

The Range Rider

Newsletter of the Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management



Lane Simmons shows attendees at the CSSRM Annual Meeting the lysimeter at CSU's Arkansas Valley Research Center. A lysimeter measures actual evapotranspiration, versus potential. The one in Rocky Ford is one of only a handful in the U.S.

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Colorado Section
Society for Range Management

Compiled by

RETTA BRUEGGER
CSSRM PAST-PRESIDENT

A Letter from Our President

RECAP OF THE 2022 CSSRM ANNUAL MEETING

by Courtney Hurst
President

While the weather cooperated, the AV equipment did not (at least at first).

Held in Rocky Ford, CO October 19th and 20th at the Colorado State University (CSU) Arkansas Valley Research Station, the 2022 CSSRM annual meeting, “Good Grass and Growing the Next Generation” featured twelve speakers and daily tours of both the CSU Arkansas Valley Research Station and the CSU Rocky Ford Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

Fifty-eight attendees heard from featured speakers covering a diverse set of topics focused on innovative land, livestock and water management practices currently in use by the next generation of producers and land managers. Topics ranged from exploring the emerging field of virtual livestock fence, to low tech water conservation techniques and irrigation efficiency methods, to on-ranch/farm soil health certification.

The speaker line-up also highlighted the next generation of producers and land managers.

Two High School Youth Forum (HSYF) speakers, Emma Amato and Ana Lockard, presented their award winning project presentations titled,



Troy Bauder and A. J. Brown of CSU's College of Agriculture discuss edge-of-field water quality monitoring during the field tour

“Fencing of the Future”, and “The Fox Ranch: A Success Story for Ecology, Wildlife, Cattle Producers, Conservationists and Communities in Northeast Colorado”, respectively.

These HSYF students represented the Colorado Section at the 2022 International Society for Range Management meeting in Albuquerque, NM, where they both won awards for their presentations.

Additionally, meeting participants heard from two Quivira Coalition New Agrarian Program (NAP) Apprentices from Round River Resource Management, Marcos Baez and Nick Eddy. The NAP program partners with experienced and skilled producers to offer annual apprenticeships in regenerative agriculture based in an on-operation educational setting.

A Letter from Our President, Continued

RECAP OF THE 2022 CSSRM ANNUAL MEETING

Marcos and Nick gave meeting goers a glimpse into the experiences of NAP apprentices and explained how their participation in the apprenticeship program has furthered their goal and ability of pursuing regenerative agriculture careers.

Daily tours of both facilities and on-going agronomy and water-quality field experiments were available to meeting participants and featured Dr. Gene Niles of the CSU Rocky Ford Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, CSU Arkansas Valley Research Center Manager Lane Simmons, and CSU Water Quality Extension Specialist Troy Bauder.

This meeting was funded in part by a mini-grant from the Western SARE (WSARE) Professional Development Program at Colorado State University, the Colorado State Land Board, the Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management, Vence and the Quivira Coalition.



The 2022 Annual meeting was held at the Arkansas Valley Research Center in Rocky Ford

Vendors included Seco Ranch Planning, Arkansas Valley Seed, Pawnee Butte Seed, and Vence.

Lunch was provided by the Rocky Ford FFA club on Wednesday and by Christine's Restaurant on Thursday. The food was delicious, and nobody went away hungry!

Thanks to everyone who participated in this meeting, from the planners to the vendors and sponsors, the caterers and of course the attendees. We appreciate you spending time with us!

Thank you to our meeting sponsors !

Western SARE at Colorado State University, the Colorado State Land Board, the Colorado State Land Board, the Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management, Vence and the Quivira Coalition.

Introducing our Board

By Emmett Jordan,
Immediate Past President

Our Section's Board of Directors elections are held annually in the late summer/early fall and results are announced at the Annual Meeting. The four directors serve two year terms, with a maximum of two consecutive terms. Additionally, the president elect serves one year in that capacity and is tasked with providing leadership for organizing the following Annual Meeting. The president elect then serves as president for one year and then one more year as a voting member of the Board as past president.

CSSRM is indebted to outgoing Board member **Monica Klingler** for her service to the Section. Monica has played a pivotal role in a variety of CSSRM's programs and activities.

2021-22 president elect **Courtney Hurst** was the lead for organizing the 2022 Annual Meeting held in Rocky Ford and will now serve as president of the Board. Retta Bruegger continues as a voting member of the Board as past president.

Victoria "Dixie" Crowe resigned her Board seat mid-term to step up to serve as president elect for this cycle. Dixie works as a rangeland management specialist for the NRCS based in Cañon City. She earned her master's degree in rangeland ecology from CSU and started her PhD at the University of Wyoming. In addition to serving on the Board in a 2021-2022, she is a past Board secretary.



The CSSRM Board and beyond at the 2021 Annual Meeting in Grand Junction

Please reach out to Dixie (Victoria.Crowe@usda.gov) if you'd like to help with the 2023 CSSRM Annual Meeting.

Dan Nosal, who has been an SRM member since the 80s, continues his current stint on the Board, being re-elected to a second term. Dan is also a CSSRM Trail Boss awardee, past section president and former Board member. Dan is with the NRCS and is based in Franktown. A leader in many arenas, Dan also volunteers with the Boy Scouts of America, CACD's Camp Rocky, the Lowry Ranch Advisory Committee, and is the SRM representative for the State Land Board Roundtable.

Please join me in congratulating the new and continuing Board members, and thanking all of the Board members and committee chairs for shepherding the good work done by CSSRM.



Emily Lockard also joins the Board and will complete a one-year term, filling the vacancy left when Dixie moved to an executive role. Originally from California, Emily has participated in SRM events in Montana and Colorado. She currently serves as CSU Extension agent for agriculture, livestock, and range in Montezuma County. A self-proclaimed “range nerd,” Emily has a broad background in range, research, extension and education.

The Board has two new members for 2022-23. **Kasey Dollerschell** will serve a two-year term. Kasey grew up in Grand Junction, earned her bachelor's degree at CSU and her masters degree from the University of Wyoming. Kasey's professional home is now with NRCS in the Greeley office.

Baili Foster continues her term as a voting member of the Board. Non-voting Board members include; Lana Pearson, treasurer; and Amanda James, Secretary.

Please join me in congratulating the new and continuing Board members, and thanking all of the Board members and committee chairs for shepherding the good work done by CSSRM. Our Section enjoys a well-deserved reputation for quality events and programs thanks to all who have given so selflessly of their time and talents.

Thinking of running for the Board? Reach out to 2023 CSSRM nominations and elections chair, Retta Bruegger

Retta.Bruegger@colostate.edu

Awards

TRAIL BOSS

By Dan Nosal, Board Member



Josh (JT) Tashiro receives the Trail Boss Award at the 2022 Annual meeting. Presented by Dan Nosal.

Josh (JT) Tashiro received the Trail Boss Award at the CSSRM Annual Meeting held in Rocky Ford on October 19-2022. This is the highest award presented by CSSRM annually to a member. It represents dedication to the science of range management and outstanding service to CSSRM.

JT served as a CSSRM Board of Directors member for two years before taking on the role as president in 2020. He organized the 2019 CSSRM joint annual meeting with the Wyoming section.

He also was instrumental in developing and maintaining the CSSRM website, serves as CSSRM Historian, and is a member of the Youth Activities Committee.

JT holds a BS degree in range management from Colorado State University and has worked for the Natural Resources Conservation Service since graduating. He has an exceptional understanding of the principles that pertain to rangeland science and has the unique ability to communicate and explain the science of range management to ranchers in the form of sound grazing management principles. He has demonstrated this ability through his work with countless numbers of ranchers as an NRCS multi-county Rangeland Management Specialist. His current position is the Colorado NRCS State Resource Inventory Coordinator – NRI / Rangeland Ecologist.

JT received a print of “The Trail Boss” that was beautifully framed and donated by CSSRM member Roy Roath. He will also receive the Trail Boss belt buckle from the section.

Congratulations to JT on a well-deserved award!

Awards

OUTSTANDING YOUNG PROFESSIONAL

By [Retta Bruegger](#)
Past-President

Emily Lockard won the Outstanding Young Professional award at the Annual Meeting held in Rocky Ford on October 19-2022. This award recognizes outstanding performance in young people entering the profession of range management. It is given to an individual CSSRM member who has demonstrated extraordinary potential and promise as a range management professional.

Emily's work indicates extraordinary potential and promise as a current and future leader for the range profession in Colorado. Emily is the Director of Montezuma County Extension in Cortez, Colorado. She holds a BS in Animal Science from Cal-Poly, and an MS in Range Science from Utah State University. She previously worked at CSU's Southwestern Colorado Research Center, as an Extension director and agriculture agent in Montana and Colorado.

Emily's interdisciplinary background and experience make her an excellent resource, as well as a natural leader in southwestern Colorado and beyond.



Emily Lockard receives the Outstanding Young Professional at the 2022 Annual meeting. Presented by Retta Bruegger.

Emily also leads a restoration experiment, partnering with the US Geological Survey and Forest and Rangeland Stewardship Department at CSU, and participates in the statewide Soil Health Program and in statewide drought management webinars and efforts.

Emily also participates in many professional organizations, such as CSSRM, and brings her leadership skills, ability to be a team player, and sense of fun and grit to all the groups she's a part of. Congratulations to Emily for this well-deserved award!

Know an excellent range management professional? Nominate them today for one of our awards! [Learn more.](#)

Awards

EXCELLENCE IN RANGELAND CONSERVATION

By Ben Berlinger
Youth Activities Committee Chair

Our Section presented the 2022 Excellence in Rangeland Conservation award to the Toedtli Ranch. Present to receive the award were Doug and Joe Hatch. Doug and his son Joe took over management of the ranch in 2010, and in 2022 Joe and his wife Katie formed the J and K Hatch Ranches as the business company operating and managing the ranch. Our Section's August field day was hosted on the Toedtli Ranch.

Through Joe and Katie's direction holistic prescribed grazing is being practiced improving quantity, variety, and quality of the grasses, forbs and shrubs through multi-paddock time-controlled grazing management. Joe puts it this way, "Our grazing practice creates more vegetation and plant litter on the soil surface reducing the amount of bare ground. This increases water infiltration and improves the cycling of minerals, thereby helping to manage through drought".

The Toedtli ranch sits in the heart of Colorado's shortgrass prairie in northeastern Weld County. The headquarters is located about 20 miles north of the town of Stoneham, CO. The total operating unit consist of 17,840 acres.



Ben Berlinger presents the 2022 Excellence in Rangeland Conservation Award to Doug and Joe Hatch at the 2022 Annual meeting.

The land uses consist of rangeland and center pivot irrigated that is planted to perennial grasses that is high-stock-density grazed. The dominant ecological sites are Loamy, Sandy and Siltstone Plains. Major upland range plants include blue grama, western wheatgrass, needleandthread, sideoats grama, winterfat, fourwing saltbush, and several forbs that add diversity to the ecosystem.

The ranch is operated as a cow-calf production system and yearling pasture operation. Custom feeding of cattle is run through a feedlot enterprise. Commercial Red Angus cows are run April-October on the ranch. Calving occurs Late April through May with the calves retained and sold as yearlings the following summer.

Awards

EXCELLENCE IN RANGELAND CONSERVATION, CONTINUED

Drought contingency plans consist of having at least 30% of feed demand going to yearling stockers because they are liquid and can be sold or put into the feedlot at any time of the year. Calves can be weaned early to decrease the nutrient requirement of the cows allowing the cow herd to remain intact. This provides greater flexibility and, couple with monitoring data, decisions can be made quick and without much emotion because everything is planned ahead of time. The feedlot enterprise adds much flexibility and adaptability in their contingency planning.

In 2020 Joe completed the Ranching for Profit school conducted by Ranch Management Consultants. Joe and Katie are current members of the Ranching for Profit Executive Link. Through the Executive Link Joe and Katie are provided the “support, structure and accountability the Ranching for Profit alumni need to work on their businesses and achieve their goals”.

The Colorado Section is proud to recognize the exemplary rangeland stewardship displayed by the Hatch family over the past couple of decades.



Doug, Joe and Katie Hatch who manage and operate the Toedtli Ranch received the 2022 Excellence in Rangeland Conservation Award.

The land management ethic employed by the Hatch family is truly inspiring to all who care about the conservation of our rangelands. Congratulations Doug, Joe and Katie Hatch of the Toedtli Ranch for this well-deserved honor!

Nominate a rancher you know for the Excellence in Rangeland Conservation Award!

[Learn more.](#)

Colorado Section High School Youth Forum 2023

By [Ben Berlinger](#)

Youth Activities Committee Chair

Colorado high school students **Jed Ballard**, **Chrisily Furia**, and **Elaine Shannon** have been selected by the Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management (SRM) to participate in the High School Youth Forum (HSYF), an SRM sponsored youth activity held jointly during the 76th Annual SRM annual meeting. This year's meeting will be held in Boise, ID on February 12 -16, 2023.

Jed is a sophomore at Fowler high school, Chrisily is a junior at Hoehne high school and Elaine is a junior attending Kim high school. These three agriculture students were chosen to attend the HSYF based on their high degree of achievements this year in FFA range judging and plant identification as well as participation in the range management discipline at Camp Rocky (see related article).

If you are planning to attend in Boise, please drop by the HSYF paper presentation room to catch their presentations. Our delegates will appreciate your attendance and support! Presentation room location and times will be posted in the Daily Trail Boss. And watch for news on how our delegates performed in the paper presentation contest in the next issue of the Range Rider!

Youth Activities Committee

By [Ben Berlinger](#)

Youth Activities Committee Chair

High school agriculture teachers and students from across Colorado participated this fall in five FFA range management workshops and range judging contests. The events were held September 21 in Alamosa, September 28 in La Junta, September 29 in New Raymer, October 7 in Craig, and October 12 in Seibert. These youth educational events were sponsored by the Colorado Section SRM as part of our youth activities program. For all five events there were a total of 550 agriculture students representing 40 FFA chapters from across Colorado!

The FFA Range Judging Contest is one of many Career Development Events (CDE's) agriculture students can participate in to test their skills and knowledge learned through their agricultural education classes. T

NW Colorado



At the event held near Craig the Southern Routt County FFA received first place team award. Tim Bedell, SoROCO FFA, received first place individual honors for both plant ID and ecological site judging.

Youth Activities Committee

By Ben Berlinger

Youth Activities Committee Chair

Through the Range Judging Contest students are tested on their plant identification skills and reading the landscape to determine the ecological site, condition of the rangeland, amount of usable forage, and number of animals that can be supported on the land.

Thank you to all the FFA Advisors, local conservation districts, Colorado State Land Board, CSU Extension, and USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for partnership in make our Section's educational youth events a success for Colorado's agriculture students and teachers! Sincere thanks to CO Section SRM Board of Directors AND the Youth Activities Committee Members!

State FFA Range Judging



State FFA Range Judging was held in Seibert on October 12. The Fowler FFA Chapter received first place honors. Lone Star (Otis), Karval, Branson, Hoehne, and Kim FFA Chapters received second through sixth places respectively. Jed Ballard, Fowler FFA, received first place individual honors and \$200 cash award from the CO Section in recognition of his outstanding achievement. Chrisily Furia, Hoehne FFA, was honored with second place individual.

Alamosa



FFA Chapters competing in Alamosa were Sangre de Cristo, Sargent, Centauri, and Alamosa. Sargent FFA received the First Place Gold award. Trenton Paskett, Sargent FFA, and Phoenix Marshall, Sangre de Cristo FFA, receive CO Section SRM honors for first place individuals for ecological site judging and plant identification.

La Junta



At the La Junta event Dixie Crowe, CO Section SRM, recognizes Chrisily Furia, Hoehne FFA, for first place individual. Team results were Hoehne, first place followed by Fowler, Branson and Karval FFA for second, third and fourth places respectively.

Northeast CO



The Northeast CO Regional event was held at the Prairie School in New Raymer. Gabby Hermes (middle), Arickaree FFA, received first place individual recognition from Clayton Howe (l), FFA District office, and Ben Berlinger (r), CO Section SRM.

Membership Report

by Kathleen Delzell
Membership Committee Chair



When I wrote my report for our Section board meeting in Rocky Ford I used data from October 10. As of December 1 our total number of members remains 217 but with two changes:

- During the meeting one person (a Young Professional) rejoined, and
- After the meeting one Regular member moved to Kansas Section.

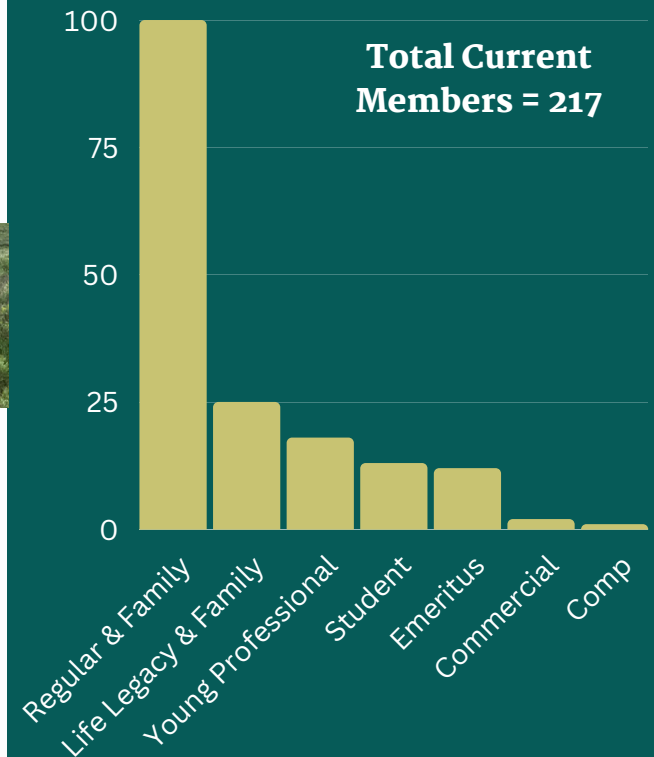
We have 46 members who chose CSSRM as their Additional Section. Allen Press' report still does not give membership categories for these, but here's where they live:

- Alaska=1
- Arizona=5
- British Columbia=1
- Colorado=3
- Hawaii=1
- Kansas=2
- Nebraska=1
- New Mexico=8
- Nevada=1
- Oklahoma=1
- Oregon=2
- Pennsylvania=1
- South Dakota=1
- Texas=7
- Utah=2
- Wyoming=8

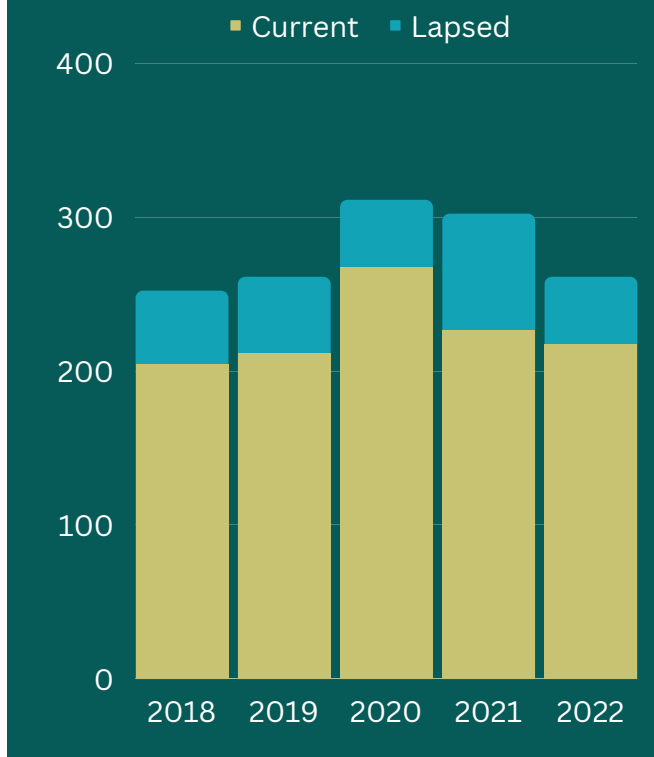
And our Primary members include Alaska-1, Utah-2, Texas-2, and Virginia-1.

Special thanks to our Commercial Members, Pawnee Buttes Seed & Ranchlands LLC

Current (2022) CSSRM Membership by Category



October Membership Totals (2018 - 2022)



Wolf Plan Update

COLORADO WOLF PLAN RELEASED, HEARINGS SCHEDULED, COMMENTS SOUGHT

By [Matt Barnes](#), Former CSSRM President

Colorado Parks and Wildlife released the first draft of the [Colorado Wolf Restoration and Management Plan](#) on Dec. 9. The plan includes reintroduction logistics, recovery criteria, and a framework for management of impacts (positive and negative), including livestock conflict prevention and compensation. At press time, the plan was expected to reflect the recommendations of the [Technical Working Group](#) (agency representatives and experts from the Northern Rockies) and the [Stakeholder Advisory Group](#) (ranchers, hunters, outfitters, and wildlife conservationists), both of which [recently concluded deliberations](#) after meeting monthly for the last year and a half along with agency staff and a third-party facilitator. [Hearings on the first draft, with opportunities for public comment](#), are scheduled for each region:

Jan. 19, 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Colorado Springs

Jan. 25, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Gunnison

Feb. 7, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Rifle

Feb. 16, 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM, virtual

Feb. 22, 8:00 AM- 3:00 PM, Denver



Public comments can also be [submitted online](#) through Feb. 22, at engagecpw.org. Final guidance from the Parks and Wildlife Commission is expected on Feb. 22. CPW staff will present a presumably final draft on April 6, with final approval on May 3-4.

Separately, the USFWS is developing an [experimental population designation for Colorado](#) (which increases management flexibility under the Endangered Species Act). An associated environmental impact statement, and a public comment period, are expected in the coming months.

State law mandates reintroduction (beginning by the end of 2023), as well as wolf-livestock conflict prevention and compensation, with details to be developed in the state's plan. One family group of wolves is currently known to be in Colorado, in North Park, and has killed several cattle in the last year. Other reports have been false or unverifiable.

Further information on wolves and wolf-livestock conflict minimization is available in the [People and Predators](#) science review published by CSU Extension, and the [Wolf Resource Guide](#) re-published by CPW. [Livestock predation risk may be reduced by range management practices](#) such as strategic grazing management and low-stress herding.

[Submit a comment at a public hearing or online!](#)