speaker within the 1-hr 40-min structure. For example, a 1:40 min traditional oral session could have as many as 5 or fewer speakers with longer talks or allow for time for panel discussion periods. Ignite-style sessions (very short, to-the-point talks) need only clusters of short presentations of any duration synchronized with the 20-minute intervals. Mixtures of presentation types is encouraged as long as they can be integrated into a structured session(s).

Submission Deadlines

Two submission deadlines have been established and will be strictly held for symposia, all types of session proposals, and abstracts for presentations within these sessions.

1. Proposals for symposia and special sessions (i.e., workshops, ignite, campfire) are due **July 17, 2026**. Submissions that are incomplete or received after this deadline will not be considered. Notifications on the status of proposals for symposia and special sessions will be made to all submitters by August 14, 2026.
Proposals may be submitted using the corresponding form to this email: specialsessions@rangelands.org
2. Session agendas, including speaker names and emails, time slots, and presentation titles, must be submitted by **September 18, 2026**. You will be provided with a template to assist with this item.
3. Abstracts for individual speaker presentations within **SYMPOSIA sessions only** are due by **December 4, 2026**, and should be collected by Session Organizers and sent in **one document** to specialsessions@rangelands.org. These abstracts are ***not*** to be submitted via the abstract submission site, which is for use **ONLY** for those submitting a poster or oral abstract. *Abstracts are only required for symposia speakers, not for speakers in workshops, ignite, or campfire sessions.*

The target date for producing a tentative program is **October 9, 2026**, with a final program being released by **November 6, 2026**.

Types of sessions may include:

- 1. Symposia: Innovative and captivating speakers organized around emerging themes** in rangeland ecology and management are featured in symposia. Symposia are the core scientific aspect of the SRM program. Each session will synthesize a topic that makes significant contributions to the art and science of rangeland management and ecology through novel collaborations, methods, or interdisciplinary approaches.
- 2. Workshops: “Contribute to the development of practical, leadership, and communication skills within SRM!”** An interactive, educational experience in which attendees develop new practical skills to apply to their rangeland science and management work. Themes could include but are not limited to skills for bridging science and management communities; outreach, meeting facilitation, and science communication leadership; promoting diversity and inclusion; software and data analysis; writing for popular and scientific audiences; skills for student success; data collection and management methods; leadership in field research, etc.
- 3. Ignite-style Sessions: “Enlighten us, but make it quick!”** Short talks, typically set rigidly at 5 minutes each, are organized around a focused theme that stimulates an exchange of new ideas in rangeland ecology and management. Organizers can use the 20 slides/talk and auto-advancing slide format. Regardless, presenters need to be able to clearly deliver the high points of their message/point in a fashion similar to an “elevator pitch” that is creative and engaging to the audience. Ignite sessions do not need to use the entire 2-hour time slot and should plan on having breakpoints for questions and comments. Given the brevity of ignite talks, presenters may also like to have an associated poster to explore their presentation further.
- 4. Campfire sessions:** Campfire Conversations are lively collaborative dialogues around questions that matter for the future of the Society for Range Management and rangelands. These questions could be a single issue, controversy, challenge, or opportunity of immediate relevance. Preference will be given to innovative, provocative, and complex topics with the potential to translate rangeland knowledge and transform the future of SRM, especially as they relate to the theme for 2024. We encourage SRM committees and working groups, managers, researchers, advocates, outreach professionals, students, and young professionals to submit proposals that flesh out the question for the Program Committee. Submitters of proposals chosen for Campfire Conversations will work with the Campfire Committee to facilitate conversations following the World Café model (see description below). A paper on the Campfire Conversations model is here: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0190052821000468>. For 2024, the committee will request some form of a written outcome authored by the participants that will be posted on the website.

Review Criteria

Submissions will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- 1) Clarity of purpose:** A concept, approach, or topic area is identified, and goals for the session are stated, along with objectives and expected outcomes for participants/attendees. The proposal contributes to the SRM mission to provide science-based information for rangeland ecology and management. Priority will be given to submissions that relate to the 2027 meeting theme.
- 2) Scientific Strength:** Uses best available science, methods, and practices. We invite and encourage other disciplinary research (e.g., policy and humanities) that pertain to the science and art of rangeland management.
- 3) Applicability to management/practice:** Proposal clearly describes how the topic(s) discussed apply to ecosystem management, conservation practice, policy, or other decision-making.

- 4) **Diversity:** Proposal is consistent with the SRM Diversity statement, including active efforts to break down silos, consider equitable solutions, and ensure all voices are part of the discussion.
- 5) **Participant engagement and active learning opportunities:** Preference is given to session proposals that include activities or discussion to engage attendees. Creativity is encouraged.
- 6) **Plan to adapt the session to a possible virtual format:** Preference will be given to proposals that have a plan for delivering the session online.

Benefit and interest: Sessions that are oriented to be of direct benefit and interest to rangeland managers and practitioners are encouraged and will be given special consideration.