

Society for Range Management



Call for Proposals

The 2023 SRM Annual Meeting is now accepting submissions for proposals for the following types of sessions (please see below). The meeting theme is “Rangelands without Borders”. The challenges and opportunities facing rangelands today, and in the future, cannot be addressed without considering the heterogeneity among landscapes, land ownership, disciplines, and most recently, communication streams. Wildfire, climate shifts, wildlife, and invasive species are major elements of rangelands that transgress boundaries. The increasing focus on adaptive management of rangelands often involves addressing physical, social, and institutional boundaries. The extension of transformative research to managers and users of rangelands is always a challenge.

The 2023 Boise meeting will return to a timed format for presentations. Our time blocks will be 15 or 20 minute slots that will be enforced by dedicated moderators. Innovative presentation styles such as Ignite will be expected to also adhere to a timed format (rest periods and/or blanks inserted as needed to maintain synchronicity with the rest of the meeting). This will enable viewers and participants to manage their session selection. The 2023 meeting will be an in-person meeting but will be delivered to a virtual audience as well. We will run the in person and virtual components simultaneously during the meeting and make all available for viewing later (or again). Any presenters who cannot attend in person will be required to submit a recording for the meeting; they will be welcome and encouraged to also join virtually to answer questions from the audience after their presentation is complete. Although we may need to record entire sessions for posting to a virtual platform our plan is to live stream all sessions (band width may require us to be innovative for virtual delivery). Thus, descriptions and justifications provided for each session may be important for the Program Committee to rank sessions for priority for live streaming or recording for posting to the virtual platform. Sessions that require intense interaction amongst participants will be restricted to an in-person delivery (Campfires as an example).

The 2023 meeting will combine some of the more recent innovations in meeting format with a return to more conventional science program styles that combines invited and contributed oral sessions with contributed poster sessions. The Boise 2023 meeting will integrate practicum material into the main meeting by providing a “Town Square” within the Tradeshow and Poster session space where information pertinent to rangeland managers will be presented. Thus, this call for proposals will also give considerable emphasis to proposals that include practicum type material. In addition to the call for sessions of invited presentations here, we are planning to invite contributed oral and poster presentations that the organizers will organize into sessions. Contributors are encouraged to submit works for publication in Rangelands or Rangeland Ecology and Management

The meeting schedule for the program will be structured around 2-hr blocks, with start/stop times of presentations synchronized on 15-minute intervals. Sessions should allow for both intermittent discussions (Q/A), and preferably also a slot for more in-depth discussion, such as at the end of the session. Session proposers are given considerable latitude on the number of speakers and the time allotted per speaker within the 2-hr/15-min structure. For example, 2-hour traditional oral sessions could have as many as 8 or as few as 4 speakers giving 15- or 30-minute talks or discussion periods, respectively. Ignite-style sessions (very short, to-the-point talks) need only to have clusters of short presentations of any duration synchronize with the 15-minute intervals. Mixtures of presentation type is encouraged as long as they can be integrated into a structured session(s).

Rather than establish a deadline and then extend it, we are establishing two submission dates for symposia and all types of session proposals, and for abstracts for presentations.

1. Proposals for symposia and special sessions (i.e., workshops, ignite, campfire, practicum) are due **August 1, 2022**, for priority consideration, but we will consider any other proposals submitted by **August 31, 2022**, albeit with more discretion. Submissions that are incomplete or received after this deadline will not be considered. Notifications for symposia and special sessions will be made to all persons who submitted a proposal on the status of the proposal on a rolling basis until **September 7, 2022**.
Submissions may be completed using the Session Description Form and should be submitted to this email: specialsessions@rangelands.org
2. Titles and abstracts for presentations are due by **September 15, 2022**. Abstracts will be accepted through **October 15, 2022**, albeit with more discretion.
Abstract submission portal and link will be announced and posted soon.

The target date for producing a tentative program is **November 1, 2022**, with a final program being released by **November 30, 2022**.

Types of sessions may include:

1. **Symposium: Innovative and captivating speakers organized around emerging themes** in rangeland ecology and management knowledge. Symposia are the core scientific aspect of the SRM program. Each session will synthesize a topic that makes significant contributions to the art and science of rangeland management and ecology through novel collaborations, methods, or interdisciplinary approaches.
2. **Workshops: “Contribute to the development of practical, leadership and communication skills within SRM!”** An interactive, educational experience in which attendees develop new practical skills to apply to their rangeland science and management work. Plan to facilitate your training workshop in a hotel conference room, and to teach to specific learning objectives for participants through hands-on, conversational, and experiential learning opportunities. Themes could include but are not limited to skills for: bridging science and management communities; outreach, meeting facilitation, and science communication leadership; promoting diversity and inclusion; software and data analysis; writing for popular and scientific audiences; skills for student success; data collection and management methods; leadership in field research, etc.
3. **Ignite-style Sessions: “Enlighten us, but make it quick!”** Short talks, typically set rigidly at 5 minutes each, are organized around a focused theme that stimulates an exchange of new ideas in rangeland ecology and management. Organizers can decide if they would like to use the 20 slides/talk and auto

advancing slide format, or not. Regardless, presenters need to be able to clearly deliver the high points of their message/point in an “elevator pitch” like fashion that is creative and engaging to the audience. Ignite sessions do not need to use the entire 2-hr time slot, should plan on having breakpoints for questions and comments. Given the brevity of ignite talks, presenters may also like to have an associated poster to provide a deeper exploration of their presentation.

4. **Campfire sessions:** Campfire Conversations are a lively collaborative dialogue around questions that matter for the future of the Society for Range Management and rangelands. These questions could be a single issue, controversy, challenge, or opportunity of immediate relevance. Preference will be given to innovative, provocative, and complex topics with the potential to translate rangeland knowledge and transform the future of SRM, especially as they relate to the theme for 2023. We encourage SRM committees and working groups, managers, researchers, advocates, outreach professionals, students and young professions to submit proposals that flesh out the question for the Program Committee. Submitters of proposals chosen for Campfire Conversations will work with the Campfire Committee to facilitate conversations following the World Café model (see description below). A paper on the Campfire Conversations model is here: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0190052821000468>. For 2023, the committee will request some form of a written outcome authored by the participants that will be posted on the website.
5. **Practicum sessions:** Including material that is of direct interest to ranchers and any on the ground rangeland management material. Examples include be how to presentations/demonstrations on topics such as prescribed fire, field calibrations of herbicide sprayers, rangeland ad ranch safety, transition planning for both public and private land, etc.

Review Criteria

Submissions will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- 1) **Clarity of purpose:** A concept, approach or topic area is identified and goals for the session are stated along with objectives and expected outcomes for participants/attendees of the session. Proposal contributes to the SRM mission to provide science-based information for rangeland ecology and management, ideally linking to the 2023 meeting theme (not required).
- 2) **Scientific Strength:** Uses best available science, methods, and practices. We invite and encourage other disciplinary research (e.g., policy and humanities) that pertain to the science and art of rangeland management.
- 3) **Applicability to management/practice:** Proposal clearly describes how the topic(s) discussed apply to ecosystem management, conservation practice, policy, or other decision-making.
- 4) **Diversity:** Proposal is consistent with the SRM Diversity statement, including active efforts to break down silos, consider equitable solutions, and ensure all voices are part of the discussion.
- 5) **Participant engagement and active learning opportunities:** Preference is given to session proposals that include activities or discussion to engage attendees. Creativity is encouraged.
- 6) **Plan to adapt the session to a possible virtual format:** Preference will be given to proposals that have a plan for delivering the session online.
- 7) Sessions that are oriented to be of direct benefit and interest to rangeland managers and practitioners are encouraged and will be given special consideration.