

# PRESS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE: February, 2018

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

John L. McLain of Carson City, Nevada, received the *W.R. Chapline Land Stewardship Award* at the Society for Range Management's (SRM) 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting, Technical Training and Trade Show held in St. Sparks, Nevada which concluded earlier this month. 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.

Mr. McLain received this prestigious award in recognition of his more than 50 years of active membership in SRM, having served in many capacities including Society President (2000) and Board of Directors, Nevada Section SRM President, and numerous committees. The award also acknowledges John's exemplary leadership and unbridled passion as one of rangeland's strongest advocates.

John joined the SRM in 1966. His experience as a young professional in rural Montana instilled a deep appreciation for working on and caring for the land. His respect for the relationship between natural resources and local economies was inspired by his mentors and the many hours he spent on horseback with ranchers to find common understandings and approaches for improving livestock management.

John is a well-known figure in rangeland management as a motivated SRM spokesman. Legislators and agency leaders at the state and national levels readily seek his advice and expertise on rangeland policy and management knowing that he is a well-respected Certified Range Management Consultant, who is admired by his fellow range management professionals as well as those who oppose his positions. They know his reputation and his professional doctrines are based on science and that he always prioritizes conservation of the resources as his primary goal. John McLain has dedicated endless hours to assure that universities are afforded the resources and means to educate well-rounded and versed rangeland management graduates, many of whom were mentored personally by John and who now are also recognized as leaders in rangeland and resource management fields.

John McLain has never hesitated to answer an outcry for honesty and professionalism. In the 1980's John led an effort to demonstrate the inaccuracies in the Soil-Vegetation Inventory Method (SVIM) which was instrumental in moving the BLM toward a new range management policy based on monitoring protocols as the basis for achieving proper livestock management. In the 1990's he directed development of a professional response to rangeland management reports produced by the U.S General Accounting Office (GAO) on wild horses, conditions of riparian areas, and over grazing which gained signed support from 18 professional range managers west wide. John testified twice before the Congressional Natural Resources subcommittees to reveal errors and deficiencies of using GAO reports as a basis of fact.

John McLain is a visionary who converts ideas into action. John participated in creating Range Magazine to inform interested publics on the positive achievements made on western rangelands. In the 2000's, John organized and led sixteen rangeland scientists to pool their collective scientific expertise of 500 years in the Great Basin to develop recommendations to address critical rangeland health issues pertaining to invasive species, noxious weeds, pinyon-juniper expansion, and altered fire-regimes. Results from this initiative were published in 2008 by the University of Nevada Reno Agricultural Experiment Station.

Mr. McLain has earned the highest respect from his fellow professionals for his devotion to rangeland management, his outstanding achievements, and his commitment to high professional standards which epitomize the finest qualities SRM promotes. It is for these reasons, and because of his wealth of contributions to SRM and our profession, it is with great honor that we presented John L. McLain with the Society for Range Management's most esteemed *W. R. Chapline Land Stewardship Award* for 2018.



L to R: Jim Linebaugh (nominator), 2018 W. R. Chapline Land Stewardship Award recipient, John McLain, SRM President (2017) Dr. Larry Howery, Rex Cleary (nominator) and Rob Pearce (nominator).  
(Not pictured, nominator Don Henderson)



**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.