SAVE THE DATE!



2018 Society for Range

Management Annual Meeting

Sparks, NV Jan. 28th - Feb. 2nd

About The Meeting

How To Reserve Meeting Rooms

SRM Facebook Page

Symposium, Forum & Workshop Abstracts Due July 14th!

Upcoming Board Calls

The 2017 SRM Board calls are scheduled for the 1st

Monday of each month* at 8:00AM MT.

To join dial in: 866-254-5984 no code needed

http://www.uberconference.com/wssdc

* No Call Scheduled for July

August – No call due to

SRM Summer Board Meeting

August 8-9, 2017 | Minneapolis, MN

- * September 4, 2017
- * October 2, 2017
- * November 6, 2017
- * December 4, 2017

*Note- some of these dates fall on or around holidays so

are subject to change

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Coming Soon: Election of 2018 SRM Officers! CANDIDATES FOR 2ND VICE PRESIDENT



DR. KENNETH O. FULGHAM Arcata, CA



DR. CHARLES R. HART Stephenville, TX

CANDIDATES FOR DIRECTOR



DR. MARÍA E. FERNÁNDEZ-GIMÉNEZ Fort Collins, CO



BLAYR GOURLEY Copan, OK



DR. BARRY L. PERRYMAN Reno, NV



DR. ROBERT
WASHINGTON-ALLEN
Knoxville, TN

IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP CURRENT SO YOU CAN VOTE?

BALLOTS WILL BE SENT ELECTRONICALLY UNLESS YOU SELECT THE PAPER BALLOT OPTION.

YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR BALLOT PREFERENCE IN YOUR MEMBER PROFILE OR BY CALLING/EMAILING

SRM HEADQUARTERS (303-986-3309) OR THE SRM BUSINESS OFFICE @ ALLEN PRESS

(785-865-9456 / 800-627-0326 x456).

News from the North

Barry Irving, SRM Vice President



Well, summer has finally arrived on the northern edge of the Northern Great Plains. Our spring this year was cool and wet, which is a good start for a good season on the rangeland. The challenge in our area this year was just getting around, and all segments of agriculture were under some stress. I don't know of a cattle operation that didn't have some trouble with calving, nor a cropping operation that didn't have a stuck tractor or two. Rangeland, as we all know all too well, is almost defined

by variability. There is tremendous variability regionally, locally, and seasonally. One of my biggest take home advantages I get from being an SRM members is, with a bit of effort, I get to experience some of that variability; and I am fortunate to have a suite of SRM members (just as diverse as the rangeland) to act as my guide at Section and Society meetings. I seldom tire of the stories of challenge and triumph from those that work and live on the land.

Your Board of Directors have been at work on your behalf at the Society level. As we wind up for our Summer Meeting in Minneapolis (August 8 and 9) we have been meeting on a regular basis by conference call and email. The work of the Society is very much an annual cycle of changing emphasis on old and new themes. After a highly successful Annual Meeting in St. George, Utah (thanks to the hard work of the Utah Section) we turn our thoughts to our next meeting in Sparks/Reno, Nevada. It is still a little early for details, but we know the Nevada Section will put on a great meeting and provide us with countless training, learning, networking, and educational opportunities.

I'd like to bend your ear on a few points the Board is pursuing.

- President Larry Howery is engaged in updating the SRM strategic plan, and in incorporating our various committees and taskforces in that effort.
- SRM is continually engaged in advocating for rangelands and rangeland management and as the new U.S. administration gets populated, we have been there to offer science and support for continuing programs and new initiatives.
- The entire Board and staff of SRM contributed and continue to work on a member renewal program. Part of that effort is to move existing members to a single renewal date of January 1, and part is to scour our expired member list to encourage renewals from

folks who have drifted on to other endeavors in their busy lives. Collectively we sent over 1900 personalized emails to expired members, and we are about to tackle and emphasize our more recently expired members.

- Our staff, in both Washington and Denver, continue to work closely with our agency partners to develop training programs for agency staff as well as SRM sponsored field trips to local areas of interest for the general membership and the public at large.
- On a specific level, we have improved the funding model for sending rancher/practitioners
 to our annual meeting via the Redd Fund (thanks to the Redd Foundation for their kind
 support), had staff representation at a wild horse information session (Lia Biondo in
 Maryland), and started a dialogue to increase public and agency awareness of remaining
 tracts of rangeland in the southeastern U.S.

After our Summer Board Meeting a few of us will journey to Washington, D.C. to experience our annual expedition to the capitol. The agenda is still in draft form, but we will continue to engage with the agencies at the national level, promote professional certification as the way to standardize program delivery and management consistency at every stop, advocate for an "International Year of the Rangeland and Pastoralists", and renew our dialogue with our sibling societies (Society of American Foresters, Wildlife Society) on joint activities and initiatives.

If I have piqued your interest in any of these tidbits, your can find more detail in the Board minutes which are posted on the member side of our website. You are also invited to join us at any time on Board calls or any meeting of the Board. All SRM meetings are open meetings, and all SRM business is transparent, with a reasonable time frame for editing of course.

Section summer meetings will be in full swing, they are your window to local information and expertise; and it's never too early to plan for the 2019 SRM Annual Meeting, , January 28 to February 2, 2018 at the Nugget Hotel, Sparks, NV. Personally, we will be driving; it's the best way to see all the rangeland between two points!

The Challenge of Restoring Rangeland Over Declining Aquifers in the West

Jim Dobrowolski, SRM Director



Recently, I came across a case study used by Dr. Mark Brunson at Utah State University to challenge seniors in a capstone course to consider a solution to "Go-Back" Land: Restoring Abandoned Farmland & Sustaining Farm Town

(https://www.sesync.org/sites/default/files/resources/Student%20Handout%20%E2%80%93%20 Go%20Back%20Land.pdf). Reading the case study brought this critical issue into stark relief...and compelled me to challenge rangeland professionals and the Society for Range Management members to consider the following:

Supporting nearly 20% of total U.S. production of wheat, corn, cotton, and cattle produced, the High Plains, watered by the Ogallala Aquifer system, is key to sustaining U.S. food production today and securing food for the 9.5+ billion earthly residents by 2050. Population growth and a changing climate are taxing the future reliability of supplies; the Ogallala is over-appropriated, with agriculture the greatest consumer at 94%, growing urban areas second, expected to increase dramatically by 2025. NASA's GRACE mission (Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment) showed the Ogallala is pumped at 10 times the rate of replenishment. At the same time, the timing of spring snowmelt has shifted to earlier in the year, affecting recharge. If innovative strategies are not forthcoming, groundwater shortages will inevitably result in reduced agriculture to feed future food production and urban water demands. Both the problems and solutions to Ogallala water scarcity lie within agriculture, and because of the complexities involved, an integrated, multi-state, and multi-disciplinary Coordinated Agricultural Project (CAP) funded in 2015 offers hope for groundwater sustainability; though complicated by multiple water governance organizations, changing urban-rural landscapes, and significance of federal land management and reclamation projects (see http://source.colostate.edu/csu-led-team-receives- 10-million-to-study-ogallala-aquifer/). Significant amounts of irrigated cropland in aquifer overdraft areas will revert to dryland in future years (as little as 20

years, http://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2016/08/vanishing-midwest-ogallala-aquifer-drought/).

Because of its large size and severity of overdraft, particularly in the southern portion coupled to recent southwestern US droughts, the Ogallala Aquifer area is the focus of considerable attention and makes sense as a case study. After the Dust Bowl of the "Dirty '30s" and before World War II, land in the High Plains was primarily rangeland used for producing cattle with some dryland crops. Irrigation expanded rapidly after WWII and especially during the drought of 1951–1956. High quality water of "unlimited" supply combined with fertile soil, newly developed crops, and a favorable climate led to agricultural production expansion, accounting for more than 25% of all irrigated land in the United States. In 1976, Congress recognized the Ogallala as a "mined" source of irrigation water with restricted recharge potential and established the six-state High Plains Study to assess the present and future status of the aquifer (https://www.kansascityfed.org/publicat/sympos/1979/S79BANKS-2.pdf). Results of the study projected that Kansas and Texas would show significant declines in irrigated agriculture and simultaneous dryland farming increases. Dryland acreage in Kansas would increase more than irrigated acreage would decrease, indicating that an increase in cropland would come out of existing rangeland with higher erosion potential. This conversion would occur as a result of declining water supply or pumping costs, or a combination of the two. If water availability was the principal constraint, conversion would be gradual, moving from fully-irrigated to limitedirrigated to dryland.

According to Engelbert and Scheuring (1984) (*Engelbert. E. A. and A. F. Scheuring (Editors)*, 1984. Scarcity: Impacts on Western Agriculture, University of California Press, Berkeley, 500 pp.), orderly conversion to dryland presented little environmental hazard. By contrast, of greater concern was sudden abandonment in which energy cost exceeded the value of the crop. Center-pivot irrigation systems on the most environmentally sensitive lands that were taken out of rangeland due to economic incentives will have limited dryland production potential as center-pivots are abandoned. Beginning in 1985, in some parts of the Ogallala, irrigation pumping costs exceeded crop value and farmers began to abandon farmland. Unless technology and an orderly plan is developed to restore these center pivot lands with productive, perennial rangeland plants, severe wind erosion of the predominantly sandy soil could result. According to Steward and Allen (2016, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.agwat.2015.10.003) 97% of predevelopment groundwater storage was untapped in 1960, but by 2010, only 70% remained, with a declining trend modeled to continue through 2110 and beyond. Significant expansion of irrigated acreage occurred on marginal land prone to accelerated wind erosion. Restoration of

these former rangelands will require new technology or resurrecting technology not used since the soil bank, unless it is accomplished before irrigation is curtailed. Research issues related to the Ogallala case study include economic evaluation, particularly cost-benefit analysis, of rangeland restoration after cropland abandonment. The same issues relate to other declining aquifers in the West. Time is not on our side, and the time to act is long before productive land becomes "go back" land. Could this be the subject of our first rangeland open science competition?

What are your thoughts?

Roller Coaster Musings

Curtis Talbot, SRM Director

One of the side benefits of being associated with SRM finances is the interaction with the Society's investment advisors. Our current advisor with Merrill Lynch, C.B. Wagner, recently shared the following slide during meetings with the Board of Directors, Finance Committee and Endowment Fund Development Committee:



Behavioral finance and the cycle of market sentiment



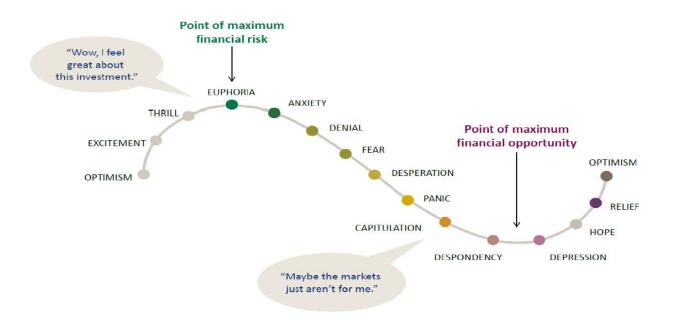


Chart source: Westcore Funds/Denver Investment Advisers LLC 1998.

This invoked childhood memories of roller coasters and watching those with both hands raised in the air while racing along the track, clearly enjoying the carnival-induced adrenaline rush. On the same coaster, would be those with a white-knuckle grip on the handles; faces a weird shade of green, and seemingly praying that the next three minutes wouldn't end in an untimely death. I figured the same emotions are somehow experienced while riding the cycle of the investment markets, as both the risk-embracers and the risk-averse experience the ups and downs of their accounts. In SRM, I have thoroughly enjoyed witnessing how the collective insight of Officers and Directors, plus advice from other committees and individuals, seems to always moderate the investment extremes. Neither the arm-raiser, nor the white-knuckler alone could produce the steady and reliable performance of our investments.

I also drew a mental correlation that this cycle, and our visceral reaction to it, can also be applied to other areas of our lives that are subject to change. I suspect that a large number of SRM members have felt at least a measured amount of uncertainty towards the future of our ability to manage our rangelands. While changes in political administrations, volatile markets, erratic climate change, etc., are expected and cyclical in nature, it does seem that the roller coaster is increasing in intensity. Now, if I were much wiser, perhaps I could distill some sage advice about how best to navigate the course. Answers have I none. Instead, I often find myself sticking my finger into the winds of change, trying to predict from which direction the storm is

coming, and then wondering how conditions can change so quickly.

This is where I truly value my SRM membership. I appreciate my association with those who have been around the track multiple times, placing stock in their experience and wisdom. I also appreciate the association with those embracing the ride for the first time, and the excitement and energy they bring to the picture. Beside the camaraderie and friendships developed over the years, SRM also provides me with a distinct comfort that, collectively, we can weather the storms of uncertainty as we engage in the management of the landscapes and resources that have drawn us together.

I thank all of you for your commitment, passion, and dedication, both for our professional society and for rangelands in general. Bring on the roller coasters!

We've Added A New Page To The SRM Website!

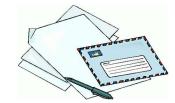
We've added a page to the SRM website for SRM Official Letters and Communication.

Click Here to see the following:

SRM 2017 Priorities Letter to President Trump

SRM Welcome Letter to Secretary Perdue

SRM Welcome Letter to Secretary Zinke



ID Section Summer Tours Focus On Landscape Level Rangeland Issues

Anna Owsiak, ID Section Fundraising Committee Chair



One of the highlights of the Idaho Section's annual activities is the summer field tour. Each year provides new opportunities and priorities in conservation and management of Idaho rangelands to bring our section together.

Because we use the summer tour to focus on current issues, it has covered all corners and regions of the state over the years. In north Idaho, forested rangeland management for livestock grazing, timber

harvest, and steelhead and wildlife habitat was the most recent topic. Attendees were able to see the impacts of local weed issues and the working partnerships between rangeland managers of all types and the Nez Perce Biocontrol Center, which works to raise noxious weed biocontrol insects to distribute throughout the state.

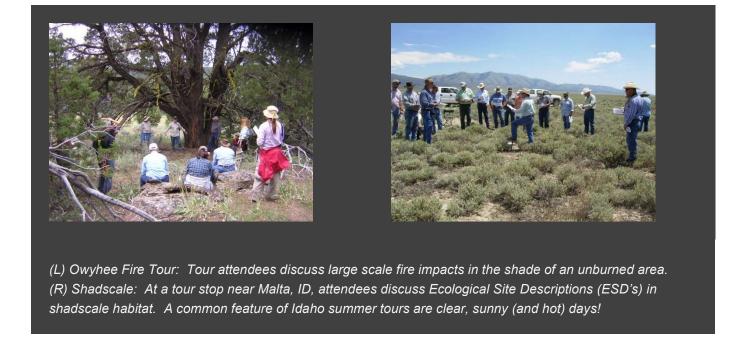
In central Idaho, a tour of the US Sheep Experimental Station provided the setting to learn about the shrub ecology and sheep grazing research that has taken place at this location since 1924, and included viewing and discussing findings from the oldest continuous rangeland study plots known to exist. The Station also manages for elk, pronghorn antelope and sage grouse, and is one of the sage grouse strongholds in Idaho, so it plays an important role in sage grouse recovery across Idaho and the west.

A joint tour in southwest Idaho with the Great Basin Fire Science Group brought the impacts of large scale wildfire in the Owyhee's up close and personal. We saw how wild land fire was being addressed at the local level by neighboring landowners coming together to work in partnership with the BLM as fire first responders through Rangeland Fire Protection Associations (RFPA), and at the landscape level through shifts in focus and actions to not just respond to, but to proactively create on the ground conditions to better manage future fire.

There is always much more covered at each summer tour than can be relayed within a paragraph. One of the strongest points of each tour is how it brings people together from diverse but strongly connected aspects of an issue in such a way as we all learn more about the breadth and impact of the issue. It's not just about managing rangeland grazing in shrub steppe

for example, it's also about how advances in satellite monitoring has improved the ability to answer vegetation dynamics questions; how differences in timing of rotational grazing can increase sage grouse habitat quality and ultimately increase the security of a species in need; and how changes in soil composition and characteristics from various uses influences not only the plant community but erosion and the local and landscape level. No matter where we tug on the rangelands string, we find connections to so much more than it first appears.

The tour is our opportunity to get together in the field, learn from each other and share ideas, experiences and problems to solve. It is also a time for us to forge stronger member connections. There is always a BBQ, potluck or Dutch oven dinner to get folks sharing stories, adventures and ideas. The tour also raises funds for the Section's Brian Miller Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships for rangeland students at the University of Idaho. Another strong component of these tours is how each brings a broad spectrum of rangeland managers together; from private landowners, to state, federal and tribal land managers, to university researchers and students, to rangeland management retirees. It helps us realize we are each not just a category because of who we work for, but are a blend of many categories as we walk across public and private lands, working to address issues that impact us all. Our common thread is our passion and concern for rangeland health no matter how it is we are individually tied to rangelands, and we appreciate that in each other.



This year's Idaho Section summer tour in July will feature the Challis Environmental Stewardship Program, one of three inaugural sites in the country (now 37 years old) authorized under the Public Rangelands Improvement Act. We will have the opportunity to see long term riparian trend and rest-rotation grazing plot conditions. Although the details are still being finalized, you can bet this tour will bring a diverse group of presenters and attendees together once again to learn about the breadth of rangeland aspects addressed within this stewardship and where the challenges of the future are taking it.

2017 National Range Judging Contest



Winning 4-H Team from Missouri







The Society for Range Management sponsors and awards the National Champion teams and their coaches in both the FFA and the 4-H divisions, as well as the high individuals in each division, with a jacket. As might be expected, the competition for this inspiring and extremely popular award has become increasingly tougher each year.

The 2017 National Range Judging Contest was held from May 2 to May 4 in

Oklahoma City, OK in conjunction with the National Land and Homesite Judging Contests. This event draws several hundred contestants from all

For the 66th competition, the Hico FFA Chapter, Hico, Texas took home the top honors for the FFA team competition. The first place high individual FFA award was won by Hunter Hackley from the Jacksboro FFA Chapter. The Rock Prairie 4-H Club, Pleasant Hope, Missouri won the top honors for the 4-H team category. The first place high individual 4-H award was won by Enoc Arciniegas, from the Rock Prairie 4-H Club.



Winning FFA team from Hico Texas

The outcome of all the participants and other information about the contest may be viewed at http://www.rangejudging.com/.

Additional photos can be found on the Oklahoma Association of Conservation District's Facebook page

at https://www.facebook.com/pg/okconservation/photos/?tab=album&album_i d=10154347658636993



SRM Announces New Editor in Chief and Managing Editor for *Rangelands* Journal

Editor in Chief: Dr. Jason Karl Dr. Jason Karl is a Research Ecologist with the US Department of Agriculture's

with the US Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service unit at the Jornada Experimental Range in Las Cruces, New Mexico, Dr. Karl has worked extensively in rangeland ecology and management for the past 20 years. His research focuses on rangeland assessment and monitoring and remote sensing applications for supporting management decision making. Dr. Karl received a B.S. in Wildlife Resources and a M.S. in Environmental Science from the University of Idaho, and a Ph.D. in Fisheries and Wildlife and Environmental Science and Public Policy from Michigan State University.



Managing Editor: Dr. Eva Levi

Dr. Eva Levi is a recent graduate of the University of Arizona with a Ph.D. in Ecology, Management, and Restoration of Rangelands. She also obtained a M.S. in **Ecology and Management of Rangelands** from the University of Arizona and a B.S. in Biology and Environmental Science from the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. Dr. Levi has worked extensively in rangelands throughout Arizona and New Mexico, with research focusing on large-scale vegetation mapping, vegetation community characteristics in relation to landscape variables and human disturbance, woody plant encroachment and plant litter decomposition dynamics, and soil nutrient dynamics. She has also worked for several agencies doing vegetation and wildlife inventory and monitoring, as well as working as a Rangeland Management Specialist for the US Forest Service in SE Arizona and SW New Mexico.

We thank Lori Hidinger for her many years of excellent service and experience as Editor in Chief in steering the journal on its successful journey.





REM Impact Factor Increases

Journal Citation Reports 2016 data were initially released on June 14, 2017. We are pleased to announce that the Rangeland Ecology & Management Impact Factor for 2016 is 1.940. The journal ranking is now 75th out of 153 in Ecology, and 107th out of 229 in Environmental Science journal categories.

Compared to 2015, the impact factor changes +43.8%; ranking up to the 25th position in Ecology and up to the 38th position in Environmental Science journal categories.

Congratulations to the REM team!

Science Direct Read More Here

Rangelands Journal Highlight: Rangelands **April 2017** (Volume 39, Issue 2, April 2017, Pages 56-63)

Each year Elsevier develops an article collection for World Environment day. This year's theme was 'connecting people to nature'. The objective is to link content around a UN World day with the potential to reach a wider

audience, as well as to demonstrate the strength of our journal offering with a variety of articles. We selected one article from Rangelands to include in the collection titled "Rancher Perspectives of a Livestock-Wildlife Conflict in Southern Chile." This article has been made "free access" until September 1, 2017 at which time it goes back to member-only access.

Read More About The April Issue

http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/01900528/39/2

Journal Highlight: Rangeland Ecology and Management (REM) May 2017



(Volume 70, Issue 3, May 2017, Pages 341–347)

Landscape scale data suggests that a shift from cropping or silvopastoral systems to alfalfa-based systems is occurring in the China's loess plateau. By extrapolation, this could increase soil C sequestration by as much as 20 million tons CO2 per year in that region. Click here to read the article titled Soil C, N, and P Stocks Evaluation Under Major Land Uses on China's Loess Plateau. This is an Open Access article published in issue the May 2017 (70/3) of REM.

Read More About The May Issue

http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/15507424/70/3

Call for Excellence in Range Management Posters!

Award jor Excellence

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, aesthetic values, recreation, and other non- commodity values.

Abstracts are limited to 1 submission per Section and must be submitted to the SRM Awards Committee Chair by **December 15, 2017**.

CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS

ONLINE *REM* FREE TO SRM MEMBERS!

Online access to Rangeland Ecology & Management (REM) is available at no charge to SRM members. Availability is limited so first come first served! Contact Vicky if you'd like more information, vtrujillo@rangelands.org / 303-986-3309.



FYI: Great opportunity for SRM Members to get engaged!

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) REE Advisory Board Office is requesting nominations to fill vacancies on the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics (NAREEE) Advisory Board and its subcommittees. Specific to SRM is the category "National Conservation or Natural Resource Group". If any individuals from SRM would like to get involved, please contact Kelly Fogarty for more information, Kelly@wssdc.com.

The Federal Register notice can be found at https://www.nareeeab.ree.usda.gov/. Nomination packages are due by July 29, 2017.

NEW Webpage for Annual Meeting Information & Abstracts!

You can find the "Annual Meeting Information & Abstracts" page by selecting the "About" tab. Watch for general information and updates on the upcoming AM18 in Sparks, NV!



Port Augusta, South Australia

www.austrangesoc.com.au 25-28 September 2017

19th BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE AUSTRALIAN RANGELAND SOCIETY

Transition to Transformation Click Here For Information **CLICK HERE** to join the mailing list and stay in the loop!



NatGLC 2018!!

The NatGLC will hold its 7th National Grazing Lands Conference (7NGLC), December 2 -5, 2018, in Reno, NV. Stay tuned for more information!

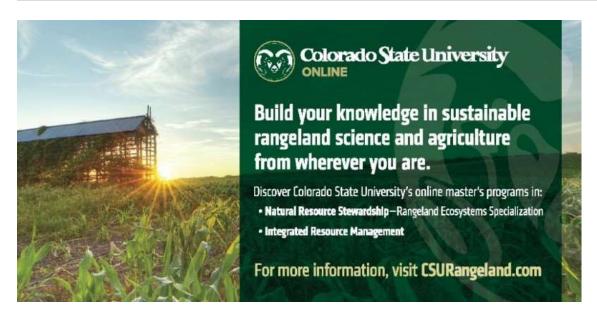
http://www.grazinglands.org/





Joint XXIV International Grassland Congress (IGC) & International Rangeland Congress (IRC) – 2020 First Announcement

The Joint XXIV IGC – XI IRC congresses will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, October 25 – 30, 2020. The theme of the Congress is "Sustainable Use of Grassland/Rangeland Resources for Improved Livelihoods." The aim of the congress will be to promote the interchange of scientific and technical information on all aspects of grasslands and rangelands: including grassland/rangeland ecology; forage production and utilization; livestock production systems; wildlife, tourism and multi-facets of grassland/rangeland; drought management and climate change in rangelands; pastoralism, social, gender and policy issues and capacity building, extension and governance. We look forward to seeing you in Nairobi in 2020. For more information, see the flyer or visit the conference website.



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http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/contact/form/program/rangeland-management-2016.htm?utm_source=societyrangelandmanagement&utm_medium=banner-ads&utm_campaign=/srm&utm_content=700x350



IS YOUR MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION UP TO DATE?

Have you logged into your member record recently? Has your email, phone number or address changed?

It's important to keep your contact details up to date so you don't miss out on SRM communications! Take a moment today to log in and make sure you're up to date.

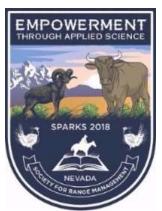
http://srm.allenpress.com/SRM/

If you need assistance or have any questions or difficulties with your membership whatsoever, please contact: SRM Business Office at Allen Press

Membership@rangelands.org / Phone: 800-627-0326 x456 / direct at 785-865-9456 You can also contact Vicky for assistance: vtrujillo@rangelands.org / 303-986-3309



http://rangelands.org/workshops-events-annoucements/



http://rangelands.org/events-abstracts/



Watch for information to come on the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists Initiative!



Our VISION: A well-trained and highly motivated group of professionals and rangeland users working with productive, sustainable rangeland ecosystems.

Our MISSION: Providing leadership for the Stewardship of Rangelands based on sound ecological principles.

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