

PRESS RELEASE

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IRVING RECEIVES W. R. CHAPLINE LAND STEWARDSHIP AWARD from the Society for Range Management (SRM)

Dr. Barry D. Irving of Edmonton, Alberta, received the W.R. Chapline Stewardship Award at the Society for Range Management's (SRM) 70th Annual Meeting held in St. George, Utah, January 29-February 2, 2017. This 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.

Teacher, coach, mentor and quiet leader are some of the words that come to mind when thinking about this year's W.R. Chapline Land Stewardship Recipient. Rangelands and the Society for Range Management are lifelong passions of Dr. Barry Irving. He has been a quiet but dominant force in shaping rangeland management, in large part through his pivotal role as a teacher and coach at the University of Alberta. If rangeland professionals working in western Canada were polled, many would cite Dr. Barry Irving as one of the most important influences in their professional development.

Dr. Irving is one of the most accomplished undergraduate range team coaches within the SRM. His strong record of success has been achieved through a relatively small program and a balanced approach that encourages students to compete in both the Undergraduate Rangeland Management Exam (URME) and the Undergraduate Plant Identification Contest. Barry's students have excelled at both exams year after year, rising to top marks in the contests despite stiff competition. In addition to guiding students to master plant taxonomy and develop a strong foundation in core range management, he instills them with a deep respect for rangeland ecosystems and their critical value in our modern world. He has passed along this passion to many students who have become long-term members of the Society, and active members of the rangeland community.



L to R: SRM President (2016) Dr. Val Jo Anderson with SRM's 2017 W.R. Chapline Land Stewardship award recipient Dr. Barry Irving, wife Judy, and nominator Mike Alexander.

As the coordinator of off-campus operations of the University of Alberta, Dr. Irving, has been extremely successful in securing, maintaining and enhancing the research facilities available to scientists from the University and other research institutions. He has successfully managed the 12,000 acre Roy Berg Kinsella Ranch, a University of Alberta owned research facility located east of Edmonton embedded in Alberta's Parkland. The Kinsella Ranch is a great "living laboratory" and a working cattle operation. Barry has also played a pivotal role in securing and providing facility enhancements to the 12,000 acre Mattheis ranch, a cattle ranch in the Mixed-grass Prairie near Brooks Alberta which, due to Barry's tireless efforts, was established as a research ranch that has dramatically enhanced the reach and the capacity of the rangeland research community.

The Society for Range Management, has been a passion of Barry's; his motto is "the Society is what we make it". His personal contributions to the SRM over the past 30 years both at the Section and Parent Society levels clearly display his commitment. Barry is currently the 2016 2nd Vice President of this great organization. His passion is contagious and he has been responsible for bringing significant numbers of graduate and undergraduate students into careers of range management and lasting memberships in the society. In short, Barry Irving has and continues to put rangeland management and Alberta on the international radar, and has accomplished this through his own quiet style for over 30 years. For these reasons, the Society for Range Management is proud to recognize Dr. Barry Irving as the 2017 W.R. Chapline Land Stewardship Award recipient.



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.