# PRESS RELEASE

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**Ehlert Honored by Society for Range Management with Outstanding Young Professional Award**

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON – Dr. Krista Ehlert received the ***Outstanding Young Professional Award*** at the Society for Range Management’s 78th Annual Meeting in Spokane, Washington last month. The Award is presented by the Society to an individual member or couple who have demonstrated extraordinary potential and promise as range management professionals. This award is presented as an encouragement for outstanding performance by young men and women entering the profession of range management.

Dr. Krista Ehlert is an outstanding young range professional whose work in Extension, research, and leadership has significantly advanced rangeland management. As the South Dakota State Rangeland Extension Specialist, she collaborates with universities, agencies, NGOs, and land managers to improve the sustainability of rangeland resources and ranching enterprises. She plays a key role in educational programs such as the SD-SRM Professionals Range Workshop, SD Grazing School, and beefSD, which supports early-career cattle ranchers. She is also the founder of “Women on the Range,” a program designed by women for women working in rangeland management.

In addition to her Extension efforts, Krista has an impressive research record, securing and collaborating on more than $84 million in grants, including an $80 million Climate Smart Commodity grant. Her research spans topics such as virtual fencing for precision agriculture, riparian restoration using beaver dam analogs, carbon sequestration, native plant development, and rancher decision-making tools. Despite not having a formal research appointment, her work is shaping the future of sustainable rangeland management and providing science-based solutions for land managers.

Krista is also a dedicated leader in the Society for Range Management (SRM), currently serving as President of the South Dakota Section SRM and holding key roles in SRM’s Advisory Council, Outreach/Communications/Website Committee, and High School Youth Forum Task Force. Her passion for education, research, and leadership continues to make a lasting impact on the rangeland community, making her a well-deserving recipient of SRM’s Outstanding Young Range Professional Award.

For the tremendous contributions to the science and management of rangeland ecosystems he has made, it is with great honor the Society of Range Management recognized Dr. Krista Ehlert with the Outstanding Young Professional Award.