



Society for Range Management

Awards Committee Handbook

Thirteenth Edition
Updated June 2020

Approved by

Board Liaison Fernández-Giménez 6/18/2020

PREFACE

This is the **thirteenth edition** of the SRM **Awards Committee Handbook** and was revised in **2020**.

A handbook became necessary after the nominating process was opened to the general membership in 1973. The first handbook was written in 1975 by a number of Awards Committee members, primarily by E. William Anderson. It has been revised in 1978, 1987, 1989, 1994, 2001, 2004, 2006, 2014 and 2019 as new awards were added and/or changes were made.

All changes to the handbook are proposed by the Awards Committee, and require approval by the Board of Directors or the BOD Liaison to the Awards Committee. Small changes can be approved directly by the BOD Liaison. Larger changes require approval by the BOD. The BOD Liaison has the discretion to determine whether changes are large or small.

The changes to the handbook, through the years, are documented in a Historical Appendix of Awards Changes. This appendix will provide a reference for future Awards Committee members as changes are made and some rationale for the changes.

The Board of Directors at the 1994 Summer BOD meeting determined that final evaluation and ranking of nominations for awards are the responsibility of the Awards Committee, except for the following awards, which can only be conferred at the discretion of the President and Board of Directors:

- Distinguished Service Award
- Trail Boss Award
- President's Club Award

The Awards Committee proposes that publication and distribution of this handbook and the attached evaluation forms to Sections will provide nominators with clear criteria for the preparation and submission of quality nominations. Questions and comments about specific criteria should be directed to the SRM Awards Committee Chairperson, or to the Section Awards Committee Chairperson.

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INTRODUCTION

The Society for Range Management awards is designed to recognize members and nonmembers who have made outstanding contributions to the science and art of rangeland resource management. Awards are presented at the Society's Annual (Winter) Meeting.

The Awards Committee Handbook describes: (1) the functions and procedures of the Awards Committee, and (2) the selection criteria and nominating procedures for each Society award.

In addition to the awards offered under the Society awards program, members and Sections are encouraged to submit nominations of individual members, groups of members, or Sections directly to other organizations. Likewise, Society members and Sections are encouraged to nominate recipients of awards from other organizations for appropriate SRM awards. Copies of nominations for "outside awards" should be filed with the Society office.

An electronic file of all winning SRM award nominations will be maintained in the Society office.

STRUCTURE OF THE COMMITTEE

The SRM Awards Committee shall consist of a Chair, Chair-Elect and a minimum of nine members. Three members will be appointed annually by the First Vice-President to replace three retiring members. Newly appointed members will, therefore, serve for three consecutive years. Appointments will be made each fall for service which formally begins at the close of the following annual (winter) meeting; however, new appointees are expected to participate in the committee's entire meeting. Committee membership should represent a geographical and professional cross-section of the Society, with no Section having more than two members serving at the same time.

The Second Vice-President shall select the Chair-Elect 13-15 months prior to his/her term as President. Appointment of the Chair-Elect will occur at the beginning of the annual meeting one year prior to the Second Vice-President's term as President. Thus, the Chair-Elect will be requested to attend committee meetings at two annual meetings prior to taking office as Chair. It is recommended that the Chair-Elect be appointed from a current or past committee member so they have a working knowledge of committee functions. **If the Chair-Elect designee is a previously appointed committee member, the full committee may consist of only nine members.**

It has occasionally happened that there are nine appointed members; however, the SRM 2nd/1st Vice President has been unable to convince one of the nine appointed members to serve as Chair (or Chair-Elect) of the committee. *In this situation*, the SRM Officers/Board of Directors reserves the right to appoint a (non-voting) chair from the SRM membership – said appointee should have considerable experience with the committee, and would likely have previously served on the committee.

CALENDARS

Honor Awards

1. In March, the Chair will assist the SRM Office in preparing a “Call for Nominations” for the upcoming awards cycle.
2. In March-June, the Committee will actively solicit and encourage Sections to prepare quality nominations for awards.
3. In March-June, the new Chair will “pre-verify” all submitted nomination packets for completeness, appropriateness for award category, readiness for committee review, etc. Chair can reject any submission not meeting said award criteria, and if time allows, ask the nominator to fix said nomination prior to June 1st.
4. In July-August, the SRM Office will post all Nominations and Ranking Forms to the secure committee evaluation website.
5. In July-August, Committee will complete individual rankings; submit their rankings to Chair; and complete teleconference.
6. In August– Chair will submit final report of honor awardees to Board of Directors liaison for final Board approval during the Summer Board meeting.
7. In September, Chair will provide brief comments on all unsuccessful nominees to the SRM Office for inclusion in the rejection letter to the nominator.
8. In September, Chair will work with SRM Office to get the final award citation for the Renner and both Chapline Awards (along with digital photos) to include Annual Meeting Trail Boss to highlight these awardees. (Work with AMPC to meet publication deadline.)
9. In October, Chair will contact successful nominator for each award to submit a digital photograph and a 250 word Awards Citation (no word limit for Renner and either Chapline award). Awards Citations are to be as “news release ready” as possible to save the SRM Office time after the annual meeting. Also, the Chair will request a brief, bullet point summary (maximum of six bullets/one PowerPoint slide) for Committee use during the Awards Ceremony. Photograph and Citations are due to the SRM Office by November 1st.
10. In November, SRM 1st VP will appoint the new committee members and chair-elect.
11. In December, assist the SRM Office in announcing the Renner and Chapline Award winners in the Rangeland News, Range Flash, or other approved form designated by the Board of Directors.
12. In December – January, assist the SRM Office in final award citations and production of the final Honor Awards Booklet and/or Awards Program flier, as requested.
13. In January, Chair/Chair-Elect will finalize agenda for the Committee’s Annual Meeting.
14. DURING THE ANNUAL MEETING:
 - Chair/Chair-Elect will lead committee meeting.
 - Judge the Excellence in Range Management (section ranch award) posters.
 - Chair and Chair-Elect (or designee) will co-present the SRM Honor Awards.
 - Chair and Chair-Elect will meet with Advisory Council.
 - Committee will assist SRM HQ Personnel with the Awards Ceremony.
15. Upon completion of the Annual Meeting, if an ERM recipient is determined, the Awards Committee Chair will work with SRM Headquarters to provide the designated award items to the

recipient.

Excellence in Rangeland Management Award

1. In May/June, Chair will contact SRM Advisory Council to send “Call for Posters for the *Excellence in Rangeland Management*” to all sections.
2. In September/October, Chair will contact SRM Advisory Council to request all sections notify the Chair of their intent to bring (section ranch award) *Excellence in Rangeland Management* posters to the annual meeting – so committee will know how many are coming. Abstracts are required through normal SRM submission process.
3. Sections must indicate their intent to bring forth an ERM poster(s) no later than December 15th by submitting the following information to the SRM Awards Committee Chair via email:
 - Section affiliation
 - Title of Poster
 - Abstract (max 100 words)
 - Name/Title of Nominee and contact information (address/phone/email)
 - Name/Title of Nominator and contact information (address/phone/email)

Abstracts are limited to 1 submission per Section.

Please use the Subject line “ERM Nomination – (Section Name)” and cc info@rangelands.org.

FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

The SRM Awards Committee is responsible for soliciting and evaluating nominations for each award. The committee will submit a list of qualified nominees for SRM awards to the Board of Directors in accordance with the following procedures:

A. General. The committee will:

1. Nominees are to be solicited from the SRM general membership and, if possible, from those who have knowledge of past and current achievements of outstanding individuals and groups deserving of recognition by SRM.
2. Annually review suggested improvements to the SRM awards program with the Board of Directors. Submit changes to the awards program handbook and/or procedures to the selected Board of Director contact for review/approval prior to implementation.

B. At the Annual Meeting: The Awards Committee normally meets during the first or second day of the annual meeting. The meeting is to discuss nomination and committee procedures; introduce the new Chairperson and newly appointed members; and address other matters of interest to the Committee and/or attendees:

- Chairperson should reserve time to meet with the Advisory Council to solicit assistance in obtaining nominations from Sections and to explain Committee objectives for the coming year.
- The Chair will submit a Board of Directors report during the annual meeting and to seek the Board's advice and counsel concerning proposed changes to criteria for existing awards, new awards, and other policy matters.
- See Calendar for other duties during the Annual Meeting.

C. Nomination Procedures for SRM Awards:

1. A standard nomination form (word file) will be posted on the committee website, along with the updated handbook.
2. Submitting Nominations
 - a. **Electronic submissions** can be made directly to Vicky Trujillo (vtrujillo@rangelands.org).
 - b. **Hardcopy submissions** can be made to:
Awards Nominations
Society for Range Management
6901 S. Pierce St. STE 230
Littleton, CO 80128
 - c. **Questions to the committee can be emailed** to the current Committee Chair.
3. Nominations may be submitted by any SRM member, in writing, to the Chair of the Awards Committee, in care of the Society's Executive Vice-President. The correspondence **must clearly state (a)** the award for which the person or group is being nominated and **(b)** a statement of the nominee's qualifications, following the standard format [**Appendix B**]. **NOTE:** Due to the close nature of the Renner, Chapline, Sustained Lifetime Achievement Awards, a cover letter can be attached which requests the committee to consider the nomination for more than one award.
4. Nominations for SRM awards may be made at any time. Nominations received prior to

June 1st will be considered by the Awards Committee for presentation at the following annual meeting. Nominations received after **June 1st** will be considered by the next year's committee.

5. The Executive Vice-President's designee shall send copies of the documentation for each nominee to the Awards Committee Chair.
 - a. Upon receipt of the nominations packets, the committee chair will "pre-verify" completeness of the nominations to eliminate the committee from having to evaluate incomplete/incorrect applications. Nominator will be notified of incomplete application so the form can be completed correctly.
 - b. The Chair will complete the evaluation by June 15th.
6. *Proper documentation is required.* Incomplete/incorrect nominations will not be evaluated by the committee and the nominator will be so notified. Incomplete/incorrect nominations will be returned to nominators for revision if submitted early enough before the June 1st deadline to complete the suggested changes. **Please note that cover letters are not to be, and will not be, considered as part of the submission packet if they make the packet go over the allowed page limit for supporting documents.**
7. All nominating documents will be stored in an approved electronic filing system for the SRM Office and/or Committee's use.

D. Evaluation Procedures for SRM Awards:

- ***Immediately after the June 1 deadline*** for receipt of nominations, the Society office will electronically post all nominations to the secure internet location for committee members to access, along with evaluation forms.
 - a. The SRM Office will provide the current membership number. This will be used to calculate the number of Fellow (0.1% of membership) and Outstanding Achievement (0.3% of membership) Awards to be given.
 - b. Committee members must independently evaluate and rank nominations within each award category, placing them in numerical order with the smallest number being the top choice, within a 2-4 week period - not later than August 15th - by logging into the secure website and using the ratings matrix provided.
- **Rankings within award categories should be considered in the following order:** Renner, Chapline Land Stewardship, Chapline Research, Sustained Lifetime Achievement, Fellow, Outstanding Achievement, Outstanding Young Range Professional Awards, and YPC Outstanding Early Career Award. This order allows nominees for more than one award to be first considered for the more prestigious award.
 1. **Chair shall poll the committee membership no later than July 31st**, either through a conference call or an electronic meeting, for final consensus of nominee rankings in each award category. (The Committee will also conduct other necessary business.)
 - a. Chair will submit the list of successful nominees in each award category to the Board of Directors for review/approval during their Summer Board meeting.
 2. The Executive Vice-President's designee will prepare a letter, under the President's signature, for distribution from the Society office that will inform

each successful award nominee they will be *receiving an award* (not what award) at the following SRM annual meeting. A copy of the letter will also be sent to the nominator(s) and section presidents.

- A letter will be sent by the Chair (in Sept/Oct) to the nominators that will request the following be provided by **November 1st**:
 - a. A digital head shot photograph of the nominee;
 - b. The names and addresses of up to three newspapers/publications in which the nominee prefers the award announcement to be submitted for publication.
 - c. The Nominator assists in the development of the 250 word printed citation for the printed program booklet of honor award citations (all awards other than Renner/Chapline).
 - d. Also, for all awards other than the top three, a shorter “five bullet point summary” will be developed by the nominators for the afternoon awards presentation.
 - Public announcement of the names of award recipients.
 - a. The Renner Award and two Chapline Awards shall be announced in December to highlight these three prestigious awards – this short announcement – Award/Name of Recipient will allow other interested parties to attend the awards ceremonies. As needed, the Committee Chair will issue a news release on the SRM Honor Awards program to highlight changes, or other necessary news.
 - b. All remaining awards will not be announced prior to presentation.
 - If worthy nominations for a specific award have not been received by the committee, it can recommend that the award not be presented.
3. The Executive Vice-President’s designee will prepare a letter for distribution from the Society office to inform each unsuccessful nominator of candidates not selected for an award. This correspondence will include some brief comments from the Awards Committee Chair outlining why the nomination was not selected. NOTE: Chair’s comments due to the SRM Office two weeks after notice of final Board of Directors approval of award winners.
- Special notes:
 - a. Members of the SRM Board of Directors and Awards Committee are **not** eligible for awards while holding office/member of the committee.
 - b. If a person is nominated for more than one award, this shall not influence his/her ranking for either award.
 - c. A recipient of an award shall not be eligible to receive that award again.
 - d. A recipient cannot receive more than one award in any one year.
 - e. A recipient can only go “up” the awards rank list for future awards, not back “down” the awards list (e.g. one can receive the Sustained and move up to the Renner/Chapline, but not back down to the Outstanding Achievement).
 - f. Members of the Awards Committee shall not nominate persons/groups

for SRM Awards, while serving on the committee.

Publicity for Awards:

- 1) In order to ensure that activities of award recipients and of the Society are widely recognized, the committee shall facilitate and encourage publicity of the awards through appropriate channels. Following the Summer meeting, it is the Chair's responsibility to:
 - a. Remind the Executive Vice-President to request from each award recipient a digital photograph suitable for publication by November 1.
 - b. Obtain from the nominators a 250 word citation to be printed in the awards citation booklet; and a shorter "bullet point" citation to be read at annual meeting awards ceremonies by November 1.
 - c. Remind the SRM Office to publicize the SRM awards program and individual award recipients through press releases, magazine articles, etc.
- 2) Chair is responsible for assisting the SRM Office staff with publishing the awards criteria and nomination format annually in the December issue of *RANGELAND NEWS* or via *RANGEFLASH*. A list of all prior award winners, compiled by the Society office after the Annual Meeting will be posted on the SRM website.

SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT AWARDS

The following are included in the SRM Honor Awards Program presented by the SRM Awards Committee (*listed in rank order, with highest ranking first*):

- Frederic G. Renner Award
- W.R. Chapline Land Stewardship Award
- W.R. Chapline Research Award
- Sustained Lifetime Achievement Award
- Fellow of the Society for Range Management Award
- Outstanding Achievement Award
- Outstanding Young Range Professional Award
- Young Professionals Conclave (YPC) Outstanding Early Career Award
- Excellence in Range Management Award (Section Rancher Awards)

SRM confers *additional awards not included in the Honor Awards Program* and, therefore, not falling under the direct purview of the Awards Committee.

These awards include:

1. **Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award**, and the **Early Career Undergraduate Teaching Award** presented by the Range Science Education Council (RSEC) and SRM.
2. **International Fellowship**, presented by the SRM International Affairs Committee.
3. **The Distinguished Service Award, President's Club Award, and Trail Boss Club Award** are presented at the discretion of the SRM Officers and Board of Directors.

When bestowing awards upon Society members or nonmembers, no discrimination will be made on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, or country of national origin.

Frederic G. Renner Award

The [Frederic G. Renner Award](#) is the most prestigious award bestowed by the Society. It was made possible by a generous contribution from Frederic G. Renner, a Charter and Life member, and SRM's second President (1949). The award is presented with the belief that such recognition will foster better use of rangeland resources and a broader understanding of the contributions that these resources make to the welfare of all people.

***FREDERIC G. RENNER** was employed early on by the US Forest Service after his graduation from the University of Washington. Later, he became Chief of the Range Conservation Division of the Soil Conservation Service. He was instrumental in bringing all interests together to solve range problems, as there was more competition than cooperation among the federal agencies. Mr. Renner worked hard to standardize procedures in all agencies and to encourage full rancher participation in the Society. He was instrumental in the development of the western (US) snow survey system. Mr. Renner was the second President of the Society and its first life member.*

*Mr. Renner, who knew artist Charles M. Russell, provided Russell's **Trail Boss** drawing for the 1950 annual meeting, which soon thereafter became the Society's official logo. Mr. Renner had an abiding love for the land of the western United States and a deep feeling that the land should not be desecrated by over-population, over grazing or attempted farming on land that had no tolerance for the plow. Using scientific methods, his professional career was devoted to introducing ideas and procedures that would allow the land to recover from devastating grazing and farming practices.*

Selection Criteria

1. The primary criterion for selection of a recipient for this award is **sustained outstanding accomplishment(s) in, or continuing contribution(s) to, any aspect of range science and range management by an active member of the Society for Range Management based upon an evaluation of their lifetime's work and their contributions to the Society.** Accomplishments or contributions may be in, but not necessarily limited to, such areas as range management practice, research, administration, teaching, writing, legislation, foreign affairs, business activities or public relations. **NOTE: Active and contributing contribution is defined as activity, involvement and/or contributions beyond SRM membership. SRM membership is required.**
2. Any individual, or group of individuals working as a close team (e.g. research team or ranch owner and foreman), is eligible for nomination for this award. If a group is nominated at least one person should have active membership and demonstrable continuous contribution to SRM. Institutions, agencies or other formally organized groups are not eligible for this award.
3. This award may be conferred posthumously.
4. A recipient of the Renner Award shall not be eligible for any other Society award at a later date. The Renner Award generally signifies the apex of the recipient's career, and prior accomplishments will have been recognized by other SRM awards.

Award Presentation

1. The Renner Award shall be limited to [one award per year](#).
2. The Renner Award consists of an embossed certificate, an attractive plaque, and an honorarium from the Renner fund.

Award winner will be announced in December by the Society. A formal news release will be published after annual meeting.

W. R. Chapline Awards

The Chapline Awards are considered co-equal and rank immediately below the Renner Award. There are two in number: the **Chapline Land Stewardship Award** and the **Chapline Research Award**.

Because a great deal of overlap exists between selection criteria for the Chapline Awards and the Sustained Lifetime Achievement and/or Outstanding Achievement Award, nominators may request that their nominees be simultaneously considered for both awards, providing they are eligible for both. Such nominees will first be considered for the appropriate Chapline Award; unsuccessful nominees will then be considered for the other award categories.

WILLIAM RIDGELY CHAPLINE had the longest professional career of the early rangeland scientists after graduating from the University of Nebraska. He progressed from a grazing assistant to a range examiner to the second Chief of the Range Research Division (Office of Grazing Studies) of the USDA Forest Service. He was a pioneer in the development of management systems of animals herded on rangelands; he worked on animal breeding and nutritional research; and he was among the first researchers to identify the impact of salt use/placement on the improvement of grazing distribution.

*WR Chapline later served as the Chief of the Forest Conservation Section, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and then a Range Consultant. *Aquilegia chrysantha v. chaplinei* (Chaplin's golden columbine), found in Texas and New Mexico, is named in his honor after he first collected it at Sitting Bull Falls in southern New Mexico in 1916. In 1928, Mr. Chapline co-authored the USDA publication "Soil Erosion A National Menace" with Hugh Hammond Bennett. This publication was a leading force in the creation of the Soil Conservation Service (now Natural Resources Conservation Service).*

W. R. Chapline Land Stewardship Award

The W.R. Chapline Land Stewardship Award gives special recognition to members of the Society *for exceptional accomplishments and contributions in the application of the art and science of range management to specific to rangeland entities and to wildlife and domestic livestock on such lands.*

Selection Criteria

1. This award has as primary criterion the recognition of exceptional landowners, land managers, administrators and counselors in the field of range management and supporting disciplines. People in private and public occupations, at local, state and federal levels, are eligible for this award.
2. A nominee's achievements should be timely and commensurate with advances in range management during the ten (10) years prior to nomination.
3. Typically, the award is given to one individual, although it may be given to a group which has worked so closely that no single member can be recognized above the rest. **SRM Membership is required.** If a group is nominated, at least one person should have active membership and demonstrable continuous contribution to SRM.

Award Presentation

1. The W.R. Chapline Land Stewardship Award shall be limited to **one award per year**.
2. A recipient of this award shall not be eligible for the Outstanding Achievement Award at a later date.

3. This award consists of an embossed certificate, plaque, and honorarium from the fund established by W.R. Chapline in 1986.

W. R. Chapline Research Award

The W.R. Chapline Research Award gives special recognition to members of the Society *for exceptional and sustained research accomplishments in range science and associated disciplines, including biology, morphology, physiology, and the ecology of specific range species, ecosystems, relating plant environments, wildlife and domestic livestock on such lands.*

Selection Criteria

1. The Chapline Research Award has as its primary criterion the acknowledgment of exceptional research in the fields of diverse scientific disciplines related to range management. The emphasis is on research and investigation.
2. Scientific contributions must be documented by citing the most significant publications authored or co-authored in peer-reviewed journals in the 10 years prior to nomination. Other publications may be used to supplement this research record.
3. This award may be given to an individual or a closely-knit group whose achievements form a single advance in human knowledge. **SRM Membership is required.** If a group is nominated, at least one person should have active membership and demonstrable continuous contribution to SRM.
4. While there may be exceptions, the purpose of this award is to recognize the outstanding research professional for excellence in achievements.

Award Presentation

1. The W.R. Chapline Research Award shall be limited to [one award per year](#).
2. A recipient of this award shall not be eligible for the Outstanding Achievement Award at a later date.
3. This award consists of an embossed certificate, plaque, and honorarium from the fund established by W.R. Chapline in 1986.

Award winners for both Chapline Awards will be announced in December by the Society. A formal news release will come out after annual meeting on each award.

Sustained Lifetime Achievement Award

The Sustained Lifetime Achievement Award is presented by the Society for Range Management to members for *long-term contributions to the art and science of range management and to the Society for Range Management.*

Selection Criteria

1. Tangible evidence of sustained, outstanding *long-term* contributions to the art and science of rangeland management. **SRM membership is required.**
2. Significant evidence of continued SRM involvement and contributions at both the Section and Society levels. Evidence may include, but is not limited to, SRM committee work, fund raising, continued professional involvement through research, publications, workshops and resource improvement. Note that evidence does not include attendance at Section and Society meetings, tours, and other activities.
 - i. Nominations may be made for members mid to late into their careers or emeritus members after they retire. However, this award is not limited to emeritus members.
3. Noteworthy accomplishments related to the profession or knowledge base, which may have taken place prior to the most recent ten-year period.
4. Noteworthy accomplishments which have not previously been recognized through other SRM awards.
5. Nominations should be submitted through the Awards Committee.

Award Presentation

1. **Normally one, but not more than three awards per year,** may be presented at the SRM annual meeting. The award does not have to be presented each year.
2. Each recipient will receive an embossed certificate and a citation.

NOTE: Due to the close nature of the eligibility criteria for the Sustained Lifetime Achievement Award and the Frederic G. Renner and W. R. Chapline Awards, a nominee for any of the Renner or Chapline Awards may also be considered by the awards committee for a Sustained Lifetime Achievement Award – no new application packet is required.

If the Awards Committee considers the switch to be acceptable, the committee chair shall contact the lead nominator listed on the nomination packet for concurrence in the change. If also acceptable to the nominator, a Sustained Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to the nominee. It is a discretionary call of the committee and the nominator.

Fellow of the Society for Range Management

The title of **Fellow** is conferred upon members of the Society for Range Management *in recognition of exceptional service to the Society and its programs in advancing the science and art of range-related resource management*. This high honor is granted in the belief that special recognition should be given for exceptional and dedicated service to the Society.

Selection Criteria

1. The primary criterion for selection of a recipient for this award is tangible evidence that the exceptional service performed by the nominee is widely effective and generally recognized throughout the Society. **SRM membership is required.**
2. Sufficient evidence must support the nomination to present a strong case history of continuous contributions and service.
3. Membership in the Society for at least ten (10) consecutive years and evidence of significant participation in, and contribution to, progress of the Society sometime during this period is required.

Award Presentation

1. **No more than 0.1% of the Society's membership** will receive the Fellow Award in any one year. (The SRM Office will notify the committee of the current membership number/maximum number of awards that can be given.)
2. Each recipient of the Fellow Award will receive an embossed, suitably worded certificate and a citation (within the Awards Booklet).

Outstanding Achievement Award

The **Outstanding Achievement Award** is presented by the Society for Range Management for *outstanding achievement for eminently note-worthy contributions to the range profession to members and other qualified individuals and groups working with rangelands.*

This award is subdivided into two categories: *Land Stewardship* and *Research/Academia*. Normally, ½ of the annual award recipients should be from each category.

Selection Criteria

1. The primary requisite for this award is tangible evidence that the professional contribution of the nominee is eminently note-worthy. Emphasis should be given to acknowledge currently recognized eminence.
2. The qualifying reputation of the recipient must be at least regional in scope. National or international recognition is a more acceptable norm.
3. Both individuals and groups working as a team are eligible for the Outstanding Achievement Award. Society membership is not required.
4. Qualifying contributions may be, but are not necessarily limited to: management practices, research, administration, teaching, writing, legislation, foreign affairs, business activities, or public relations. Among those to be considered are ranchers and administrators in land managing agencies who have conducted superior rangeland management practices; scientists who have developed and conducted research leading to the solution of major problems in range and related resource management; university professors who have been especially effective in training range management students; specialists who have motivated ranchers and others on a wide scale to adapt superior resource management practices; and persons who have shown outstanding perception and legislative ability in contributing significantly to resource management at a state, national, or international level.

Award Presentation

1. The number of awards that they can be presented annually is **limited to 0.3% of the Society's membership**. (The SRM Office will notify the committee of the current membership number/maximum number of awards that can be given.)
 - a. Additionally, the awards will be presented as follows: one-half of the awards to land stewardship (e.g. ranching, agency professionals) and one-half to academia/research. In the event that not enough eligible nominees are submitted in either stewardship or academia/research, then the remaining slots will be made available to the other category.
2. Each recipient of the Outstanding Achievement Award will receive an embossed, suitably worded certificate and a citation (within the Awards Booklet).

Outstanding Young Range Professional Award

The Outstanding Young Range Professional Award is presented by the Society to an individual member who has *demonstrated extraordinary potential and promise as a range management professional*. This award is presented as an encouragement for outstanding performance by young men and women entering the profession of range management.

Selection Criteria

1. The primary criterion for this award is tangible evidence that the nominee's accomplishments demonstrate extraordinary potential and promise as a future leader in the range profession. **SRM membership is required.**
2. Demonstration of leadership and professional potential may be in all facets of range management, including ranch management, agency employment, research, and education. Generally, demonstrated potential across a broad perspective is better than specialized attainments in a single area.
3. A nominee's participation in the Society activities, particularly at the Chapter and Section levels, is desirable. Membership in the Society is required.
4. The nominee shall have not reached his or her 40th birthday by January 1st of the year the award is to be conferred.
5. A recipient of this award shall not be eligible to receive this award again.

Award Presentation

6. **Not more than three (3)** Outstanding Young Professional Awards shall be presented in any given year.
7. Each recipient of this award shall receive an embossed, suitably worded certificate and a citation (within the Awards Booklet).

YPC Outstanding Early Career Award

The **Young Professionals Conclave (YPC) Outstanding Early Career Award** is presented by the Society for Range Management to an individual member who has shown *outstanding dedication to the SRM within the first five (5) years of their career*. This award is meant as an encouragement for young professionals that make the difficult transition from student SRM member, to fully-engaged professional members of the society.

Selection Criteria

1. The primary criterion for this award is meaningful contributions of time and effort to advance the mission of SRM at the national level. Section level involvement may be considered in addition to, but not at the exclusion of, national level involvement. This may include, but is not limited to, committee involvement, special contributions of time and effort to the national SRM meeting, and demonstrated professionalism and potential for long-term leadership in the Society. **SRM membership is required.**
2. Award recipients must demonstrate a leadership role in successful range management projects. Though early in their careers, award recipients must show demonstrable promise as range management professionals through particular projects or activities with which they have been involved.
3. No more than five years will have passed since the termination of the recipient's educational enrollment. Special circumstances may be considered.
4. The recipient must be a Young Professional or a regular member of SRM. Student members are not eligible to receive this award.
5. A recipient of this award will not be eligible to receive this award again.

Award Presentation

1. **Not more than one (1)** YPC Outstanding Early Career Award shall be presented in any given year.
2. Each recipient of this award shall receive an embossed, suitably worded certificate or plaque and a citation (within the Awards Booklet).

Excellence in Rangeland Management (ERM) Award

This is a *poster competition* for Sections.

The objective of the Excellence in Rangeland Management Award is to demonstrate to the public and other rangeland managers, outstanding examples of rangeland management which result in long-term health and sustainability of the range resource while providing efficient production of livestock, wood products, water, wildlife, esthetic values, recreation, and other non-commodity values.

This award honors exemplary rangeland management and recognizes the "best of the best" from among Section Excellence in Range Management Award winners. The awards will be presented at the annual SRM awards ceremony.

Contact your Section awards representative or the Chair of the Society awards committee if your section will be presenting a poster at the upcoming annual meeting. Sections must indicate their intent to bring forth an ERM poster(s) no later than December 15th by submitting the following information to the SRM Awards Committee Chair via email: **Section affiliation; Title of Poster; Abstract (max 100 words).**

Existing procedures and poster criteria for the respective annual meeting will govern the poster presentations. The posters presented will be judged on which poster best conveys Excellence in Rangeland Management. They will be judged by the Awards Committee.

Posters shall be submitted as indicated on the SRM website for abstracts.

Qualifications of ERM Nominee:

Nominations shall be made by sections (no more than 2 nominations per section). Sections will be encouraged to nominate recent winners of their Excellence in Rangeland Management or similar award for top rangeland manager from their respective section in a poster presentation.

This poster should represent the winners' operation with following criteria included. Poster presentations must follow existing procedures for annual meetings (i.e., size and type). Posters will be judged by the SRM Awards committee at the annual meeting.

This award is linked to the ranch. Previous winners are not eligible to be nominated again. If more than one ranch is owned and/or operated by the same person, each ranch is eligible.

The Awards Committee shall appraise the nominations and select those that meet the standards for excellence in rangeland management.

Sections shall submit an article to the hometown newspaper(s) to recognize winners locally. A photo of the winners will be sent to the nominee to go with the article. The photo used in the section news release shall be provided to the SRM Awards Committee for use in any news releases following the annual meeting.

Nominees need not be members of SRM, but they must support the SRM Mission: **Providing leadership for the Stewardship of Rangelands based on sound ecological principles.** SRM is dedicated to the conservation and sustainable management of rangelands for the benefit of current societies and for future generations.

Nominee must have owned or operated the ranch for more than one year and has been responsible for making rangeland management decisions.

Excellence in Rangeland Management Posters Judging Criteria

Posters submitted to the Excellence in Rangeland Management Award contest shall be judged on the following criteria:

- Environmental Stewardship - *This is the art and science of rangeland management.*
 - ✓ Documentation of improvements due to management.
 - ✓ *This may include proper grazing use, vegetation management (fire, chemical, mechanical), wildlife habitat management, water quality, riparian management, improved production and/or efficiency.*
- Composition of the Ranch.
 - ✓ Acres of Rangeland, Grazable Woodland, Tame Pastureland, Acres Hayland, Cropland, Other (specify)
 - ✓ Goals and Objectives of the Ranch
- Grazing Animal Management:
 - ✓ Kind and number of grazing animals: Beef Cattle, Dairy Cattle, Goats, Sheep, Horses, Native Wildlife, Exotic Wildlife, etc.
 - ✓ Management Activities Associated with Each: Include information on drought management plan and/or excess forage production management plan.
- Outstanding Rangeland Improvement or Management Accomplishments for at least the past year but more is preferred.
- Documentation of Special/Innovative Practices and/or Management Practices that Improve Conservation Perception.
- Documentation of Community/Professional/Commodity Group Association Activities, Cooperation with state and federal agencies, etc.

Evaluation Criteria:

1. **40 pts.** Environmental Stewardship Practices, Accomplishments and Goals
2. **20 pts.** Special/Innovative Practices and/or Management that Improve Conservation Perception
3. **20 pts.** Community/Professional/Commodity Group Activities, Cooperation with Agencies, etc.
4. **20 pts.** Poster's ability to communicate management success.
 - a. Written so reader can discern challenges/problems and implementations of management for successful improvements to rangeland health and sustainability.
 - b. Visually portrays successful management.

Key to a Successful application: *Provide specific examples and results of stewardship practices.* Stewardship is environmentally beneficial management of rangeland resources.

Award Presentation:

1. The Excellence in Rangeland Management Award shall be limited to one award per year.
2. The award consists of a gate sign, one-year complimentary SRM membership for one person, and a complimentary one-year, hard copy, subscription to *Rangelands*.

AWARDS PRESENTED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE SRM Officers and Board of Directors

****DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD***

The **Distinguished Service Award** (formerly called Special and Distinguished Service Awards) is presented by the Society for Range Management to an individual for his/her important contributions to the profession of range management including long and dedicated service.

Truly exemplary service to the profession of range management shall be recognized.

Selection Criteria

1. The primary criterion for selection of a recipient or recipients for this award is significant contribution to the profession of range management as demonstrated through truly exemplary service. Contributions to the Society may be in, but not necessarily limited to, such areas as range management practice, education, administration, research, agribusiness, international affairs, legislation or public relations.
2. Any individual or group of individuals working as a close team is eligible for nominations. Society membership is not required.
3. The Distinguished Service Award may be granted to recognize long and faithful service, but should include a significant contribution to range management.
4. The Board of Directors retains discretion to use this award for purposes it deems appropriate. Recipients of this award are not eligible to receive it again.

Award Presentation

1. The Distinguished Service Award will be presented at the discretion of the Board of Directors, and there will be no limit on the number of awards that can be presented annually, nor does the award have to be presented annually.
2. Each recipient of a Distinguished Service Award will receive an embossed certificate. Other articles of recognition may also be presented at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

****TRAIL BOSS CLUB AWARD***

The President and the Board of Directors of SRM have reserved to themselves the discretion of recognizing with the Trail Boss Club Award individuals, firms, or organizations contributing \$10,000.00 or more to the Society for Range Management.

Each recipient will receive an embossed, suitably worded certificate. Other articles of recognition may be presented at the discretion of the President and the Board of Directors.

Recipients of the Trail Boss Club Award are considered welcome guests, without additional invitation, to any function or open house hosted by the President of the Society for Range Management as part of his official duties.

****PRESIDENT'S CLUB AWARDS***

The President and the Board of Directors of SRM have reserved to themselves the discretion of recognizing with the President's Club Award two categories of contributions to the Society:

1. Financial Contributions to the Society
 - a) Those individuals, firms, or organizations contributing \$1,000.00 or more to the Society for Range Management may be recognized by the President and the Board of Directors.
 - b) Each recipient will receive an embossed, suitably worded certificate. Other articles of recognition may be presented at the discretion of the President and the Board of Directors.
2. Outstanding Membership Recruitment
 - a) Those individuals who have solicited twelve (12) or more memberships in the Society for Range Management in a given year may be recognized by the President and the Board of Directors.
 - b) Each recipient will receive an embossed certificate.

Recipients of a President's Club Award are considered welcome guests, without additional invitation, to any function or open house hosted by the President of the Society for Range Management as part of his official duties.

Procedure for Consideration/Creation of NEW SRM Honor Award

1. Proposals for a new SRM Honor Award, with background, justification, and information on any support will be sent to the Chair of the Awards Committee by **November 1**.
 - a. New Awards shall not have the “name” of a person/company linked to the award. The Renner and Chapline awards are special, unique, and prestigious. To preserve this, the Committee will not consider any new award proposal which includes being named after a person/company.
 - b. Background and justification will provide, in detail, how the proposed new award is different from any current honor award(s), and
 - c. Document what support (monetary award or plaque, etc.) is desired for the proposed award. If monetary, proposal will indicate who/whom is providing the financial commitment.
2. This timeframe will allow the Chairman ample time to forward information to the Committee and include this item on the Committee Agenda to consider when they meet at the annual meeting.
3. The Awards Committee forwards their opinion and recommendation to the Board of Directors (BoD) via their committee report.
4. The BoD acts on the recommendation during the final session at the annual meeting.
5. Notification is given to the Awards Committee and the solicitor via the BoD representative immediately following the Annual Meeting.
6. If the award was approved by the BoD, that award is publicized immediately and the first nominations are received in April with all other award nominees.

APPENDIX A

INSTRUCTIONS FOR NOMINATORS

1. Nominations for Society for Range Management awards will be accepted throughout the year. Nominations received after June 1 will not be considered for awards to be conferred at the annual meeting the following year, but will be retained for consideration the next year.
2. Nominations are to be completed in the specified format, maximum of five (5) pages of the nomination, emphasizing major accomplishments, and a maximum of five (5) pages of supporting documents (letters of support, digital photos, etc.). **Please note that cover letters are not to be, or will not be, considered as part of the nomination packet if they make the packet go over the allowed limit for supporting documents.**
3. Each Section President and/or Awards Committee Chairperson has a copy of the current Awards Committee Handbook available for use by nominators.
4. Award nominations are the responsibility of the nominator. Normally, it is preferable for nominators to work with their Section Awards Committee Chair to assure that their nomination is well-written and submitted in the appropriate award category.
5. Nominations will be evaluated by the Awards Committee only if nomination materials meet requirements set forth in this handbook.
6. Nomination materials, especially nomination form item #8 “Justification Statement”, must be consistent with the requirements of the specific award. Specific accomplishments of the nominee must be listed in detail. **PREVIOUS CHAPTER/SECTION AWARDS ARE CONSIDERED IN THE EVALUATION.**
7. Nominators are encouraged to contact Awards Committee for information and preparation assistance.

*****Please make sure you are submitting for the appropriate category.*****

Please make sure you are submitting for the appropriate category.

FORMAT FOR AWARDS NOMINATION

Date _____

Nominee being submitted for (listed in rank order, *double click to select*):

- Frederic G Renner, W R Chapline Land Stewardship, W R Chapline Research,
- Sustained Lifetime Achievement, Fellow, Outstanding Achievement – Land Stewardship,
- Outstanding Achievement – Research/Academia, Outstanding Young Range Professional, and/or YPC Outstanding Early Career Award.

- **If submitting for more than one award category, please include a cover letter (additional one page) outlining why you feel it is important for the committee to consider the nomination for more than one award.**
- **If you submit a nomination for the Renner or a Chapline award, and the committee does not select your candidate for the award, the nomination may also be considered by the Committee for the Sustained Lifetime Achievement Award (without redoing the nomination). Moving the nomination from a Renner/Chapline to Sustained requires the nominator’s agreement with the committee’s recommendation.**

Complete Name of Nominee: _____

a. Date and place of birth (optional) _____

b. Address with zip code _____

c. Occupation, Profession, Employer _____

d. Telephone number (s) _____

e. Member of SRM? _____ NO _____ YES; If yes, for _____ years.

2. NOMINATOR(S) – name/address/telephone/email: *(can do this section in more than one column)*

3. NOMINEE’S EDUCATION, TRAINING, AWARDS

APPENDIX B continued

*****Please make sure you are submitting for the appropriate category.*****

4. NOMINEE'S ACTIVITIES IN SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT

5. NOMINEE'S PROFESSIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO RANGE MANAGEMENT

APPENDIX B continued

*****Please make sure you are submitting for the appropriate category.*****

6. NOMINEE'S ACTIVITIES/MEMBERSHIP IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

7. OTHER NOMINEE BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

APPENDIX B continued

*****Please make sure you are submitting for the appropriate category.*****

8. AWARD JUSTIFICATION STATEMENT(S) FROM NOMINATOR(S)

APPENDIX B continued

*****Please make sure you are submitting for the appropriate category.*****

9. **OPTIONAL SUPPORTING DOCUMENT(S)** - Letters of support, digital photos, etc. are **LIMITED to a maximum of five (5) pages**. All letters of support should come from someone other than the nominator(s). If a nomination is received which is **longer than a total of ten (10) pages**, it will be returned - *unevaluated* - for revision and resubmission the next year.

****A reminder that cover letters are not to be, or will not be, considered as part of the submission packet if they make it go over the allowed limit for supporting documents.****

NOTE: The supporting documents are *optional*, but often *helpful* to the Awards Committee during the review/selection of award recipients.

Please send your nomination via email to SRM Headquarters (info@rangelands.org) **by June 1st** each year.

If you are not able to send an electronic nomination, please send a hard copy to:

**Awards Nominations
Society for Range Management
6901 S Pierce St STE 230
Littleton, CO 80128**

I Have:

Completed the above nomination within the five pages provided.
Attached a one page cover letter** and up to five pages of supporting documents.
Understand if the packet is incomplete that my application will not be considered.
Understand that the application deadline is June 1st of each year.
Feel this nomination for an SRM Honor Award is complete, true, and correct.

Signature of Nominator

Date

Historical Appendix of Awards Changes

Year 1998 (Don Kirby, Chair)

The Awards Committee recommended changes to the Outstanding Young Range Professional Award:

From: No more than one (1) Outstanding Young Professional Award shall be presented in any given year.

To: Not more than three (3) Outstanding Young Professional Awards shall be presented in any given year.

Rationale: SRM members raised the issue that one award was very restrictive, considering the size of membership in the SRM. The committee felt that by raising the number to not more than three, brought the award in balance with Sustained Lifetime Achievement Award. This provides more opportunity for young professionals to be recognized early in their careers for extra efforts in promoting the science and art of range management.

The Board of Directors approved the change.

Year 1999 (Joe Wagner, Chair)

The Awards Committee recommended the following changes for consideration by the Board of Directors and these changes were approved.

Frederick G. Renner Award:

From: A recipient of the Renner Award shall not be eligible for any other Society awards at a later date on the basis of essentially the same qualifications and vice versa. The Renner Award generally signifies the apex of the recipient's career and prior accomplishments will have been recognized by other SRM awards.

To: A recipient of the Renner Award shall not be eligible for any other Society awards at a later date. The Renner Award generally signifies the apex of the recipient's career and prior accomplishments will have been recognized by other SRM awards.

Rationale: Once a person receives the highest level Renner Award, they cannot later receive other awards controlled by the Awards Committee (i.e., you can progress up, but not down).

The Board of Directors can bestow additional awards at their discretion.

Chapline Research and Stewardship Awards

From: A recipient of this award(s) shall not be eligible for the Outstanding Achievement Award at a later date on the basis of essentially the same qualifications and vice versa.

To: A recipient of this award shall not be eligible for the Outstanding Achievement Award at a later date.

Rationale: Once a person receives one of the higher Chapline Awards, they cannot later receive an Outstanding Achievement Award. Conversely, a person can receive the Outstanding Achievement Award and can then later receive a Chapline Award based upon additional qualifications; "i.e. you can progress up, but not down."

Evaluation Procedures for SRM Awards

Addition: Members of the Awards Committee shall not nominate persons/groups for SRM Awards, while holding office.

APPENDIX C - continued

Rationale: The Awards Handbook is clear that a member of the Awards Committee is not eligible for an award, while holding office. A member of the Awards Committee was nominated for an award this year as well as a member of the Awards Committee being a nominator for an award. Discussion revolved around the issue of possible appearance of impropriety of also being a nominator for an award (e.g.; a member may provide background information, but should not assist in writing a nomination). Committee membership felt this clarification should be included in the Awards Handbook.

Year 2000 (Don Kress, Chair)

The call for nominations for awards was translated into Spanish and published in the *Trail Boss News* for the first time. The intent was to make it easier to obtain nominations from Mexico, Central America and South America members of SRM.

Year 2003 (Duane McCartney, Chair)

The Outstanding Young Range Professional maximum age changed from 35 to 40 (as of January 1st of year presented). As many young professionals are starting careers at a later age, the intent was to make it easier to recognize outstanding young professionals.

Year 2004 (Duane McCartney, Chair)

The Outstanding Achievement Award was increased from 0.2% to 0.3% and divided into two divisions: Academia/Research and Land Stewardship (includes ranching and agency professionals).

The intent was twofold:

- a. To recognize more SRM members overall, and
- b. To eliminate the perceived advantage of academia/research nominations to those of land stewardship and have each category only compete within themselves.

Year 2006 (Bruce Healy, Chair)

Nominations format was changed to a maximum of five pages for the nomination and a maximum of five pages for supporting documents (added as a new category as nominators are providing this anyway).

From: Please limit nominations following the above format to a maximum of five (5) pages for the nomination.

To: Please limit nominations following the above format to a maximum of five (5) pages for the nomination, and a maximum of five (5) pages for any supporting documentation. If a nomination is received which is longer than a combined total of 10 pages, it will be returned – unevaluated – to the nominator for revision.

Rationale: For several years now, a number of the awards nominators have been submitting supporting documentation – 20 pages or more in some instances. To eliminate any perceived competitive advantage of this additional supporting documentation, a maximum was placed on this also. Also new, anything longer than the combined 10 pages, it will be returned to the nominator unevaluated for revision.

Frederick G. Renner Award

Nomination format changed on Criterion 1. Also added a short biography of Mr. Renner.

From: "sustained outstanding accomplishment(s) in, or contribution(s) to, any aspect of range science and range management by a member of the Society for Range Management

APPENDIX C - continued

during the past ten (10) years. A nominee must be currently active in that area which constitutes the major justification for this award."

To: "aspect of range science and range management by an active and contributing member of the Society for Range Management based upon an evaluation of their lifetime's work and their contributions to the Society.

Also indicated that one could submit for both the Renner and the Sustained Lifetime Achievement Award due to their similarity

W. R. Chapline Award

Added a short biography of Mr. Chapline.

Sustained Lifetime Achievement Award

Added note that nominees for the Renner and Chapline awards may also be considered for a Sustained Award, if the committee considers it suitable – and the lead nominator concurs. (No new application packet is required.)

Also, changed rank order - the Sustained Award is now after Chaplines & before Fellow.

Year 2014 (Bruce Healy, Chair)

New YPC Outstanding Apprentice Award - to recognize those young SRM members making the transition from student member to fully recognized professional (within the first 5 years after completion of their schooling) - approved by the Awards Committee and SRM Board of Directors. This new award will rank below the Outstanding Young Range Professional (if an applicant is nominated for both, the OYRP nomination will be considered first and then the YPC Outstanding Apprentice Award.

Clarified on the nomination packet that the supporting documents are optional, however, they are suggested as they do help the committee's review/selection process.

Committee recommended the development of a standardized application – a new word file application was developed, approved, and posted on the website.

Year 2017 (Miranda Meehan), Chair

The awards calendar was updated by the committee.

The goal of these updates is to provide a clear timeline for members that follows the committee calendar year instead of the standard calendar year.

In addition, the revised timeline changed the submission date for nominations from April 30 to July 1 **in hopes of** increasing the number of nominations submitted annually.

Year 2018 (John Buckhouse, Chair – Recommended by 2017 Chair Miranda Meehan)

The awards calendar was updated by the committee to June 1 as well as a handful of minor formatting, punctuation and grammatical corrections; none affecting the awards process.

The goal of these updates is to provide a clear timeline for members that follows the committee calendar year instead of the standard calendar year.

In addition, the revised timeline changed the submission date for nominations from July 1 to June 1 **in hopes of** increasing the number of nominations submitted annually.

Also updated the outdated version of the Nominations form within the handbook **to be consistent** with that currently being used for nomination submission.

Year 2019 (Pete Deal, Chair)

The Awards Handbook was updated to change name of the YPC Outstanding Apprentice Award to the *YPC Outstanding Early Career Award. The change is needed because the SRM BoD eliminated the “Apprentice” membership category. Individuals who were considered “Apprentice” are now considered “Young Professionals”.

Several minor edits were made to clarify and improve readability of the document.

Clarification was made to Appendix A regarding the use of cover letters.

Year 2020 (Pete Deal, 2019 Chair)

Amended preface to state for clarity that: “All changes to the handbook are proposed by the Awards Committee, and require approval by the Board of Directors or the BoD Liaison to the Awards Committee. Small changes can be approved directly by the BOD Liaison. Larger changes require approval by the BoD. The BoD Liaison has the discretion to determine whether changes are large or small.

Year 2020 (Kirk Davies, 2020 Chair)

Added/updated details for Excellence in Range Management (ERM) Award, including number of awards made per year and what recipient receives.

Clarified membership requirement for all SRM Honor awards.

Clarified verbiage for Renner and Chaplins awards regarding nomination of a group stating that at least one group member must have active membership and demonstrable continuous contribution to SRM.

Clarified further regarding use of cover letters.