

PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Vicky Trujillo, Office Services Manager
Society for Range Management
vtujillo@rangelands.org
P: 303-986-3309 F: 303-986-3892



FOLEY-BIRRENKOTT RECEIVES YOUNG PROFESSIONALS CONCLAVE (YPC) OUTSTANDING APPRENTICE AWARD FROM THE SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT (SRM)

Mary Jo Foley-Birrenkott of Corvallis, Oregon received the *Young Professional Conclave's (YPC) Outstanding Apprentice Award* at the Society for Range Management's (SRM) 71st Annual Meeting, Technical Training, and Trade Show in Sparks, Nevada, which concluded earlier this month. The *YPC Outstanding Apprentice Award* is presented by the Society to an individual member who has shown outstanding dedication to the Society 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 SRM student member, to fully-engaged professional members of the society.

Ms. Mary Jo Foley-Birrenkott is 2 years post-graduation from Oregon State University with her Master's degree in Rangeland Ecology and Management. She was an outstanding student during both her BS and MAg degree...and one that consistently went the extra mile to insure that the OSU Range Club, prospective students, and those interested in rangelands were served.

Since graduation in 2015, she has served the Society for Range Management exceptionally well! She has worked as a technical writer/literature reviewer for Past President Pat Shaver; and she has been hired on a part-time basis by SRM as an Outreach and Membership Coordinator. At last year's and this year's SRM Annual Meetings, Mary Jo's presence was seen and felt at every turn! She was able to assist admirably and was able to take on tasks and assignments independently, as well.

In the brief time span since her graduation, Mary Jo Foley-Birrenkott has also taken the YPC by storm! She is very active with that entity and has served the YPC well as President, Vice President, and Public Relations Officer.

Many young professionals find the transition from student to professional to be difficult and sometimes frustrating. Mary Jo has lead by example, "taking the bull by the horns" and showing that with hard work, diligence, and passion one can not only find one's professional place, but also make a huge impact! Mary Jo's example continues to show the excellence and energy that is required to be a young range professional in today's rangelands.

For her many accomplishments, the Society for Range Management is proud to present Mary Jo Foley-Birrenkott with the 2018 *Young Professionals Conclave (YPC) Outstanding Apprentice Award*.



SRM 2018 Outstanding Young Professionals Conclave
Outstand Apprentice Award recipient Mary Jo Foley-
Birrenkott with SRM President (2017) Dr. Larry Howerly



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.