



Society for Range Management

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www.rangelands.org #respectontherange

January 23, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leaders of the 116th Congress:

The Society for Range Management (SRM) promotes wise use and conservation of rangelands through the application of professional knowledge and experience based on sound scientific principles. Our **Mission** is to provide *leadership for the Stewardship of Rangelands based on sound ecological principles* and our **Vision** is *for well-trained and highly motivated groups of professionals and rangeland users working with productive, sustainable rangeland ecosystems*.

Our members have become increasingly concerned with the prolonged federal government shutdown and its impact on the ability of our organization to follow through with its mission and vision to promote and enhance sustainable rangeland ecosystems. Now entering its fifth week, the current government shutdown is the longest of any in U.S. history. This has placed our natural resources at risk because the professionals responsible for land and resource management aren't at the helm. As leaders of the 116th Congress, we strongly urge you to act quickly to bring this federal government shutdown to a close.

Nearly 800,000 federal workers are furloughed, putting pressure on federal and private lands and stalling the implementation of vital new programs introduced in the 2018 Farm Bill. The agency personnel responsible for administering voluntary conservation programs, managing federal lands for multi-use, covering the permit administration process for national forests and rangelands and communicating new management strategies to concerned citizens and management personnel are being stymied in their efforts due to the shutdown. This not only impacts our federal employee members across the country, but also our producer members who utilize government cost share programs to effectively manage rangelands.

Again, we strongly urge you to reopen the government and allow our SRM land managers the opportunity to return to work for our nation's rangeland ecosystems and the families and local communities that depend on these resources..

Respectfully Submitted,

Barry Irving
President, Society for Range Management