

RANGE RIDER

Newsletter of the Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management

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Check it out:
<https://www.iyrp.info/>

Photo by Emmett Jordan

Colorado Section of SRM | cssrm.org

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Recently here in Grand Junction, a local brewer was alerted that their name is in copyright violation. They launched a search for a new name, inviting submissions from the public. Apparently, in the world of breweries it is extraordinarily challenging to find a name that some other brewery does not already have.

This caused me to start thinking of brewery names based on native plants. Based on my Google searches, there is currently no "Greasewood Brewing" nor a "Shadscale Brewing" nor a "Dropseed Brewing." I was not surprised. Many of our non-rangeland peers probably can name a few plants, but interest wanes quickly, and in my experience, any gray/blue/blue-green shrub is 'sagebrush.'

Range nerds are a unique subset of the population who, for whatever twist of fate, connection with livelihood, childhood experience, or random event, do know plants. We care so much about plants that we even get in fights about their names and how to manage them.

As a society, do we devalue things that we collectively do not see? Nathan Sayre writes in *Politics of Scale*, "what unifies rangelands is thus not so much a biospherical or "natural" characteristic as a social one: marginality. Just as they are residual in classification systems, rangelands are peripheral to other, more lucrative types of land, and the people who inhabit and use rangelands are often (although not always) socially marginalized as well" (Sayre, pg. 3).

An opportunity is on the horizon, however. On March 15, 2022, the United Nations designated 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists. This designation was a decade in the making, led by a team of people from around the world including Barb Hutchinson (member of the University of Arizona Rangelands Partnership team). The international year seeks to "raise awareness and advocate for the value of healthy rangelands and sustainable pastoralism, as well as advocate for the need to further build the capacity of and increase responsible investment in the pastoral livestock sector. This includes sustainable land management practices, improved or restored ecosystems, and equitable access to markets, livestock health and breeding." This is an opportunity to build excitement not only for rangeland plants, but for rangelands contributions to land, livelihoods, communities, and societies as a whole. I hope the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) will help raise the visibility and appreciation of rangelands. For more information about the IYRP, please visit <https://iyrp.info/>

I suggest you trademark your plant themed brewery names now. Take care out there,

Your President, Retta

Retta

SAVE THE DATE—2022 CSSRM ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 19-20

GOOD GRASS AND GROWING THE NEXT GENERATION

CSU ARKANSAS VALLEY RESEARCH CENTER

ROCKY FORD, CO

The meeting will focus on innovation in range, water, and livestock management practices and the young land managers and producers pioneering and using these techniques. An interesting lineup of speakers and topics is planned! A tour of the CSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory will be offered to early registrants.

The Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management (CSSRM) Board meeting will be on Tuesday, October 18 from 4:00-6:00 pm, at the Hampton Inn, La Junta. CSSRM Board meetings are open to all members, please join us if you can!

More information coming soon!

Photo by Kelsey Backiewicz

Arriving for the 2022 CSSRM Annual Meeting in Rocky Ford, Colorado. Photo from the Library of Congress
Colorado Section of SRM | cssrm.org

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SUMMER TOUR

It's not too late to register!

Holistic Ranching Joint Field Day



Luark Ranch
June 17, 2022
Burns, Colorado

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/excellence-for-rangeland-conservation-field-tour-tickets-311889358467>

Photo by Retta Bruegger

Colorado Section of SRM | cssrm.org

Holistic Ranching Joint Field Day

Excellence in Rangeland Conservation Award
and the BLM Sagebrush- Steppe Stewardship Award

Save the Date: June 17th, 9:30am- 3pm
Location: 2834 Luark Road, Burns, CO 80426



Colorado Section
Society for Range Management



EAGLE COUNTY
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

The **Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management (CSSRM)** and the **Eagle County Conservation District (ECCD)** are pleased to announce the **Reverse JL Bar Cattle Company** as the recipient of the **2021 Excellence in Rangeland Conservation Award** and the **BLM Sagebrush- Steppe Stewardship Award**. Learn how forest and rangeland health can be improved through active management that produces resiliency on the land and improve soil health and understory vegetation.

Wondering how virtual fencing really works?

Come to see how virtual fencing is being used to improve ranch infrastructure which facilitates the implementation of prescribed grazing management.



VENCE

Struggling with woody plant growth and management?

Observe sage grouse habitat management and pinyon-juniper control on BLM grazing allotment.



Have you heard of Saving Tomorrow's Agriculture Resources?

Join us to learn about the S.T.A.R. evaluation tool that focuses on building healthy soil for our farmers and ranchers to make our lands more resilient, efficient and profitable.

Please RSVP and Register to Attend

\$25 online registration to ECCD

Catered lunch included and multiple guest speakers!

EventBrite: [Register Here!](#) or

Or \$15 on-site (lunch not included)

Join us and learn from some of the best professionals in rangeland management. Collaborate, visit with participants and exchange ideas!



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service



Colorado
State
University
EXTENSION

BONUS SUMMER TOUR AND CAMPFIRE SOCIAL!

CSSRM Information and Education Committee Chair Randy Reichert, with help from Ben Berlinger and Emmett Jordan, is working with Don Hjar and Pawnee Buttes Seed on a two-day soil health and grazing management event. **The Thursday, August 18 session will be held at the Toedtli Ranch north of Stoneham, Colorado.**

Pawnee Buttes Seed Grass Tour August 18-19, 2022

Special features—

- Camping available on the ranch for CSSRM members
- BBQ lunch
- Soil pits
- **CSSRM-hosted Campfire Social** on the ranch immediately following the Thursday tour and featuring Colorado singer/songwriter Dennis Anderson
- **Friday events to be in the Ault, Colorado, area with a look at converting irrigated land to native grasses**

Music your thing? Bring your instrument to the social and join the fun!

Watch your email for updates and registration information.



Toedtli Ranch is a grazing-focused cow/calf and yearling operation at scale. Doug, Joe and Katey are involved with Ranching for Profit's Executive Link program and working to create triple bottom line success. This is a special opportunity to see one of northeast Colorado's most interesting ranch operations.



Joe Hatch (pictured) manages the ranch with his wife, Katey, and dad, Doug.

Photos by Ben Berlinger

CSSRM ANNUAL AWARDS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS DEADLINE: JULY 1, 2022

TRAIL BOSS

EXCELLENCE IN RANGELAND CONSERVATION
OUTSTANDING YOUNG RANGE PROFESSIONAL
OUTSTANDING PUBLICATION/CONTRIBUTION



Here's a chance to make somebody's day and shine a light on their good work. The awards criteria can be downloaded from https://www.cssrm.org/uploads/1/1/9/9/119955786/2022_srm_award_description.pdf

Nominations and questions can be emailed to Awards Chair Julie Elliott, julie.elliott@usda.gov.

CSSRM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

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. The president elect chairs the Annual Meeting Committee.

It could probably go without saying, but the cool stuff CSSRM has been doing—scholarships, grants, tours, youth activities, annual meetings, awards—only happens thanks to volunteers who serve as the Board members, appointed officers, committee members, and event staff.

Virtual meeting technology has made it easier than ever to be a part of the leadership group.

There are two Board seats and the president-elect role at election this year. Ready to get involved?

Questions? Nomination form? Please contact an Elections Committee member or other current Board member.

Emmett Jordan, chair, JordanCattleCo@gmail.com

Ben Berlinger, Ben.Berlinger@usda.gov

Dixie Crowe, Victoria.Crowe@usda.gov

Deadline for nominations: August 26, 2022

A link for electronic voting will be sent out via email and voting will take place during September 2022.

Board members will be installed at the Annual Meeting this fall.

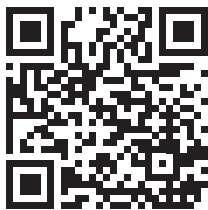
Wouldn't this be a good year to jump in?

Photo by Emmett Jordan

CSSRM SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

It's not too late to apply!

CSSRM College Scholarships and Passion Grant



Deadline: July 1

CSSRM is proud to announce it will be providing three scholarships in 2022-2023. The goal of this program is to support students, ranchers, and other professionals as they pursue academic programs and projects that benefit rangelands.

FAQs and application: <https://www.cssrm.org/scholarships.html>


Colorado Section Society for Range Management
2022-2023 Scholarship and Grant Application

CSSRM is pleased to announce that it is accepting applications for two 2022-2023 academic year undergraduate college scholarships (\$1,500 each) and the CSSRM "Passion Project" Grant (up to \$1,500).

Scholarship FAQs may be found at www.cssrm.org/scholarships

Requests for additional information should be submitted via email to: cssrm.scholarships@gmail.com

A pdf of this application is available at www.cssrm.org/scholarships

Eligibility—Three Separate Opportunities

Please "check" the boxes to indicate which scholarships you are applying for.

- ☐ **CSU Undergraduate Scholarship (\$1,500)**
a) Be a junior or senior in good standing (full- or part-time) at Colorado State University for the 2022-2023 academic year enrolled in an SRM-accredited rangeland major or minor.
b) Have earned a cumulative college GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- ☐ **Undergraduate Scholarship (\$1,500)**
a) Be a full- or part-time student at any Colorado college, junior college or trade school pursuing a career related to rangeland management.
b) Have earned a cumulative college GPA of 3.0 or higher. For incoming freshman, a cumulative high school GPA of 3.0 or higher is required.
- ☐ **CSSRM "Passion Project" Grant (up to \$1,500)**
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 \$1,500, 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 (for incoming freshman, a cumulative high school 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 July 1, 2022 to: cssrm.scholarships@gmail.com.

Announcement of Awards

The recipients will be announced by July 31. 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.

Revised 3-2022 Page 1 of 2

CAMP ROCKY

By: Ben Berlinger

CO Section SRM Youth Activities Chair


Camp Rocky is Colorado's premier outdoor natural resources management summer camp. This educational event is in its 58th year of providing hands-on learning about range, forest, wildlife, and soil conservation management to high school students. Camp Rocky is a program provided through the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts (CACD) and is supported by many of Colorado's conservation districts. This year's camp will be held July 10 through the 15. For registration information go to <https://www.coloradoacd.org/camprocky.html>.

The Colorado Section has been involved with Camp Rocky over the years by providing technical rangeland science and range management instruction as part of the teaching staff. The Section also provides input on the range management curriculum being taught at the camp. The CSSRM recognizes the top performing students in the range management discipline group with SRM belt buckles. CSSRM members that have been involved include Ben Berlinger, Dan Nosal, Josh Tashiro, and Kimberly Diller. From an historic perspective other CSSRM member input has included Harvey Sprock, Maria Fernandez-Gimenez, Roy Roath, Bob Hyde, Ralph Kotich, Dan Robinson and others. 🏔️



Photos courtesy of Ben Berlinger

CSSRM MEMBER FEATURED ON PBS

CSSRM member Rachel Turner and Nick Trainor, Colorado rancher and former NRCS staffer, were featured earlier this year on the PBS show Market to Market talking about holistic grazing management on the 24,000-acre Colorado State Land Board Lowry Ranch and the progressive lease relationship between the CSLB and Trainor Cattle Company. Check it out: <https://youtu.be/oWfLFTwxAE?t=467> 



Rachel Turner



Nick Trainor

The Colorado State Land Board owns and oversees 2.8 million acres of land in the State. Rachel manages the north-central district—more than 480,000 acres of agricultural, mineral, recreation, renewable energy and other leases.



IN REMEMBRANCE

Robert “Bob” W. Harris—Charter Member of SRM

October 4, 1918–March 25, 2008

Margie Fitzpatrick recently reached out to share some of her father's work and photographs with the CSSRM. A selection of his papers can now be found in our archive.

A member of the Greatest Generation, Robert W. Harris was born in Blue Earth County, Minnesota, at the close of WWI. His family relocated to South Dakota where he grew up during the lean years of the Dust Bowl and Great Depression. Later in life in a letter to a grandson, Bob shared that they ate a lot of cornmeal during this time because it was cheap—cornmeal mush for breakfast and fried cornmeal for dinner—and that Bob never did like cornmeal after that!

In the same letter, Bob shared that during the Depression he had to wear hand-me-down clothes—from his sister! Including “sweaters, jackets, and even shoes!”

When he was old enough, Bob went to work. Seeing the planting of farm shelterbelts in the ‘30s had instilled an interest in forestry. His parents had invested money for Bob to go to college, but the money had been lost in the “Black Tuesday” Stock Market Crash of 1929. He worked his way through undergraduate and graduate studies in South Dakota, Idaho and New York, studying conservation and forestry.

His career with USFS started in 1939 as a crew leader and smokechaser, but in 1942 he enlisted to serve his country in the United States Marine Corp. After Officer Candidate School, he was sent to study radar engineering at Harvard and MIT. He served in the Pacific Islands and China during WWII, obtaining the rank of Captain.

Bob and his college sweetheart, Joan Perkins, married in 1944 and after leaving the service, Bob abandoned his graduate school plans to focus on providing for his growing family.

He restarted his civilian career in Fort Collins as a range conservationist with the USFS. As with the Marines, his leadership skills and work ethic lead to numerous promotions and relocations, including Director of the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station in Oregon and the same position later in California. He finished his career in Washington, D.C., where he served as Associate Deputy for Research for the USFS.

His tenure in management was noted for increased diversity in hiring and his “let’s get on with it” work ethic.

During his career, he presented his research at conferences in Australia, England, and India in addition to locations across the United States. Among his many awards and recognitions, he was a distinguished Fellow of the Society of American Forestry and a recipient of the Outstanding Achievement Award from SRM in 1976.

A random sampling of his publications include: “Grazing Management Research in the Pacific Northwest” (1949), “Use of Aerial Photographs and Sub-Sampling in Range Inventories” (1951), “Management of Cattle on Summer Ranges” (1958), “Project Leaders, Research Managers and



Bob Harris circa 1960

Personnel Officers—Equal Partners in Research Leadership?” (1962), and “Effects of Cattle Grazing Methods on Ponderosa Pine—Bunchgrass Range in the Pacific Northwest (1976).

Bob was a charter member of SRM and served on a vast array of professional committees and boards throughout his career and in retirement.



From the editor—This brief tribute leaves much unsaid and important work unrecognized, but it has been an inspirational and humbling experience to read the chronicles of Bob's life. I would like to thank Margie Fitzpatrick for sharing memories of her father with the Section. If you'd like to read more or see some of Bob's papers, please contact Emmett Jordan or Joshua “JT” Tashiro.

If you would like to see someone from SRM celebrated in a future issue of the Range Rider, please reach out to one of the Board members with your suggestion or submission.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

By Kathleen Delzell, Membership Chair

Greetings from southern Colorado,

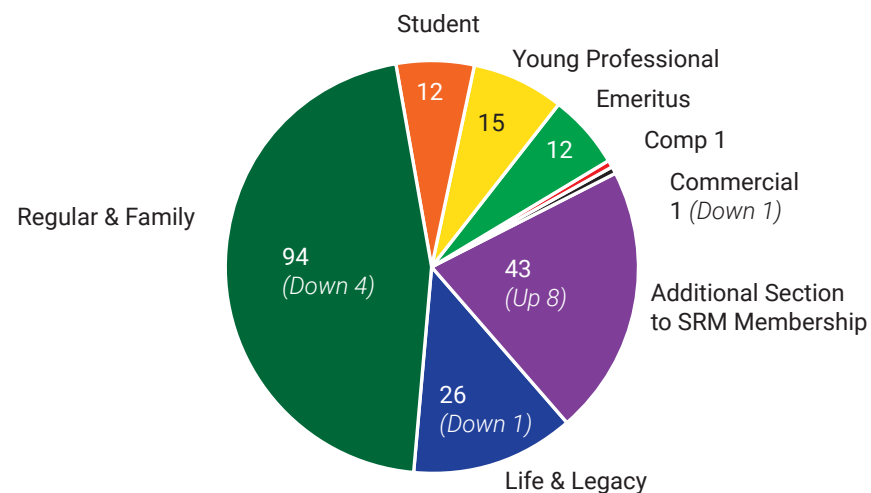
In last December's newsletter you saw the side-by-side for three months – September, October and November for 2020 and 2021. The numbers were about even at that time.

Here's a continuation of this data, ending with Allen Press' May 1st Colorado Section Report.

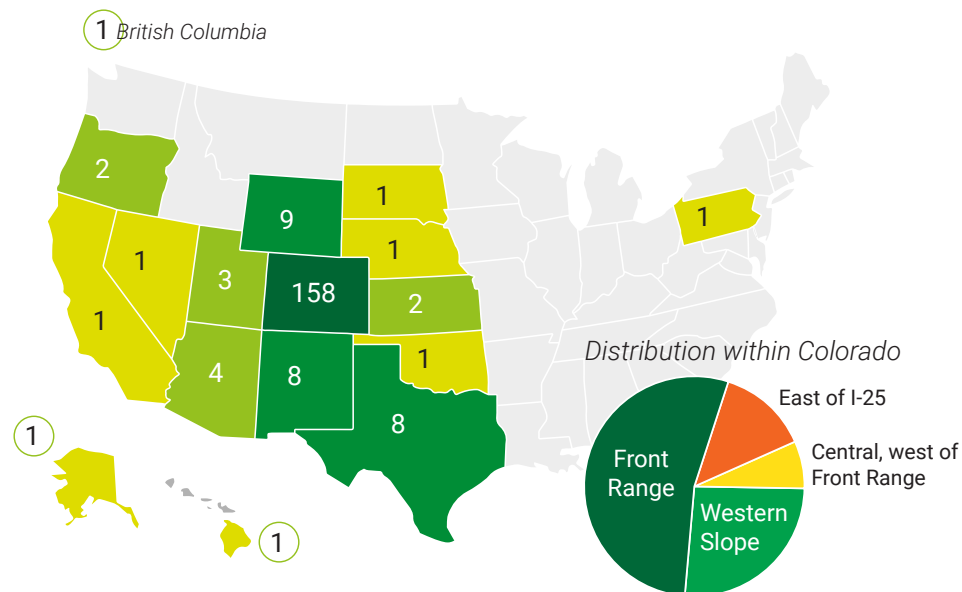
- » CSSRM receives annual payouts from SRM for every member—Primary or Additional—not counting Life or gratis memberships. These payouts are based on invoice date, and are on a calendar basis.
- » Most of our renewals are from current Colorado Section members.
- » But we also have returning members who have skipped a year or more in SRM membership, and
- » We have new-to-SRM members, as well as people moving from one section to another.

Month + # of renewals based on Invoice Date	Month + # of renewals based on Invoice Date
September 2020 – 3	September 2021 – 2
October 2020 – 2	October 2021 – 3
November 2020 – 2	November 2021 – 1
December 2020 – 45	December 2021 – 41
January 2021 56 includes 25 Life members	January 2022 65 includes 26 Life Members
February 2021 – 57	February 2022 – 21
March 2021 – 14	March 2022 – 3
April 2021 – 5	April 2022 – 12
May-August 2021 20 includes six college graduates given one-year Young Professional memberships	

Categories Of Members as of May 1st, 2022



Where Do CSSRM Members Live?



Continued on following page

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Lapsed Members

As of May 1st this year we had 59 members from 2021 who had not renewed for 2022. CSSRM Board Members, Baili Foster, Monica Klinger, and Dan Nosal, are helping me this month by contacting thirty-two of these, I've already contacted many of the others. One person really made my job easy: she wrote me last December that she was moving to Nebraska. So she's on our "lapsed" list, but I know why.

A few years ago SRM changed to a January 1-December 31 membership year; some of our members are used to renewing mid-year.

If you know anyone who dropped SRM for a while, keep them posted on what the Section is doing (Field Day/Tours; Annual Meeting in Rocky Ford). But tell them to wait and join in the Fall. Why wait until then? Because for new or returning members, memberships paid after September 1st go through to December of the following year! Extra months, no extra cost.

How Can You Help SRM?

SRM thrives as a community of folks who love rangelands. Invite people to join us. SRM's website—rangelands.org—is being revamped. Some information is still from last year, but the new webmaster is working hard to get the site current. There are brochures on that site that are also being updated, tri-folds intended for different audiences. Lots of different types of people are SRM members nowadays. Let folks know we exist. In my next report I'll give you as much demographic info as I can glean from the Section Reports.

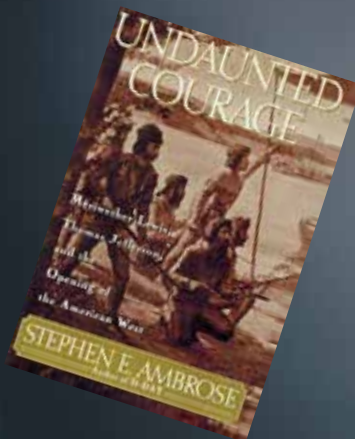


Photo by Emmett Jordan

READING THE RANGE



Editor's note—I asked a handful of people for reading recommendations—any book or other media that they have enjoyed and would share. Have a favorite book? Poem? Podcast? Please consider visiting the CSSRM Facebook page and posting a one-sentence recommendation: facebook.com/COSocietyforRangeManagement/



Undaunted Courage is a fascinating read both from the standpoint of the view that it provides of the western U.S. as it was first seen by the Lewis and Clark expedition, but just as importantly, it is a lovely description of the country.

—from William Woolston

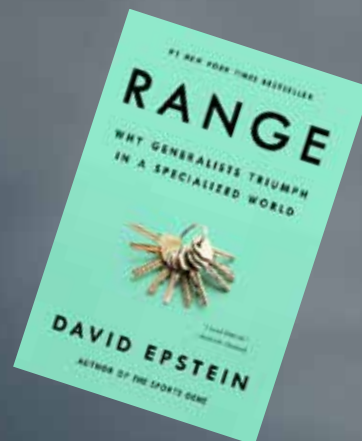
Video—

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=flrCNieOuul>

Hay is part of most cattle operations and I have always been intrigued by some of the old ways of doing things

—from Joe Brummer

Range: Why Generalists Triumph in a Specialized World
by David Epstein



The book highlights the importance of intellectual breadth in order to be effective in a specialty, even a specialized task like golfing. Decision-making and critical thinking depend on wide thinking, on having spent time in multiple spheres of knowledge, 'dancing across disciplines' he calls it. I highly recommend the book.

—from Tip Hudson



I love to listen to books on Audible and I relished "**The Four Winds**", a fictional novel by Kristen Hannah not once, but three times! It's a NY Times #1 best seller and it's well worth the read. Takes place in the 1930s during the Dust Bowl and Hugh Hammond Bennett has a cameo appearance!

—from Cindy Lair

The Politics of Scale: A History of Rangeland Science

by Nathan Sayre

—from Retta Bruegger

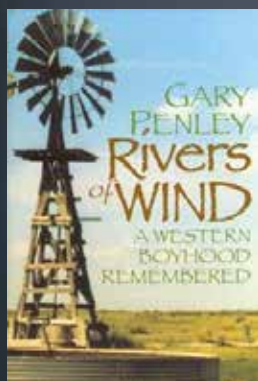
Song—

<https://youtu.be/QtiiajDj6q4>

Buffalo Grass by Chris Ledoux

—from Emmett Jordan

READING THE RANGE *Continued*



Rivers of Wind by Gary Penley
A detailed account of life in southeast Colorado in the early part of the 20th century.

—from Matt Pollart

Sand County Almanac
by Aldo Leopold. Seminal.
Worth re-reading

—from William Woolston

This House of Sky: Landscapes of a Western Mind

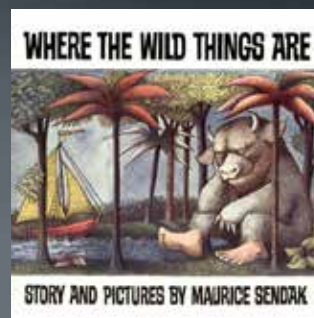
by Ivan Doig. No author list would be complete without this one-time Forest Service employee.

—from Emmett Jordan

Podcasts—

Mountain and Prairie, Ed Roberson and **Art of Range**, Tip Hudson

—from Kasey Dollerschell



Where the Wild Things Are

by Maurice Sendak

Perfect for reading to the wee ones before bed.

—from Nevah Raines-Enuff

For the Love of Land

by Jim Howell (Case Studies of Grazing in Nature's Image)

—from Ben Berlinger

I have also benefited greatly from **Deep Work** by Cal Newport, a mathematician at MIT. He argues that the future economy will belong to those who have not sold their attention to the lowest bidder and have adopted a lifestyle and media consumption disciplines that allow them to do deep work, defined as the ability to focus without distraction on a cognitively demanding task.

—from Tip Hudson

The Time it Never Rained

by Elmer Kelton

A fictionalized, but not romanticized telling of drought in West Texas of the 1950s—Elmer is a writer who lived ranch life.



Six Bits a Day

by Elmer Kelton

Hewey Calloway might be the most interesting of all characters in Western fiction.

—from Emmett Jordan

Dirt: The Erosion of Civilization

By David R. Montgomery

—from Cindy Lair

Podcasts—

Herd Quitter, Jared Luhman and **Working Cows**, Clay Conry

—from Ben Berlinger

BEN'S CORNER



"The future of grassland agriculture is bursting with possibilities and potential, and we remain in the infant stages of developing and multiplying the opportunity"—From "For the Love of Land" by Jim Howell



We celebrate the science in understanding range management!



We celebrate the practitioners who apply the art of range management!



We celebrate the amazing diversity of rangelands!



We celebrate our future range management leaders!

Photo of Ben Berlinger by Emmett Jordan. Additional photos courtesy of Ben Berlinger.