



The Range Rider

Society for Range Management – Colorado Section Newsletter

Volume 70, Number 2

Spring/Summer 2020

A Message From Our President

By Joshua Tashiro

Hello All. I hope you are all doing well and staying safe during these times. We had a great time at our joint fall meeting with the Wyoming Section. Over 115 people showed up, including over 30 students from, CSU, UW, and Sheridan College, who were all able to take part in our practice plant ID and URME exams. We had several speakers present some valuable information and insights for the future. In the morning, Dallas Mount with Ranch Management Consultants spoke to us. Then in the



afternoon, we started out with Becky Boling CSU Climatologist/Drought Specialist. Our SRM Young Professionals Conclave representative Averi Reynolds spoke to the group and informed the students of the continued support they can receive as they graduate. Niels Hansen, Mark Goertel, & Chery Newberry spoke to us about outcome-based grazing with the BLM. Then to tie it all together we had our Young Producer Panel with Sage Askin, Maggie Hanna, Shanon Sims, Will Johnson and Andrea Leininger, answer and discuss a handful of questions from a young person's perspective of ranching in the future. I want to thank all of our speakers for taking the time out of their busy schedules to join us. I also want to thank our sponsors/vendors and the Little America Hotel; without all of them this wouldn't be possible. I want to congratulate our awardees again. Reeves and Betsy Brown on their award in excellence in Rangeland Conservation and Nick Padilla and Sami Dinar as our Outstanding Young Professionals. Then to Maria Fernandez-Gimenez for the Outstanding Publication and lastly to Josh Saunders as our Trail Boss Award winner.

The plans for the summer technical field day were set, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have pushed the field day to a later date. We will keep you posted on the details. The Brown's are excited to have everyone out to see the sites. The field day will be also be jointly held with the Colorado Chapter of Soil and Water Conservation Society.

I again just want to thank everyone for their help with putting on the 2019 annual meeting and the International meeting in Denver. Also, a big shout out to the Wyoming Section for partnering with us on both events and their help. Please just stay safe and healthy and keep your eye on the horizon.

CSSRM Representatives

The following CSSRM representatives can be contacted for more information on Section activities.

PRESIDENT:

Josh Tashiro
USDA-NRCS
Canon City, CO
719-315-3421
Joshua.tashiro@usda.gov

PRESIDENT ELECT:

Emmett Jordan
Briggsdale, CO
303-877-0791
Emmett@emmettjordan.com

PAST PRESIDENT:

Clare Hydock
USFS
Delta, CO
970-852-9791
Clare.hydock@usda.gov

SECRETARY

Baili Foster
NRCS
Steamboat Springs, CO
970-581-5271
Baili.foster@gmail.com

TREASURER

Lana Pearson
USDA-NCRS
Pueblo, CO
719-740-0741
Lana.pearson@usda.gov

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

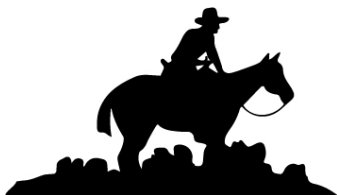
Andrea Leininger

Courtney Hurst

Julie Larson

Sara Koeppel

Alexis Emslie



2019 CSSRM

Committees and Chairs:

Youth Activities

Ben Berlinger

Information & Education

Randy Reichert

University Student Affairs

Troy Ocheltree

Membership

Kathleen Delzell

Investments

Joe Brummer

Awards

Julie Elliott

Webmaster

Nakayla Lestina, Retta Brueger, and Josh Tashiro

Historian

Josh Tashiro

Annual Meeting

Emmett Jordan

Nominations & Elections

Clare Hydock

Budget

Clare Hydock

Newsletter

Bianca Bonizio and Clare Hydock

Know of anyone not getting the newsletter?
Have them update their email address in their
membership profile on <http://rangelands.org>.

SRM Society for
Range Management



A Message From Our Past President

Clare Hydock, Past President

April 16, 2020

First Quarter Happenings

It's been a whirlwind of a year so far, hasn't it? Mine started with a trip to Florida in January to visit family. Highlights included warm weather, walks along the beach, kayaking, and a trip to the Naples Zoo to see their honey badgers! Very few zoos have them, so this was a real treat. I highly recommend seeing them if you're near a zoo that has them. Of course, seeing them in the wild would be preferable but...



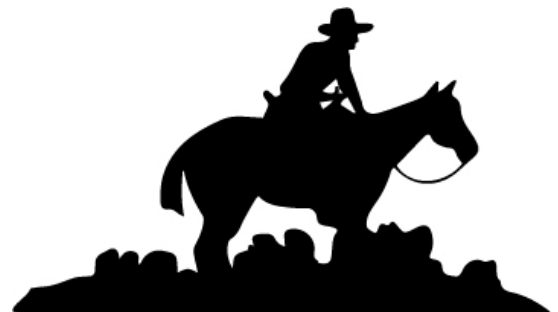
Honey badger at the Naples Florida Zoo.



Clare Hydock with the iconic Naples Zoo Toucan that greeted visitors to the Florida zoo for decades before a new entrance was installed. Residents were outraged that the zoo was going to throw this away, but a compromise was reached, and the toucan lives on!

February took many of us to Denver where the Wyoming and Colorado Sections had a successful annual meeting packed full of something for everyone; from the kid's room to companion tours, plenary sessions to campfire chats, student competitions to Bridging the Gap, from the Trade Show to the Producer's Forum & Range Practicum, and from lunch on your own to the wonderful meals provided by our vendors! This was quite the accomplishment for our Sections, and I want to sincerely thank everyone who helped plan and implement it. Many thanks to all the presenters, vendors and attendees as well. We could not have done it without you!

If you made it to the annual meeting, I hope you've taken the time to fill out the evaluation survey. It's available on the SRM home page at <https://rangelands.org/srm-2020-annual-meeting-survey/> Please take a few moments to share your thoughts in order to help future meeting planners.



Annual Elections

Continued from page 3

One of my duties as Past President is serving as chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee and I need members for this fall's election! The Committee is made up of at least two CSSRM members, so I need at least one more person (you won't be eligible to run for any position this year, however). If you'd like to join me on this committee please let President Josh Tashiro know so he can appoint you, per our bylaws (joshua.tashiro@usda.gov).

What's expected of the Committee? We're to develop a list of candidates for CSSRM officers; a President-Elect and two members of the BOD. The Committee then prepares the ballots, sends them out to the membership for voting and reports the results to the President. It's easy-peasy, right?! Please consider joining me on the committee. I could really use your help.

I'd like to take this opportunity to call for nominations for those three positions. To see descriptions of each, the duties and responsibilities and the bylaws go to <http://www.cssrm.org/meet-your-board.html> and scroll to the bottom of the page. Please consider running for one of these positions. It's a great way to serve the Section, learn some leadership skills and to get to know other members better. You won't be on your own here; past officers are always willing to help guide you as are current officers. And as the saying goes: if I can do it, anyone can!

Our outgoing board members this fall are Andee Leininger and Courtney Hurst who have done a great job for our section. Please join me in thanking them for their service. You can run again, ladies (hint, hint!). Our bylaws allow people to serve two consecutive terms before requiring a one-year break before serving again. Seriously though, I appreciate all the help that Andee and Courtney have given us; helping with Section meetings and the Annual Meeting, filling in as secretary, revising the Strategic Plan, running the photography contest, serving on committees and the unique perspective each one brought to our board meetings. My sincere thanks.

Budget

I serve as chair of the Budget Committee with the responsibility of developing next year's budget with assistance from BOD members and others as requested. The proposed budget gets submitted to the BOD for approval at the annual meeting. I could use some help on this committee too. If you're a numbers person, have experience developing budgets, or wants to learn how, please let me know. The more brains at the table, the better!

If you have potential expenses for next year, please get me that information and I'll plug it into the proposed budget. I'll send another reminder as the fall meeting gets closer.

Final Thoughts

We know what March & April brought us as the COVID epidemic became a pandemic and a Stay at Home Order was issued & then extended. I hope everyone is staying healthy and safe and I'm so terribly sorry if you have lost loved ones. Losing someone and grieving that loss is difficult enough under "normal" circumstances and must be unbearable under these; not being there to say goodbye, not grieving alongside family and friends, nor to give your loved one a proper service. Our hearts go out to you.

Clare Hydock, Past President

A Message from Our President Elect

By Emmett Jordan

Planning for the 2020 Colorado Section Annual Meeting has been under development for some time, including extending existing relationships with WSARE and new partnerships with the Colorado State Land Board, West Greeley Conservation District and Pawnee Buttes Seed. The goals for the meeting have been to build on the Section's tradition of outstanding meetings through an emphasis on bringing together a diverse audience for conversation, exchange of ideas, fellowship and celebrations of excellence in all things range—a chance to see old friends and make new ones. Given the uncertainties and concerns we all share about future gatherings, concurrent plans are also being considered to reinvent the Annual Meeting as a virtual experience with similar goals. Please watch your inbox during May and June for more details. Also, please don't hesitate to reach out to me with ideas, questions, or concerns about the event (303.877.0791 mobile, emmett@emmettjordan.com).

Lessons from Pastoralists for the Time of COVID-19

María Fernández-Giménez, SRM Board Member

A year ago, in May 2019, I was in the midst of a multi-country adventure in Spain and Morocco, following herders and their flocks as they moved from their winter pastures in the lowlands to their high mountain summer ranges. We often think of pastoralists, like ranchers, as isolated independent actors. Yet transhumant herders, who move long distances with their herds, are acutely aware of their interdependence—with each other, the farmers whose fields they graze in winter, the villagers whose towns they pass through, the buyers who purchase their animals. Reciprocity and mutual aid are guiding principles for these women and men. The farmer who lets the passing flock graze a fallow field and rest under shady oaks receives a Christmas lamb. The pastoralists of one county who welcome flocks fleeing drought or a winter storm in another know they can expect the same treatment when they find themselves in disaster's path. They know their fates are intertwined, so they tend the bonds between them carefully.

In this COVID-19 time, our own interdependence has never been so clear. My health depends on the actions of all my family, friends and co-workers. My behavior contributes to the well-being or ill-health of everyone in my community. This time also highlights how different parts of our food system are connected and who is most vulnerable. As meat packing plants close, hamburger shortages loom, and cattle prices dive, I reflect on the role of range livestock producers and the many other workers in our food system. Agricultural workers are essential workers, including ranchers, but also ranch hands, sheep herders, stockyard and packing plant workers, and farm workers. We have seen how sickness of packing plant workers, among the most vulnerable people in our supply chain, affects the entire food system. As a rangeland social scientist, my work often focuses on ranchers or pastoralists, and how their decisions are shaped by and affect the environment. COVID-19 causes me to think more broadly about how a ranch and the people on it connect to our wider food system. What does this connection and interdependence mean for me as a consumer, a researcher, a rangeland professional, a concerned citizen?

Like so much else, I don't have the answer, but one thing I know. It behooves us to behave as though our actions affect the well-being of our whole community. I also see an opportunity for SRM members to reflect and to connect with a wider circle of people we depend upon for our food and health, as well as those who rely on rangelands for all they provide, often without realizing it. The lesson from pastoralists is: we can't afford to disregard how we are all connected. We never know when we may need a neighbor's help, so we should offer our help when the neighbor needs it. In our food system, this may mean buying direct from producers, advocating for safe working conditions and health care for agricultural workers, or doing our part to stay home and cover our faces when we must go out. The land is resilient and so are we.

Update from CSU Range Club

By Alexis Emslie & Amanda James

The Colorado State University Forest and Rangeland Stewardship Department and the CSU Range Club were well represented at the SRM Denver annual meeting. Undergraduate members were able to participate in the URME (Undergraduate Range Management Exam) and Plant ID. As a team we placed 6th overall in URME, we are very proud of our students. Two students were given job offers through the NRCS direct hire event. Graduate students presented posters, an ignite session, and a symposium. The CSU Range Club hosted a table at the tradeshow and sold t-shirts, stickers and plant mounts to raise funds for next year's SRM travel budget. The final day of SRM held a practicum event that was a highlight for many students. It was a hands-on learning experience to perform skills such as mule packing, soil ribboning, low stress livestock management, controlled burns, and much more.



In the fall, we were able to complete several fundraising events such as Henderson mill, an annual wetland restoration, and the Kiowa range monitoring trip. We attended the CSSRM meeting in Cheyenne and participated in a mini URME. This spring semester got cut short, but we are excited to start back up in the fall. We would like to thank everyone that supported us at both the CSSRM and the Denver 2020 SRM. Our club greatly appreciates the continual support from everyone in the rangeland community.

High School Youth Benefit from Range Management Forum in Denver

By Ben Berlinger, Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management, Youth Activities Chair

The Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management (SRM) was well represented at the 2020 High School Youth Forum (HSYF) held in Denver on February 16-20, 2020. The HSYF is an integral part of the SRM annual meeting. This year there were 22 delegates representing 11 of the SRM Sections. During the Forum, high school youth from all parts of the western United States and Canada attended an ecological field tour and were invited to participate and interact among the various professionals and college students attending the meeting.

This year the Colorado Section SRM sponsored three delegates to Denver. **Daisy Medina of Rocky Ford FFA, Braden Wedel of the Stratton FFA, and Austin March of Fowler FFA** were selected to participate in the SRM Forum. (See picture below). All three delegates were chosen based on their exceptional achievements in rangeland management programs, and specifically based on their high individual scores on ecological site judging & plant identification at the *Eastern Colorado State FFA rangeland judging Career Development Event (CDE)*.

The goals of the HSYF are to recognize youth for outstanding accomplishments in range management activities and to provide young people the opportunity to discuss rangelands, career options, and meet with leaders in the field of range management. One requirement of the HSYF is that each delegate must write a paper and then present an illustrated talk on some aspect of rangeland conservation or grazing management.

Daisy's presentation was titled ***Managing the Rangeland of the Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site.***

Daisy talked about the range management practices being implemented on Fort Carson's Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site located south of La Junta. She emphasized that proper management of the rangeland is important to maintaining this fragile environment so that the necessary training of our military can continue.

Braden was honored with FOURTH PLACE in the paper presentation contest at the SRM awards ceremony for his presentation! (See picture below). His presentation was titled ***A Case Study of the Livingston Ranch: 2019 Leopold Conservation Award Recipient.***

Braden highlighted the Livingston Ranch located in Kit Carson County where he lives. He talked about the holistic range management being implemented on the ranch and how it is making the ranch more profitable. He emphasized that the Livingston's have shown how good range management practices can improve the land for ranchers, cattle and wildlife.

Austin was honored with FIFTH PLACE in the paper presentation contest at the SRM awards ceremony for his presentation! (See picture below). His presentation was titled ***Wild Horses on the Range.***

During his presentation Austin talked about the history of wild horses in North America. He emphasized that today, due to legislation that protects wild horses on federal rangelands, the over population of wild horses has resulted in degraded rangeland and unhealthy horses. He concluded that the population of these feral horses must be managed to maintain a healthy ecosystem while protecting and maintaining healthy wild horses.

All three of their papers can be viewed at the CO Section's website at www.cssrm.org/. The **Colorado Section SRM** congratulates Daisy, Braden, and Austin for their outstanding achievements in range management and wishes them the best as they further pursue their ambitions in the field of natural resource management. Contact Ben Berlinger (719-469-3895), Youth Activities Chair for more information about the SRM High School Youth Forum.



(Left to Right) **Daisy Medina, Braden Wedel, and Austin Marsh.** These three High School youth represented the Colorado Section SRM at the 2020 SRM High School Youth Forum held in Denver on February 16-



(Left to Right) Braden Wedel and Austin Marsh display their fourth and fifth place awards respectively for their presentations on range management at the SRM annual meeting in Denver. Their plaques were presented at the awards ceremony during the conference.

The inaugural Range Practicum: A Hands-on Land and Livestock Training

By: Matt Barnes, SRM 2020 Range Practicum Co-chair and Past President, Colorado Section

The inaugural Range Practicum brought lifelong learners from around the West to develop hands-on land and livestock skills at the National Western Complex in Denver on February 20. Ranchers, range managers, scientists, conservationists, and students tried their hand at low-stress livestock handling, horse and mule packing, prescribed burning, soil texturing, and pesticide sprayer calibration. They observed a wild horse demonstration and state-of-the-art reclamation equipment.

The event, the first of its kind, was part of the Society for Range Management annual meeting.

“Our dedicated team spent almost two years in preparation, and to see the results unfold before our eyes with 200 plus engaged range professionals from students to producers to land managers gaining take-home, on-the-ground knowledge made the effort more than worthwhile,” said Practicum co-chair Randy Reichert, of T&R Ranch LLC in Colorado. “I firmly believe we have created a new, valuable tool for fulfilling the SRM mission of equipping range professionals with the knowledge and skills to utilize and preserve the that vast resource: the American rangelands.”

“The hands-on portion of the range practicum allowed participants a chance to really engage with the presenters,” said Practicum co-chair Thad Berrett, a rangeland management specialist on the Bighorn National Forest and president of the Wyoming Section. “Attendees lined up for a chance to tie a manty and load it onto a live mule or to step into the Bud Box and put in place the skills of low-stress livestock handling they just learned from Whit Hibbard.”

“To successfully implement a range management plan, we need manageable cattle that we can easily gather, drive and settle anywhere we want as a herd, that will stay where we put them, and that don’t hang in the lowlands and grub out the riparian areas,” said Hibbard, a fourth-generation rancher, and editor of the *Stockmanship Journal*. *The hands-on session followed the fourth Stockmanship Symposium, a series in which the SRM brought together leading practitioners to teach the method and explore applications of low-stress herding, including improving livestock performance and grazing distribution, and preventing predation.*

The horse and mule packing was a clear favorite of participants, who became familiar with stock, equipment and tack, and essential knots. The Shoshone National Forest range staff taught how to make and balance loads with both panniers and manties—the large pieces of canvas that packers use to wrap their cargo, and which also become tents and bedrolls. “It was a great opportunity to gain knowledge and hands-on skills in field and backcountry tasks related to rangeland management,” said instructor Jason Brengle, a rangeland management specialist. “Many of these traditional skills such as packing stock are slowly being lost.”

The wild horse demonstration featured humane methods for getting feral horses from the range to training and adoption. Sean Kelly and Megan Print from the Carson National Forest demonstrated their bait mare wild horse trap design and how its doughnut shape works for loading horses after they are caught. The team from the Mantle Ranch Adoption and Training Facility in Wyoming spent the rest of the day demonstrating initial training methods. They began with an untouched horse, demonstrating the first steps in gaining trust, and respect, while showing the development of a solid

bond and foundation with the horse. Steve Leonard of the BLM Wild Horse and Burro Program said that one of the mustangs was adopted.

In addition to livestock, participants also learned about the land, including soils and range monitoring. The soils training gave attendees an opportunity to look at the different soil horizons and to compare soil cores from several similar but different ecological sites. The discussion led by soil scientist Andy Steinert of the Natural Resources Conservation Service focused on water movement below the soil surface, soil structure, and soil texture. Attendees tested their own soil texturing skills.

Across the hall, Emily Kachergis and others from the BLM National Operations Center taught participants about range monitoring, including how terrestrial core indicator data are used to understand status and trend of BLM lands in a diversity of land management scenarios.

In the prescribed fire workshop with Great Plains Fire Science Exchange, attendees learned about benefits and challenges of prescribed fire, fire research in short grass prairie, equipment and crew for burning, as well as ranchers sharing burning techniques for private land. Attendees then ignited heading and backing fires using straw for fuel.

"Several students said it was the most valuable day of the SRM meeting for them and that they hope the event continues into future years as they are already looking forward to it at next year's SRM meeting," said Berrett. The annual meeting and training will be in Boise, Idaho in 2021 and Albuquerque, New Mexico in 2022.

CSU Range Club Monitoring Project

By Daniel Nosal

The CSU Range Club completed a monitoring project at the Malone Family Foundation ranch near Kiowa, Colorado on the weekend of October 5-6, 2019 to assist with club fund-raising. Six dedicated Range Club students took time out of their busy fall schedule to monitor six sites on the property. Permanent transect lines and grazing exclusion cages were installed at each site. Data was collected to estimate annual production, species composition, percent bare ground, percent litter, percent foliar cover, and percent basal cover. The students camped overnight on the property in a beautiful ponderosa pine setting. CSU Range Club co-presidents Amanda James and Alexis Emslie were instrumental in making this project happen. Assistance was provided by Dan Nosal, NRCS Rangeland Management Specialist and CSSRM member. The monitoring project planned again for this fall.



is

Keep One Eye on the Ground

Julie Larson, CSSRM Board of Directors

Greetings from one of your new CSSRM board members! I study rangeland ecology in Colorado's Front Range, focusing on the natural vegetation that supports cattle production and so many other local services. A big part of my work involves studying plants, so yes -- I suppose I'm what some might call a 'plant nerd'. I'm far from a botanist, but it's amazing to see the range of strategies that plants use in order to be pollinated, to make it through drought, or to persist with grazing pressure. Actually, I'd wager a bet that ANYONE who spends their time in rangelands has a pretty good shot of joining the plant nerd club, particularly with a little nudge towards some thoughtful observation.

My plant nerd factor went up a level when I started observing the same landscapes repeatedly (in some cases, every week for nearly 6 months). If you pause to take note of what appears on the ground with each visit, you start to see the land in a whole new way. There are plants blooming in April that have vanished by May; purple blooms give way to yellow, which give way to the dominating green of peak growing season. Anyone who is out on the land regularly will know what I mean -- it is a privileged bunch who get to witness just how dynamic the vegetation is. If you're keen to up your game, simply pause for a few minutes every time you go out to just observe -- what do you see? If you're keen to be a scientist, simply *record these observations* -- *write the date you first see a plant flowering, or snap a photo. Those records, my friends, are datapoints, and they are exactly what scientists spend all their time collecting!*

If you record these observations over time, you'll start to be able to answer all kinds of questions. Are things flowering around the same time this year? If they are earlier or later than usual, is there something in the weather or grazing record that might explain it? Am I seeing just as much flowering diversity now as I did a few years ago? These are questions that scientists (including myself) are asking, especially since flowering patterns could be a really good first indicator of changing vegetation and other rangeland services. If you keep records as a producer or an enthusiast, you could be contributing to science while also keeping track of the lands you love! Knowledge is power.

Plus, it's simply fun to keep discovering new things on the land. Learn the name of that favorite plant that you see every year (I recommend EasternColoradoWildflowers.com and SWColoradoWildflowers.com), snap a photo, start a log. As we're heading into May and June, we will see some of the most dramatic wildflowers emerging, so remember to keep one eye on the ground!



Membership Update for the Spring 2020 Newsletter

By Kathleen Delzell, Membership Chair

ACTIVE MEMBERS FOR 2020 - 222 Total with Colorado Section as their Primary Section

The total number of active members choosing Colorado as their primary section has increased, probably the effect of having the SRM Annual Meeting in Denver.

Regular Members & Family 105 (down 11 from last year)

Life Legacy & Family 26 (up one from last year)

Emeritus 14 (up three from last year)

Young Professionals 13 (up 10 from last year)

Students 33 (up 5 from last year; three were 2020 HS Youth Forum)

Commercial 2 (up one from last year)

International 1 (a different person from last year)

ACTIVE MEMBERS FOR 2020 - Additional Section members - 28 people from 15 states

The Allen Press report doesn't show category of membership for these folks, just that they have chosen to be in CSSRM as well as in their primary section.

Three of our Additional Section members actually live in Colorado. The others live in Arizona (1), California (1), Hawaii (2), Kansas (1), Montana (1), Nebraska (1), New Mexico (3), Oklahoma (1), Oregon (1), South Dakota (1), Texas (3), Utah (2), Washington (1), and Wyoming (6).

One of the New Mexico addresses is an "Institutional/Non-Profit" membership for an NPO based in Santa Fe.

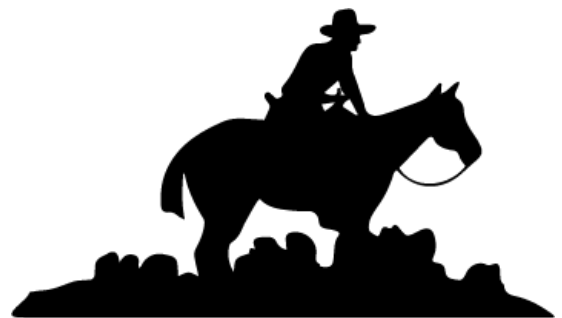
LAPSED MEMBERS - Not renewed for 2020 - Fewer people to contact this year

Allen Press' report for April 25 for our Section shows 50 "lapsed" members, that is, people who have not yet renewed their SRM membership for 2020. Last year at this time we started with 60 "lapsed" members.

This year we have already been able to contact sixteen of the 50, and know why they have not renewed. Twelve others of the 50 are students, and we will continue to try to obtain personal email addresses rather than university addresses. This might help transitioning to the Young Professional category.

I will report back to you in June. I am still on the SRM Membership Team lead by Gary Frasier, and my particular focus is working with Allen Press to develop a "section-membership-friendly" report. Allen Press is still upgrading their software, so changes are often requested, but put on hold until that is finished.

If you have any questions, please let me know [kmdelzell@gmail.com]. In the meantime, the Section's website (<http://www.cssrm.org/>) is your way to keep up with CSSRM in between newsletters and workshop/tours.



Colorado Section Award Nomination Criteria & Submissions

Please submit nominations to Julie Elliott, Awards Chair, by July 15, 2020!

Trail Boss Award

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. The nominee must be a member of the Colorado Section and SRM for the past five years. Past recipients are not eligible (please see www.cssrm.org for listing of past recipients).

When nominating a candidate, please include the following:

- Nominee name
- Qualifications
- Service to SRM, Colorado Section and other groups.
- Number of years as a member of SRM.
- Summary of nominee's accomplishments/contributions to range management and to the Colorado Section
- Nominator's name, address, and telephone number.
- A letter of recommendation from an additional SRM member.

Excellence in Rangeland Conservation Award

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. Membership in the Society is not required. The recipient will be requested to attend the Section Annual Winter Meeting to receive the award. Public announcement of the award will not be made until presentation at the Annual Winter Meeting.

When nominating a candidate, please include the following:

- Name of Nominee including address and phone number.
- Describe the reason the nomination is being submitted.
- A description of the operation including: name of operation, location, years of operation, size of operation, ownership of lands involved in the operation, goods and services that are produced on the operation.
- Describe the history of the operation. Include the condition of the land at the time the nominee began managing the operation and the land management problems/opportunities encountered in managing the operation
- Describe the rangeland conservation practices the nominee has implemented, particularly in the last five years. Relate how the practices addressed the conservation problems.
- List any natural resource or community organizations related to natural resources in which the nominee participates.
- Photos of operation are great. A slide presentation will be expected for the awards presentation.
- Nominator's name, address, and telephone number.

This award is to recognize outstanding performance in young men and women 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

Selection Criteria:

1. The primary criterion for this award is tangible evidence that the nominee's accomplishments demonstrate extraordinary potential and promise as a future leader in the range profession
2. Demonstration of leadership and professional potential may be in any facet of range management, including ranch management, agency employment, research and education.
3. Generally, demonstrated potential across a broad perspective is better than specialized attainments in a single area
4. A nominee's participation in Society activities, particularly at section level is desirable. Membership is not required
5. The nominee shall have not reached his or her 40th birthday by January 1st of the year the award is to be conferred.
6. A recipient of this award shall not be eligible to receive this award again

When nominating a candidate, please include the following

- Name of nominee including address & phone number
- Describe the reason he nomination is being submitted
- Service to Colorado Section SRM
- Number of years as a member of SRM
- Nominator's name, address & telephone number
- Optional—letter of recommendation

Outstanding Publication/Contribution Award

The award is to recognize: noteworthy scholarly, literary and aesthetic contributions and efforts in publicizing range management practices, philosophies and research activities. Only one outstanding publication/contribution award will be given per year—not one per category.

Selection Criteria:

1. The piece must have been published in a (1) scientific publication, (2) popular publication, (3) film or (4) special contribution to another media type.
2. Nominated publications must be published in two years prior to the nominate deadline.
3. Contributions may be directly relevant to Colorado rangelands, or to rangelands in general and published by a Colorado Section member. Individuals or groups are eligible. In the event of a group award, at least one of the members must be a Colorado section member.

When nominating a candidate, please include the following:

- Name of nominee including address and phone number
- A copy of electronic link to publication/media
- Number of years as a SRM member



By Chuck Butterfield and Julie Elliott, General CoChairs.

Way back in 2016 when this guy and his then graduate student Hailey



suggested taking the wheels off the bus that has always been the SRM Annual Meetings a lot of people thought it would end up like this.



Well because of a lot of people in the Colorado and Wyoming sections they got this!



The Wyoming and Colorado Sections of the SRM have set a new standard for the annual meetings and trainings. Hat's off and Thank you to the many, many people that dedicated 4 years of their lives to this effort.

This meeting broke new ground in numerous ways. There were hands on trainings at the Range Practicum. The podding of the posters so that people could cluster around like-minded folks. The daily plenaries with the awards embedded. Plenaries to make people think. And what about that tradeshow????? According to one of the very long-time participants it was the best ever for getting people into the trade show! (But he did think it went a day too long.) All of this happened while the hotel was undergoing renovations, but thanks to Kim Stine and a few really good hotel staff members it all worked out well.

The total of all registrants was 1614. This would include some duplication of people who attended the general meeting and the Practicum or Forum. Our Ministers of Finance and Kelly are still sorting out the bills, but it looks like the two sections will each take home \$25,000 at a minimum. With a little luck, we will have the final numbers by the time you are reading this article.

The Range Practicum was absolutely amazing. For too long we have watched videos of Low Stress Animal Handling, this year people got hands on training from Whit Hubbard. The Region 2 & 4 Forest Service packers enhanced many a students' opportunities for employment. The BLM and Forest Service wild horse teams along with the Mantle Ranch provided demonstrations on how to begin the training of wild horses. The BLM and NRCS teamed up to provide hands-on trainings on vegetation monitoring and soils horizonation. Women in Ranching were featured in the Producers Forum, with Colorado's own Julie Sullivan being one of the speakers. Folks put some fire on the ground and featured ranchers that have their own prescribed fire programs.

New as well were the Campfire talks, intended to tap the membership of the SRM to help guide rangeland policy, science, and progress. New too were Ignite talks, intended to allow quick information delivery while providing time for many people to be able to interact with presenters rather than a few. Bridging the Gap returned to link students, young professionals and older professionals.

The Trade Show was the centerpiece for collaboration, knowledge sharing and connecting. Trade Show food was really good and as normal disappeared pretty quickly. Entertainment was provided by Wyoming's own Tris Munsick and the Innocents.

Overall, the Wyoming and Colorado Sections hit it out of the park for SRM meetings. A lot of good friendships were formed between the two sections. General CoChairs Chuck Butterfield from Wyoming and Julie Elliott from Colorado want to extend our deepest gratitude to everyone involved in this adventure to Transform and Translate the science to rangeland management. Let's plan on doing this again in 10 years – just not at the Sheraton! Julie is already looking forward to it!

