

Native American Rangeland Advisory Committee Handbook

1st Edition

June, 2020

I. **History**

The United States Government holds 55.7 million acres of land in trust for Native Americans, of which much is considered to be rangeland. Native vegetation on these rangelands provide habitat for native wildlife and livestock, and provide other resources needed for a high quality of life for tribal communities. The Native American Rangeland Advisory Committee (NARAC) is a self-formed committee of tribal members, trust land managers, and research and extension personnel. The committee was formed in response to a brainstorming session that took place at the 2010 SRM meeting in Denver, CO.

The formation of NARAC was inspired by the recognized need for successful management of tribal rangelands and the impact this has on Native communities. Successful management of these rangelands, which include a wide variety of resources, should not be focused on a single objective but rather on achieving a wide variety of ecological and environmental outcomes that best meet the social, cultural, economic, and physical needs of the tribes. Dynamic and effective management of rangelands is essential for the well-being and preservation of Native American communities.

II. **Mission Statement**

The Society for Range Management's (SRM) mission is to promote the professional development and continuing education of members and the public and the stewardship of rangeland resources. The Native American Rangeland Advisory Committee's (NARAC) mission is to serve as a facilitator to provide stakeholders with a healthy environment to develop new approaches that are appropriate for Native American culture, social issues, traditional uses of plants and wildlife, and land tenure patterns, while meeting regulatory (tribal and federal) standards. The expertise provided by SRM members can support tribal initiatives with important scientific methods and training in range management. SRM will also take an active role in partnering with tribes and agencies to train students in range management, while actively respecting indigenous traditional ecological knowledge and cultural values.

III. **Committee Functions**

- Provide a forum to discuss current issues, as well as information and knowledge to develop productive relationships between tribal members, land managers, professionals, and long-time members
- Plan and develop Tribal Range Management Workshops for annual SRM meetings
- Provide recommendations to the Board of Directors concerning SRM policy and position statements
- Coordinate with other SRM committees on issues of mutual concern

IV. Membership and Leadership Structure

- 1. Membership** – NARAC membership is open to all interested parties; there are no term limitations and those in attendance can vote. At times the committee may choose to proactively recruit members depending on need. Members are encouraged to attend the annual meeting and to volunteer for committee activities. Members are asked to help foster interest in the committee and invite others to participate.
- 2. Chair/Co-Chairs** – Leadership is provided by Chair/Co-Chairpersons, both selected by the NARAC membership for a two-year term. These positions are usually filled by individuals volunteering to serve. If no one steps forward, the Chair/Co-Chairpersons may choose to appoint a Chair-Elect one year prior to the beginning of their one year term. The Chair arranges and leads the annual committee meeting. They are responsible for updating and maintaining the membership list and website for communication within the committee and the Board. The Chair also appoints subcommittees and creates the committee plan of work based on membership input. Duties may be delegated.
- 3. Chair-Elect**-- The Chair-Elect serves in a Co-Chair capacity for their one-year term. The Chair-Elect is responsible for the meeting notes and assisting the Chair with any other committee activities. The Chair-Elect shall serve as Chair in the event of the Chair's absence or shall become the Chair if, for any reason, the Chair is unable to serve.
- 4. Sub-committees** – Committee tasks and activities are regularly accomplished by subcommittee due to time constraints and for efficiency. Subcommittee members will be volunteers or Chair appointees, whichever comes first, and one of them will serve as Chair. The subcommittee chair will report to the committee chair who will keep the main committee apprised.

V. Meetings and Communication

The NARAC usually meets for one-half day at the annual meeting. This is generally the only time members of the committee come together for face to face communication and interaction. Throughout the year, most communication takes place via the committee email list or occasionally by phone, fax or hard copy mail.

- 1. Committee Member List** – The committee member list will be updated annually and a copy provided to the Chair/Co-Chair. The official list of NARAC membership will be the sign-in list from the annual meeting, it is the responsibility of those not present at the annual meeting to inform the Chair/Co-Chair of their desire to become or remain active in the Committee. Providing this information is the responsibility of the committee Chair unless otherwise delegated.

2. **Committee Meeting Notes** – Members will receive important NARAC news updates through emails regarding the annual meetings and should include any agreed upon actions, assignments and timelines.
3. **Committee Updates** – At a minimum, quarterly updates should be sent to the entire committee, Board of Representatives and other committee Chairs.
4. **Committee Webpage** – The NARAC supports the creation and maintenance of a committee webpage. This task is handled through a subcommittee with input from the main committee. (Webpage: <https://rangelands.org/committees/native-american-range-advisory-council-narac/>)
5. **Committee Handbook** – This committee handbook is intended to contribute to the effective involvement of each member and provide for continuity of effort within the committee. Each committee member will receive a copy of the handbook either via email or hard copy mail. It is also posted on the committee webpage. The handbook will be periodically reviewed and revised as needed.