

# The Range Rider

Newsletter of the Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management



Colorado High School Youth Forum delegates Jedadiah Ballard, Elaine Shannon, and Chrisily Furia at the 2023 Society for Range Management International Meeting.

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Colorado Section  
Society for Range Management

Compiled by

RETTA BRUEGGER  
CSSRM PAST-PRESIDENT

# Colorado Section SRM Realtor Workshop & Field Day

June 15-16, 2023 - Douglas County Open Space - Prairie Canyon Ranch

## *Free Realtors Workshop*

**Thursday, June 15: 9:00am-Noon – Gather at Prairie Canyon Ranch meeting room, 4620 South State Highway 83, Franktown, CO 80116 - Registration and light breakfast at 8:30 am**

The Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management (CSSRM) will provide valuable rangeland ecological training to realtors with the following objectives:

- Basic rangeland management principles giving realtors the ability to present a more comprehensive picture of the natural resources on the property.
- Provide pre and post purchase analysis of the rangeland qualities of the property to give potential buyers and sellers a better idea of how much forage that acreage can produce, how many animals can be placed on that ground and for how long.
- Rangeland management resources and how to use them.

Desired Outcomes:

- Teach participants how to recognize basic forage plants
- How those forage plants function and grow
- What ecological conditions contribute to growth and function
- Understand the relationship between grazing livestock and available forage
- Realtors will be able to assist their clients as buyers or sellers in making better informed decisions



**CSSRM board of directors meeting will be at 1:30pm at the Prairie Canyon meeting room**

**Friday, June 16: 8:30am-4:00pm - Gather at Prairie Canyon Ranch meeting room**

**Registration and continental breakfast opens at 8:30am, field day starts at 9:30am**

***Prairie Canyon Ranch – Franktown, CO***

## ***Regenerative Grazing Applied in a Holistic Framework***

This field day will take place on the Prairie Canyon Ranch located 5 miles south of Franktown. Douglas County manages the property as a working cattle ranch. Jamie Hull has managed the grazing on the ranch for the past few years. The session will inform & educate participants about managing foothill grasslands through good land stewardship practices and holistic grazing management, while considering livestock-wildlife interactions and working toward common goals of all partners.

The ***Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management***, together with the ***Douglas County Conservation District***, and ***Colorado State University Extension*** are pleased to co-sponsor an exciting training opportunity tying forage, livestock, and open-space aspects of ranching operations together.





This ranch has a unique story to share. The property was homesteaded by Frederick Bartruff and his family in 1873 and has been used as a working cattle ranch since that time. The collection of buildings illustrates significant advances in agricultural and architectural technology from the 1870s to the 1930s. The land is also rich in archaeological resources, with evidence of human occupation up to 9,000 years ago.

The property consists of several historic structures including a house, barn, saloon, blacksmith shop, cemetery, and stone cave and corrals (circa 1875-1938). The ranch is characterized by rolling grasslands, mixed pine and Gambel oak forests, rocky outcrops, sandstone canyons, Cherry Creek riparian areas. The ranch was acquired because of its diverse wildlife habitat for hawks, pronghorn, coyotes, deer, elk, and great blue herons.

**Register Now! Members, Non-members, Ag Producers and Small Acreage Owners are Welcome!**

June 15th free workshop: Pre-registration is not required!

June 16th educational field day: Pre-registration required for meals **due June 14. Use the Eventbrite link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/summer-tour-tickets-637438996197>**

**June 16th Cost: \$30.00 per person Students \$20.00**

Registration includes all informational materials, light breakfast on both days and lunch on the second day.

Free tent camping-grounds will be available on the ranch at the pond site. (Bring your own camping equipment)

For information or questions contact Dan Nosal, [Daniel.Nosal@USDA.Gov](mailto:Daniel.Nosal@USDA.Gov) or 303-218-2632

# Save the date!

## 2023 ANNUAL MEETING

by Dixie Crowe  
President-Elect

**The CSSRM Annual Meeting will be October 3-4, 2023 in Canon City!**

Planning is underway for the fall annual meeting. Please mark your calendars for the fall annual meeting October 3-4.

On Tuesday evening October 3rd, join us for the Board of Directors meeting followed by a social. On Wednesday the 4th, we'll start the morning at the Abbey Event Center with topics focused on rangeland soils. We'll hold our annual business meeting during the catered lunch followed by an afternoon in the field exploring local rangeland soils.

More details to follow soon. Watch for details in a future email from CSSRM and on our Facebook page!



**Attendees enjoy presentations at the 2021 Annual Meeting, jointly hosted with the Colorado Plateau Science and Management Forum**

# Awards

NOMINATIONS DUE  
JULY 1



**CSSRM has several awards to celebrate the contributions and achievements of members. Nominations are due July 1, 2023.**

In keeping with our vision of "a well-trained and highly motivated group of professionals and rangeland users working with productive, sustainable rangeland ecosystems," CSSRM recognizes excellence among our membership. Awards include: The Trail Boss Award, Excellence in Rangeland Conservation Award, the Outstanding Young Professional Award, and the Outstanding Publication Award.

**Here's a chance to make somebody's day and shine a light on their good work. The awards criteria can be downloaded [here](#) or at [CSSRM.org](https://www.cssrm.org).**

**Nominations are due July 1**

Awards recognize contributions at every level - from new member to lifetime achievement. Below is a brief description of each award. Make someone's day and nominate a high achieving member today!

**Trail Boss:**

This award is the highest given to a section member for outstanding accomplishments to the range management profession and for exceptional service to the section.

**Excellence in Rangeland Conservation:**

This award is given annually to an individual or group that has demonstrated exceptional skill and knowledge in practicing sound management of rangelands in the State of Colorado.

**Outstanding Young Range Professional:**

This award is to recognize outstanding performance in young people entering the profession of range management.

**Outstanding Publication/Contribution:**

This award is to recognize noteworthy scholarly, literary, and aesthetic contributions, and efforts in publicizing range management practices, philosophies, and research activities.

**Nominations and questions can be emailed to Awards Chair  
Julie Elliot, [jtbug3@pctelcom.coop](mailto:jtbug3@pctelcom.coop)**

# Youth Activities

By [Ben Berlinger](#)  
Youth Activities Committee Chair

## CAMP ROCKY

The Colorado Section SRM Youth Activities Committee will again be involved in the leadership of the Range Management discipline at Camp Rocky. Dan Nosal, Josh Tashiro and Ben Berlinger, Committee Chair, will be leading the group into the exciting world of rangelands.

This premier outdoor learning experience, for Colorado youth, is an education and outreach program offered by the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts (CACD).



**Camp Rocky range management students determine total production on a Subalpine Loam ecological site.**



**Dan Nosal discusses various grazing strategies with the students.**

High school youth ages 14 to 19 are eligible to attend. Camp Rocky will be held July 9-14 and is located about 7 miles south of Divide, Colorado. Many of Colorado's conservation districts offer scholarships for students to attend this educational and fun learning experience.

During the week the range management students learn about the many ecosystem goods and services provided to humans by healthy rangelands.

Continued on next page.

**Visit [2023 Camp Info](#) | [Camp Rocky](#) for information on how to register.**

# Youth Activities, Continued

## CAMP ROCKY

### CAMP ROCKY, CONT.

The students have hands-on experience in range plant identification and collection, as well as rangeland inventory and evaluation to assess rangeland health.

Finally the students develop a grazing management strategy for llamas, on an ecological site at the camp, based on the rangeland information they have gathered.

The other natural resource disciplines taught at Camp Rocky are Soil & Water Conservation, Wildlife Management, and Forest Management. Visit [2023 Camp Info | Camp Rocky](#) for information on how to register.



**Llamas turned out into one of the rotational paddocks constructed by the range management group.**



**Colorado High School Youth Forum delegates Jedadiah Ballard, Elaine Shannon and Chrisily Furia.**

### YOUTH PRESENT PAPERS AT RANGE SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

Three Colorado high school students, Jedadiah Ballard, Chrisily Furia, and Elaine Shannon were 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 SRM annual meeting held in Boise, Idaho on February 12-16, 2023.

Jedadiah is currently a sophomore at Fowler high school; Chrisily is a junior at Hoehne high school; and Elaine is a junior attending Kim high school. All three students were selected to represent the CO Section SRM based on their outstanding achievements last year in the Colorado FFA range judging and plant identification events. Elaine is a two-year graduate in the range management curriculum at Camp Rocky.

Continued on next page.

**Visit [2023 Camp Info | Camp Rocky](#) for information on how to register.**

# Youth Activities, Continued

## YOUTH AT SRM

### YOUTH AT RANGE SOCIETY, CONTINUED

Fowler Agriculture teacher/FFA Advisor Brenten Ormiston along with John Shannon, Elaine's dad, and Chris Furia, Chrisily's dad, attended the Forum with the students to broaden their knowledge of range management and the functions of the SRM.

All three of these Ag/FFA students said they enjoyed the Forum and benefitted by interacting with twenty-two fellow students from all over the western United States and Canada who shared a common interest in the stewardship of rangelands. In addition to gaining valuable experience in writing and presenting a formal presentation these high school students gained exposure to the mechanisms of the SRM and the



**Students interact with ranchers who operate on public lands during the ecological field trip.**



**Delegates learn about the local rangelands and water issues during the ecological field tour on the Snake River.**

professionals and ranchers who make up its membership.

At the SRM Awards Ceremony the top five presentations are recognized based on the evaluations of five judges. Chrisily was honored with third-place for her presentation on cattle-wildlife interactions on the rangelands in southeastern Colorado. Elaine's presentation highlighted the rangeland monitoring techniques and conservation benefits on her families ranch near Kim. Jedadiah presented his paper on the benefits and disadvantages of prairie dogs on our rangelands. All three students made visits, or did interviews, with local ranchers to gain information about their topics and learn about the range management practices being applied.

**Read the papers presented by these outstanding high school youth at Colorado Section SRM's website, [www.cssrm.org](http://www.cssrm.org).**



# Exemplary Service

## RECOGNIZING KATHLEEN DELZELL

By Retta Bruegger  
Past President

I first met Kathleen a number of years ago at a SRM meeting. I was struck by her care for rangelands, and commitment to the Society and making sure others could enjoy CSSRM and SRM. Kathleen is a landowner in Archuleta County, and has participated in SRM on and off for decades as a spouse to her late husband, Bob.

More recently, she's participated as our membership chair, and tireless contributor to CSSRM, working on the Youth Activities committee, sending out e-blasts, tirelessly producing our membership reports, working with Allen Press, and engaging current and lapsed members.



**Kathleen applies what she has learned at CSSRM to managing summer grazing on the small acreage she and Bob bought in 1964.**



**Kathleen Delzell is a CSSRM member and landowner who is stepping down from her role as Membership Chair after years of Service.**

Kathleen says her passion for rangeland stewardship grew after attending Colorado Section field tours and meetings after her husband died. She could take what she saw and heard and apply those ideas to managing summer grazing on the small acreage she and Bob bought in 1964.

When she first attended SRM meetings there were few women involved. Today, many more women have leadership roles in SRM, and women working in range jobs in universities and agencies.

**As Kathleen steps down from her role, we will miss her contributions, smile, and spark at meetings. But we hope to still see her at field tours and meeting. Thank you Kathleen for all you've done for CSSRM!**

# We Need You!

JOIN US ON THE CSSRM BOARD

By [Retta Bruegger](#)  
Past-President

## We need you for the CSSRM Board.

CSSRM's scholarships, grants, tours, youth activities, annual meetings, awards... all of this only happens thanks to volunteers who serve as the Board members, appointed officers, committee members, and event staff.

If you've enjoyed a tour or a meeting, received a scholarship or an award, we need your voice at the table on the CSSRM Board.

It has never been easier to serve on the board, given virtual meeting technology. This year we are looking to fill two seats on the board, and also looking for the next president elect.



## The 2022 Field Tour at Pat and Nikki Luark's ranch near Burns, CO. Nikki and Pat were the 2021 winners of CSSRM's Excellence in Rangeland Conservation Award

Your CSSRM Board of Directors is made up of four directors, the president elect, the president, and the immediate past president. Directors serve two-year terms. After one year, the president elect moves on to serve as president for one year, and then finishes their tenure with one year as past president.

A link for electronic voting will be sent out via email and voting will take place during September 2023. Board members will be installed at the Annual Meeting this fall.

**Join us! Nominations are due by August 26th.**

To nominate yourself or anyone else, email [Retta Bruegger](mailto:retta.bruegger@colostate.edu), chair, at [retta.bruegger@colostate.edu](mailto:retta.bruegger@colostate.edu) by August 26, 2023.

**Include a short bio and explanation of why you'd like to run.**

# Membership Report

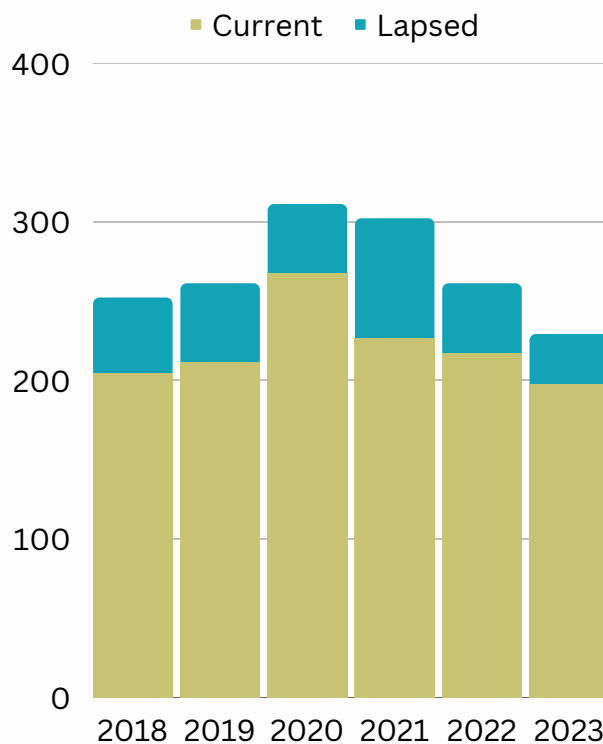
by Retta Bruegger

Temporary Membership Chair



We have 197 total members, which is down from 217 in the last newsletter. The strongest decline is among young professional members and students. Forty of our members chose CSSRM as their secondary section, joining us from Hawaii, Alaska, Texas, New Mexico, Oregon, and beyond.

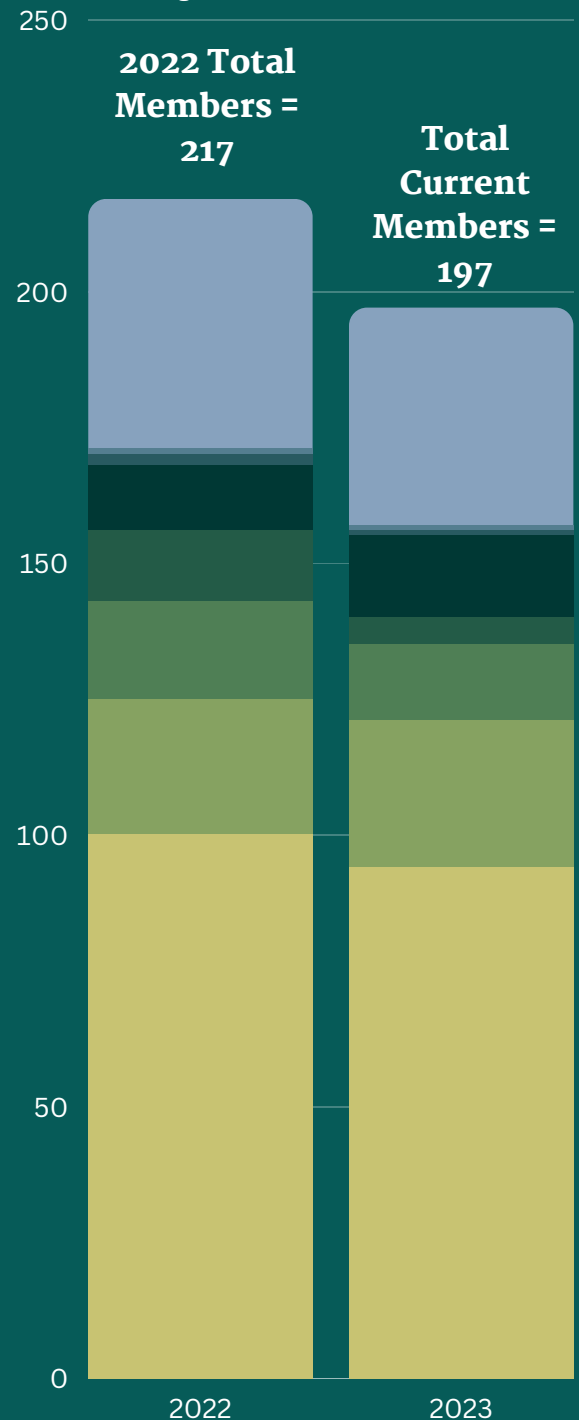
## Membership Totals (2018 - 2023)



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

## 2022-2023 CSSRM Membership by Category

- Regular & Family
- Life Legacy & Family
- Young Professional
- Student
- Emeritus
- Commercial
- Comp or Life
- Reg, as an additional section



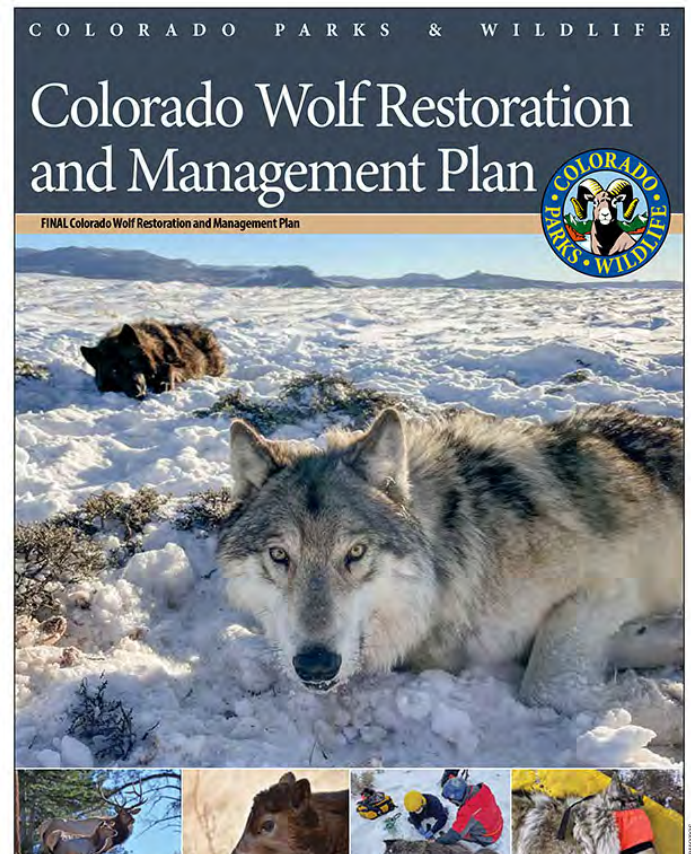
# Wolf Plan Update

## WOLF RESTORATION & MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVED BY CPW

By [Matt Barnes](#), Former CSSRM President & Stakeholder Advisory Group member

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission unanimously approved the Colorado Wolf Restoration and Management Plan on May 3. The plan was developed by CPW with input from a Technical Working Group, comprised mostly of agency personnel from other states with wolves; and a Stakeholder Advisory Group, comprised of ranchers, outfitters, hunters, and wildlife advocates. It is likely that the plan will be revised in a few to several years.

The plan attempts to balance the interests of ecological restoration with uses like hunting and ranching. Stakeholder group members agreed that while none of the stakeholders got everything they wanted, they could all live with the plan. For example, all members agreed that there should be both a livestock conflict minimization program and compensation, although not on all details of those programs. Wolf advocates agreed that ranchers should be able to defend their livestock.



### **The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission unanimously approved the Colorado Wolf Restoration and Management Plan on May 3**

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has ultimate authority as long as the gray wolf is listed under the Endangered Species Act. The USFWS is in the process of developing an experimental population designation under section 10(j) of the ESA, at the request of and paid for by the state of Colorado. The proposed 10(j) rule grants management flexibility to the state, including provisions for non-lethal and lethal take in cases of wolf-livestock conflict. The 10(j) process is well underway, with a public comment period already completed and a final rule expected by December.

Continued on next page.

# Wolf Plan Update, Continued

Reintroductions are planned for the winter months and are scheduled to begin by December 31, 2023, as required by state law.

Release sites will be in western Colorado, at least 60 miles from a state line or Indian Reservation boundary; but it is expected that wolves will eventually recolonize much of the Southern Rocky Mountains.

## The 2023 Colorado General Assembly passed three wolf-related bills.

The **Born to be Wild** license plate (HB23-1265) will fund on-the-ground conflict minimization projects. The plate creates a mechanism for money to flow uphill, so to speak, from wolf supporters to the ranchers and rural communities who will live with them. We hope that this is one of the ways in which Colorado will be different from other states.

A livestock compensation fund (SB23-255) has been formally created to implement the CPW compensation plan. The Game Damage program already pays compensation for livestock loss to black bears and mountain lions--something that most states don't have.



## The "Born to be Wild" license plate (HB23-1265) will fund on-the-ground conflict minimization projects

A bill preventing reintroduction unless the federal 10(j) rule is complete (SB23-256) also passed. The Colorado Department of Natural Resources, CPW, the TWG, the SAG, and even many of the pro-wolf NGOs support the 10(j) rule.

However, it was widely noted that this bill might delay the reintroduction, because it would significantly change the legal landscape on which the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the 10(j) rule is based, by rendering the no-action alternative (state-led reintroduction of a fully protected species) moot. The DNR testified against the bill. The Governor vetoed the bill, noting that it would create the problem that it was intended to solve. The administration is pressing the USFWS to complete the 10(j) rule on schedule.

# Scholarships Applications Due

APPLICATIONS DUE  
MAY 26TH

By Alix Emslie  
Scholarship Committee Chair

The Colorado Section of Society of Rangeland Management has their CSU Scholarship application open.

Applications are due May 26th, 2023.

We have two scholarship programs.

## **CSU Undergraduate Scholarship (\$1,000)**

a) Be a junior or senior in good standing (full- or part-time) at Colorado State University for the 2023-2024 academic year enrolled in an SRM-accredited rangeland major or minor.

b) Have earned a cumulative college GPA of 3.0 or higher.

## **CSSRM “Passion Project” Grant (Up to \$1,000)**

This program is designed to support any individual with a project or interest related to Colorado rangelands. Graduate students, career professionals, producers and the interested public are all invited to share their vision for what they would like to accomplish with the help of the grant. Possible projects include research; attending grazing schools or other producer trainings; professional development or continuing education; hosting educational events or creating educational materials for others; or the arts. If the need is less than \$1,000, please specify the need in the letter.



Learn more about the scholarship program at [www.cssrm.org/scholarships](http://www.cssrm.org/scholarships)

Application is included in this newsletter

# Range Notes for Practitioners Working with Horse Owners

By [Dixie Crowe](#), CSSRM President Elect  
and NRCS Rangeland Management  
Specialist

There is guidance in Colorado regarding Animal Carcass Disposal put in place in November 2015. Horse carcasses are considered solid waste and must be disposed of in compliance with the Colorado Solid Waste Act. For a horse to be buried on private property, there are several things to keep in mind such as soil type, depth of burial, consideration of ground water impact, but most importantly distance to any residence must be at least one mile. For more details, please follow this link [Animal carcass disposal guidance \(colorado.gov\)](#) and share with your clients and local veterinarians.

Second, horses are primarily humanely euthanized with sodium pentobarbital, aka euthanasia fluid. Research studies into the fate of sodium pentobarbital in soil indicates that whether the animal is buried above ground (aka composted) or buried directly in the soil this drug does not break down or become less lethal over as long as 180 days. [Research: Fate of Euthanasia Drugs During Equine Mortality Composting \(equimanagement.com\)](#).



While many Colorado veterinarians recommend burials to protect scavengers and even pets from being poisoned, the high permeability of some soils along with the fate of this drug is not often considered. Quick lime mentioned in the Colorado document helps bind nitrogen leaching out of the carcass as it breaks down into the soil but does not impact the drug.

As range practitioners working with clients on ever-decreasing acreages, it is important to consider where burial sites are in relation to neighbors, ground water flow, wells, and wetlands. Web Soil Survey can help you determine the soil permeability and Google Earth Pro has a measuring tool that makes it simple to determine distances to water, wells, and residences. Some landfills will take carcasses for disposal removing potential liability from your client. It is also important to find out what local laws are in place where you work.



## Colorado Section Society for Range Management

# 2023-2024 Scholarship and Grant Application

CSSRM is pleased to announce that it is accepting applications for a 2023-2024 academic year undergraduate college scholarship (\$1,000 each) and the CSSRM “Passion Project” Grant (up to \$1,000).

Scholarship FAQs may be found at [www.cssrm.org/scholarships](http://www.cssrm.org/scholarships)

Requests for additional information should be submitted via email to: [cssrm.scholarships@gmail.com](mailto:cssrm.scholarships@gmail.com)

A pdf of this application is available at [www.cssrm.org/scholarships](http://www.cssrm.org/scholarships)

### Eligibility—Three Separate Opportunities

Please ‘check’ the boxes to indicate which scholarship you are applying for.

- CSU Undergraduate Scholarship** (\$1,000)
  - a) Be a junior or senior in good standing (full- or part-time) at Colorado State University for the 2023-2024 academic year enrolled in an SRM-accredited rangeland major or minor.
  - b) Have earned a cumulative college GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- CSSRM “Passion Project” Grant** (Up to \$1,000)

This program is designed to support any individual with a project or interest related to Colorado rangelands. Graduate students, career professionals, producers and the interested public are all invited to share their vision for what they would like to accomplish with the help of the grant. Possible projects include research; attending grazing schools or other producer trainings; professional development or continuing education; hosting educational events or creating educational materials for others; or the arts. *If the need is less than \$1,000, please specify the need in the letter described below.*

### Application

Submit the following documents via Email:

- Completed application form (*both pages of this PDF*)
- A resume or Curriculum Vitae
- Academic scholarships
  - 1) a letter of 500 words or less describing the applicant’s interest in rangelands and their short- and long-term goals as they pertain to their professional career.
  - 2) Official copy of college academic transcript
- “Passion Project” Grant program—a letter describing your proposed project or activity in 500 words or less. A short video explaining the project is an acceptable alternative to a letter.

### Submission of Application

Email completed applications no later than May 26, 2023 to:

[cssrm.scholarships@gmail.com](mailto:cssrm.scholarships@gmail.com).

### Announcement of Awards

The recipients will be announced by June 15.

*Scholarship recipients will be notified via email. Awarded funds for undergraduate scholarship will be paid directly to the student’s school in the fall (Requests for exemption to this requirement may be submitted to the CSSRM Board of Directors). The scholarship is to be used the year it is awarded.*

*The decisions of the CSSRM Scholarship Committee are final and not subject to appeal. CSSRM reserves the right to not award any or all of the aforementioned scholarships.*





## Colorado Section Society for Range Management

# 2023-2024 Scholarship and Grant Application

### Personal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Undergraduate or Graduate Student Applicants

School you plan to attend this fall \_\_\_\_\_

College GPA \_\_\_\_\_ High School GPA \_\_\_\_\_ (Incoming freshman applicants only)

### Application Deadline

**May 26, 2023**

If you have questions, please email [cssrm.scholarships@gmail.com](mailto:cssrm.scholarships@gmail.com)

### Additional Requirements

*Academic scholarship recipients will be asked to provide a brief biography and explanation of their career aspirations as they pertain to rangelands for use in the CSSRM newsletter.*

*Passion Project grant recipients will be required to provide a brief article with pictures for use in a CSSRM newsletter. The article should illuminate the nature of the project or activity, how the funds were used, and key 'take home' messages as they relate to Colorado Rangelands.*

### About the Colorado Section Society for Range Management

*CSSRM members are land managers, scientists, educators, students, producers, and conservationists—a diverse membership guided by a professional code of ethics and unified by a strong land ethic. To find out more about CSSRM, visit [www.cssrm.org](http://www.cssrm.org).*

*The Society for Range Management welcomes, encourages, affirms, and values the participation and inclusion of all individuals with an interest in rangelands regardless of race, color, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, national origin, culture, educational status, disabilities, emerging ideas and perspectives, or socio-economic status. We vigorously strive to eliminate implicit bias and reject discrimination and stereotyping within the society by proactively fostering tolerance, mutual respect, and multicultural awareness and competency by actively promoting inclusion in membership, education & training, competition, leadership, committees, staff, and all other areas of SRM activity.*

*Information about SRM, including how to become a member, is available at [www.rangelands.org](http://www.rangelands.org).*