

PRESS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE: March, 2019

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BROWN RECEIVES FREDERIC G. RENNER AWARD FROM THE SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT (SRM)

Dr. Joel R. Brown, Rangeland Ecologist for the USDA-NRCS, Jornada Experimental Range, Las Cruces, NM, was presented the *Fredric G. Renner Award* at the Society for Range Management's (SRM) 72nd Annual Meeting, Technical Training and Tradeshow held in Minneapolis, MN, February 10-14, 2019. The *Renner Award* is the most prestigious award bestowed by the Society. It was made possible by a generous contribution from Frederic G. Renner, a Charter and Life member and SRM's second President (1949). The award is presented with the belief that such recognition will foster better use of rangeland resources and a broader understanding of the contributions that these resources make to the welfare of all people.

Over his 42-year career, Dr. Joel Brown has become one of the most influential rangeland scientists of his generation. He has devoted his professional career to critical analysis of the basic tenets of the rangeland profession in an effort to "get them right" and to apply science-based knowledge to solving challenging problems in rangelands worldwide.

Dr. Brown's scientific accomplishments (including over 100 published papers) have provided visionary leadership to the rangeland community. In the 1980s he challenged the use of the Rangeland Condition and Trend concept that paved the way for the incorporation of State and Transition Concepts into rangeland management, revisions to Ecological Site Descriptions (ESDs), and ultimately his current role as National Leader of the Ecological Site Team for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). During his time as a Research Scientist and Program Leader with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization in northern Australia, his concepts led to a shift from broad-scale weed control to a strategic intervention approach subsequently employed in extension and management. As a Special Advisor to the Chief of NRCS, he was also instrumental in developing guidelines for carbon contracts in rangelands, and has provided scientific guidance and critique regarding the role of rangeland management in carbon sequestration. Dr. Brown has also contributed to our understanding of the mechanisms of woody plant encroachment, climate change effects on rangelands, drought management, and ecosystem service perspectives.

Dr. Brown's leadership has directly and indirectly influenced numerous institutions. As a State Rangeland Conservationist for the NRCS in California, he advanced water quality education that led to voluntary clean water programs that became widely adopted by State and Federal Agencies. As a cooperating scientist with the USDA-ARS Jornada Experimental Range, he introduced a research program on ecological sites that became a primary element of that unit's research which subsequently advanced related work in several universities and internationally, including a National Ecological Site program in Mongolia. Since 2012, Dr. Brown has served as the Senior Science Advisor for the USDA Southwest Climate Hub, providing guidance on climate adaptation strategies and applications built on his lifetime of experience.

Equally important, Joel has been a fierce advocate for clear thinking and evidence-based policy, and for the importance of the Society for Range Management in promoting science-based rangeland stewardship. Since 2000, Joel has worked constantly on issues important to the Society; from his service as a member of the Board of Directors, to his continuing efforts chairing a Task Force to revise and refocus Rangelands, and then Chairing the Steering Committee for that publication. He has served in appointed, elected, and volunteer capacities at both Section and Parent Society levels. Joel has been a coach, mentor, and recruiter to ensure a steady stream of young professionals and scholars into the Society. And his humor has kept us all entertained along the way.

Because of his wealth of contributions to SRM and our profession, it is with great honor that the Society of Range Management recognizes Dr. Joel Raymond Brown with the Society for Range Management's most esteemed *Fredric G. Renner Award* for 2019.



L to R: 2019 Fredric G. Renner Award recipient, Dr. Joel Brown and SRM President (2018) Dr. Barry Irving



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.