

PRESS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE: March, 2019

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



SCASTA RECEIVES OUTSTANDING YOUNG RANGE PROFESSIONAL AWARD FROM THE SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT (SRM)

Dr. John Derek Scasta of Laramie, Wyoming, received an *Outstanding Young Range Professional Award* at the Society for Range Management's (SRM) 72nd Annual Meeting, Technical Training, and Trade Show in Minneapolis, Minnesota, February 10-14, 2019. The *Outstanding Young Range Professional Award* recognizes SRM members who exhibit superior performance and leadership potential in any range-related area.

Dr. Scasta has been Assistant Professor and Extension Range Management Specialist at the University of Wyoming (UWYO) since 2014, after receiving his PhD in Rangeland Ecology and Management at Oklahoma State University. His research and outreach span the Great Plains and Rocky Mountain regions, and from tallgrass prairie to sagebrush steppe and mesquite dominated rangelands to high-elevation forests. He has assessed the effects of drought, fire, and grazing on rangeland vegetation, livestock production, and ungulate spatial distribution while engaging audiences on hot-button topics including predators, prairie dogs, wild horses, and fire. As a researcher, he has authored or co-authored more than 40 articles in refereed journals.

Dr. Scasta is also an accomplished educator and communicator with an uncommon aptitude for educating learners of all ages to further the application of recent advances in rangeland management, while addressing complex problems that have stymied managers and agencies for decades. An award-winning teacher and student advisor at the University of Wyoming, he developed two new courses, Applied Fire Ecology and Nutritional Ecology and Management of Rangeland Ungulates, and he instructs students in special projects and experiential learning. He also advises the UWYO Range Club and coaches the Undergraduate Range Management Exam (URME) Team.

In his brief career, Dr. Scasta has actively contributed to SRM at both the Section and parent Society levels while demonstrating devotion to developing future SRM members and range professionals as a university professor. Dr. Scasta has demonstrated extraordinary potential and promise as a range management professional and a future leader in the range profession.

For his accomplishments and dedication to range, the Society for Range Management is proud to recognize Dr. Derek Scasta with a 2019 *Outstanding Young Range Professional Award*.



SRM 2019 Outstanding Young Range Professional Award recipient Dr. Derek Scasta with (2018) SRM President 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.