



Colorado Section SRM Winter 2025 Newsletter

“Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect.”
– Chief Seattle,
Duwamish

Welcome to the new year. In this issue you’ll find a variety of information about the section, recaps of our activities over the last year, some upcoming events to put on your calendars, and opportunities to get involved. Special thanks to incoming President-Elect, Monica Klinger for providing so many beautiful range photos for this issue!

– Dixie Crowe, Past-President and Newsletter Editor

Rangelands are the places we love, live, and work!

Rangelands are grasslands, shrublands, woodlands, wetlands, and deserts that are grazed by domestic livestock or wild animals. Our members are range professionals, range scientists, educators, students, and livestock producers. We *all* value these special places.



Photo by Monica Klinger

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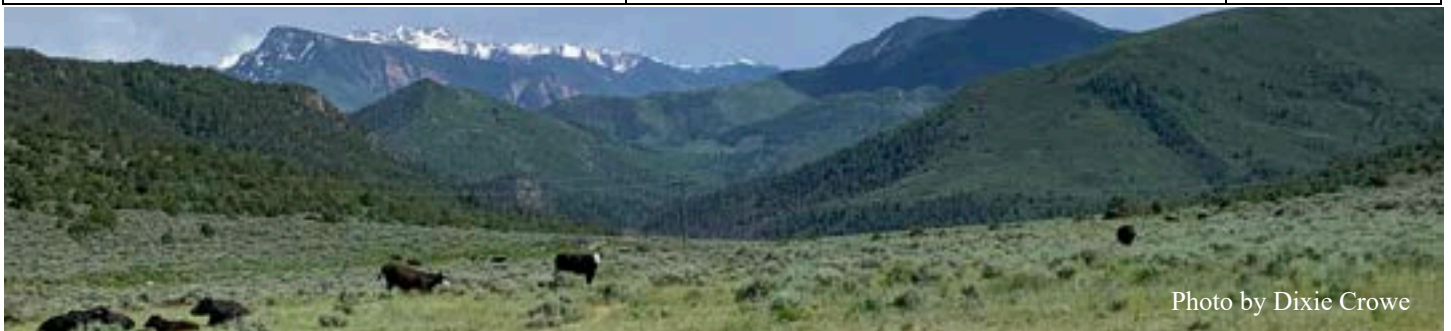


Photo by Dixie Crowe

President's Corner

Dear CSSRM Members,

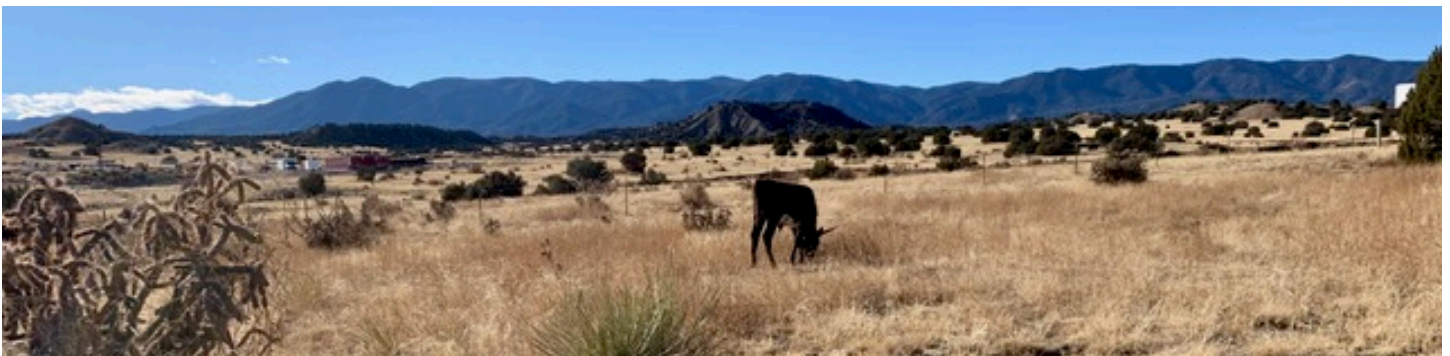
Welcome to 2025! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and is ready for a productive and engaging year! Having taken over as president in the fall, I would like to thank Dixie for all her work this past year as president, and welcome Monica to our section leadership as president-elect!

While the 2024 annual meeting took place way back in March, I have not yet had a chance to provide a recap. The 2024 CSSRM annual meeting was a one-day workshop that primarily addressed pinyon-juniper management on the Colorado Plateau. The afternoon also included a panel discussion about virtual fencing with several western Colorado ranchers. In addition, Tim Bedell, our outstanding High School Youth Forum (HSYF) competitor, gave his award-winning HSYF presentation on smooth brome (way to go Tim!). The meeting was a collaborative effort with The Nature Conservancy's Canyonlands Research Center (CRC), and it was a great success with over 100 attendees! You can view recordings of all the presentations and discussions [here](#), on the CSSRM website, and I would like to thank Retta Bruegger, our videographer Mark Rose, and everyone from CRC for all their assistance. It was very much a team effort!

I also wanted to highlight the recent revival of the Colorado State University (CSU) Range Club! While the club struggled to attract students in recent years, an engaged and excited group of students rebooted the club this fall and will be sending several representatives to the SRM National Meeting in Spokane to compete in the Plant Identification Contest and the Rangeland Cup. I would like to thank Nora Bales, a PhD student in Dr. Carrie Havrilla's lab at CSU, for generously volunteering to serve as plant ID coach! We are excited to build on what the rebooted Range Club has accomplished thus far and continue to increase student involvement at CSU in the future.

Lastly, I want to invite CSSRM section members to the CSU mixer at the SRM national meeting in Spokane. The location has yet to be finalized, but university socials will take place on Tuesday, February 11th from 6:00-8:00 pm. We hope to see you there!

Jake Courkamp,
CSSRM President



2024 Field Tour Highlights

CSSRM Summer Field Day at Prairie Canyon Ranch

By Jennifer Rivera-San Antonio, NRCS Colorado

July is a sunny month in Colorado, and it was under such bright skies that we gathered for the Colorado Section – Society for Range Management Summer Tour on July 19th at the Prairie Canyon Ranch Headquarters for registration and a continental-style breakfast, coordinated by Dan Nosal and Ben Berlinger. As attendees continued to arrive, we had the pleasure of chatting among ourselves and taking in the beautiful scenery. Prairie Canyon Ranch is owned by Douglas County Open Space and leased to local rancher Jamie Hull, a practitioner of holistic and regenerative ranching.



Jamie Hull (left in blue shirt), Scott McEldowney (right in blue shirt). Photo by Dixie Crowe

“We could not do anything without the partnerships we have,” McEldowney said. “Partners like Dan Nosal with NRCS have been an essential part in making the goal of a successful prescribed grazing system achievable.”

Dan Nosal kicked off the event with opening remarks, welcoming almost 40 attendees. Following this, Scott McEldowney from Douglas County Open Space Natural Resource Management delivered a presentation on his work and experiences in managing rangelands for prescribed grazing, highlighting the importance of partnerships.

Scott also shared insights from his graduate studies research, where he focused on small paddock intense prescribed grazing systems. This was followed by a talk from Jamie Hull, who provided a Rancher’s Perspective, emphasizing the importance of scale in the scope of their work.

For the field portion of the day, we set off to observe a Regenerative Prescribed Grazing Management System in action, designed by Dan Nosal. This system utilizes nine pastures and one water source. We also had the chance to see a riparian area where Holistic, Adaptive Grazing Management is actively applied. Dixie Crowe provided valuable information on the impact of prescribed grazing in soil health and highlighted the importance of grazing livestock hoof action from ultra high-density livestock stocking to mix plant residues and manure with soil. Jamie applies ultra-high stock density grazing on many areas of the ranch, utilizing portable electric fence to improve the rangeland condition.

A delicious BBQ lunch was provided at the Ranch Headquarters, giving attendees the opportunity to continue conversations about what was learned in the field. The afternoon included a guided tour by Jackie Sanderson from Douglas County Open Space on the historical aspects of the ranch, followed by



Attendees gather around an exclusion area to look at the difference between grazed and ungrazed range. Photo by Dixie Crowe

Dan Nosal's final presentation on Range Monitoring Protocols. Ben Berlinger wrapped up the event, wishing everyone safe travels.



Events like this allow participants to grasp the overall effects of conservation and stewardship. Witnessing a prescribed grazing system firsthand gave us a deep understanding of the landscape's reaction and provided a sense of achievability.

Photo on left: Attendees enjoy exploring the property with Jamie Hull (center blue shirt cowboy hat). Photo by Dixie Crowe

CSSRM 2024 Fall Field Day

Ben Berlinger, Youth Activities Chair

The Fall field day near Wray, CO provided an interesting and educational experience for our members. Roy Roath, CSU Range Professor Emeritus, facilitated the field day. The theme was rangeland watershed restoration through prescribed grazing management. Attendees met at a local ranch along the Arikaree River to look at how local grazing management on the ranch has improved range grasses and reintroduced sinuosity in the river to slow its progression through the ranch. Good management also has to make up for poor management on the bordering ranch above where overgrazing speeds water runoff into the river and it accelerates until it is slowed by range grasses in the waterway. Attendees met at Beecher Island State Park for lunch and had the additional opportunity to learn about the history surrounding the Beecher Island Battlefield from Professor Leisl Carr Childers, Ph.D., CSU History Department.

We had no WIFI or cell service so we weren't able to have our installation of new board officers or change the presidency roles. President Dixie recognized the 2024 Trail Boss honoree Kathleen Delzell for her continuing dedication to the Section. Additional recognition was made for outgoing section Directors Dan Nosal and Kristy Wallner. Kasey Dollerschell was also recognized for her service, but was re-elected and will serve a second two-year term. Dixie Crowe received her Presidency plaque and buckle.



Photo on left: Local rancher, Dennis Weiser, shares how working with Roy on his grazing management plan years ago and proper grazing management has led to important changes over time to slow and hold water on the land. Photo by Ben Berlinger. Photo on right: Roy Roath (blue shirt and tan ball cap) points out some key features of hydrologic change on the ranch such as increased sinuosity that shows this section of the Arikaree River is recovering. Photo by Dixie Crowe.

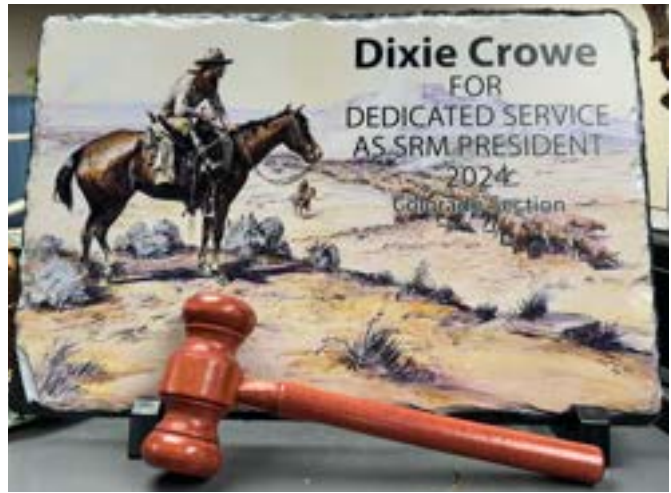


Photo on the left: President Dixie Crowe (left) and Ben Berlinger (right) present Kathleen Delzell (center) with the Trail Boss award and belt buckle. The Trail Boss award is the Section’s highest honor and celebrates many decades of Kathleen’s dedication to rangelands, range education, and service to SRM and CSSRM. Photo by Dan Nosal. Photo on right: The President’s plaque for service to CSSRM presented by the Colorado Section to outgoing President Dixie Crowe.

2024 Collaborative Field Day Showcasing Research at the Central Plains Experimental Range in NE Colorado

By Randy Reichert, Information and Education Committee Chair

The Colorado Section and AgNext hosted a field day on the Central Plains Experimental Range’s (CPER) semi-arid grassland research center that focused on research on virtual fencing, methane monitoring, grazing principles, and training on plant identification and biodiversity using line point intercept on June 21st. CPER is a 15,500 acre rangeland that was acquired after the dust bowl devastation in the 1930s as a research area to apply methods to avoid future catastrophes. The shortgrass steppe ecosystem is dominated by warm season grasses such as blue grama and buffalograss and receives 12” of precipitation annually on average. CPER is adjacent to Pawnee National Grasslands and is surrounded by private and state lands primarily used for livestock production. Ann Shadbolt and Kim Stackhouse-Lawson discussed their work on virtual fencing and methane monitoring. Justin Durner and Anna Shadbolt discussed grazing principles for land managers. Range professionals including Ben Berlinger, Dan Nosal, and Randy Reichert were on hand to assist with line point intercept set up, data collection, and interpretation as well as plant identification. The event was well attended with over 50 attendees.



The Research on the Range Field Day was sponsored by:



This research was supported by a Conservation Innovation Grant from the USDA NRCS, grant number NR233A750011G020

Investment Committee Report

By Clare Hydock, Investment Committee Co-Chair

Joe Brummer and I met with our financial advisor, Melanie Constant, on September 30, 2024. Mel said that our accounts are doing well. Following the changes approved last year our allocation percentages on our accounts were up 10.73% for 2023. Year-to-date in 2024, our accounts are up 11.64%.

Joe and I welcome anyone else interested in serving on the investment committee. Please reach out to either of us and we'll rope you in! Please also let us know if you'd like to see a copy of the latest investment report. Members can request a copy by replying to the newsletter email*.

*We have removed important Section information and direct contact emails of committee chairs and board members from our website to stop phishing scams, fake requests for payments, and other spam emails to committee chairs and board members. Section members are entitled to see financial and investment reports but by requesting them via a response to emails to members we are trying to put another layer of difficulty between our data and scammers.



Photo by Dixie Crowe.

Colorado Section Awards Committee Report

By Clare Hydock, Awards Committee Co-Chair

Our section is very active and has many talented and eligible nominees doing fantastic work in our rangelands. So we were very surprised we only had one nomination in 2024. While our deadline for nominations falls in the summer at the height of field inventory season, you actually don't have to wait to nominate members in our four categories.

Julie Elliott and I want to encourage everyone to start thinking about nominating folks for any of our award categories:

- Trail Boss – This award is the highest give to a section member for outstanding accomplishments in the range management profession and for exceptional service to the section.
- Excellence in Rangeland Conservation – This award is given annual 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 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.

Membership in SRM is required for **all categories except for** the Excellence in Rangeland Conservation award. For the Outstanding Publication/Contribution award, **at least one** of the writers must be a CSSRM member.

See the full criteria at [Section Awards - CSSRM](#). Nominations are due July 1, 2025 but there's no need to wait, especially as everyone gets busy during the field season. So please put your thinking caps on and get those nominations in!

Julie and I welcome others interested in serving on the committee. Please let us know!*

*If you are interested in joining the Awards Committee or volunteering with the section you can either use this form on our website [Awards Committee Volunteer Form](#) or reply to the newsletter email sent to members.



Photo by Monica Klinger.

SRM News in Brief

By Julie Elliot, SRM Director

SRM 2025 Annual Meeting

Everyone is hopefully keenly aware that the Annual Meeting registration for Spokane is now live. [SRM 2025 Meeting Registration here](#). Early bird registration rates are good through January 31st.

The full technical program is linked on the meeting webpage as well as the schedule-at-a-glance. The registration page is different this year, there will be no login requirement, but you will be asked to select your membership type when registering. It will be an honor system, but SRM staff will be cross-referencing registrations on the back end. All browsers will be supported, and all the major credit cards, fixing many issues from the previous platform. Another feature is the option to add multiple registrants under one transaction, which will be useful, especially for agencies.

There is a virtual registration option again this year. The contributed oral sessions won't be recorded this year due to technical challenges, but symposiums and plenaries will be on the Cadence app once again.

SRM Financials

The parent society is on solid financial grounds as noted below:

- Unrestricted Operating Funds: \$346,325.42
- Long Term Reserve: \$653,869
- Reserved: \$1,975,338
- Total Cash: \$2,975,632

Book Series

A series is being brainstormed and could include several coloring books with information on animal species, wildflower species, etc. The group is working on an outline of International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralist Themes for coloring books as well. The books would be sold on Amazon and since SRM would be the author, could purchase books at a discount.

SRM Website update

The new website backside (awards, committees, etc.) is up and running and connected to the current front facing website. The New front facing website will be ready for demonstrating by the Annual Meeting in Spokane. Once launched, SRM will finally have a fully functioning website that connects across the various pages, making it so changes in one place are reflected on all the other pages with related content.

High School Youth Forum Task Force Update

As many of you probably know, the Parent Society created a Task Force to look at the High School Youth Forum. Below is a summary of their report to the BOD. The Task Force report was accepted by the board and



the task force closed. The BOD is fully supportive of HSYF and not at all interested in disbanding the event. After so many decades, it is time to rethink how the forum functions in the future.

There is an opportunity to sponsor meals, to save time and relieve cost burden on sections. It costs about \$2,000 per student to send them to HSYF. Plan for succession of leadership, current leader Mary Reese has been a part of HSYF Leadership for a long time. Cloud access for documents for continuity-potentially on SRM's new website. Careers: Make current work more visible. Dive into new technology, techniques, and career opportunities. Curriculum: There are many strong aspects in the program including hands-on experiences, diverse exposure, and professional interaction. However, the schedule is very intensive. Opportunities include emphasizing diversity and inclusion; switching from oral presentations to poster (this would allow more time as the program grows, society could locally print posters); set up a mentor program within the sections for continued connection. Safety: This is the main concern for sections not willing to participate. Review insurance and liability procedures to identify gaps to be able to share with sections. Build procedures to ensure a safe environment at events with HSYF participants. Formalize a reporting procedure. Background checks and training need to be kept current. D&I: Add SRM's diversity statement to what HSYF are already using. Sections broadly advertise and share the opportunity to diverse audiences. Section Participation: online meeting with section contacts early in the year (June). Ensure multiple contacts for sections. International Rangelands: intentionally include Canada and Mexico. Assist in overcoming additional barriers for international students.



Photo by Monica Klinger.

Scholarship Committee Update

By Kasey Dollerschell, Scholarship Committee Chair

The CSU Undergraduate Scholarship (up to \$1,000) is for a junior or senior in good standing (full or part time) at CSU for the academic year the scholarship is offered and is enrolled in an SRM-accredited rangeland major or minor with a cumulative college GPA of 3.0 or higher.

The CSSRM “Passion Project” Grant (up to \$1,000) 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.

In July 2024, the Scholarship Committee chose Nickolas Shepherd, a Colorado State student, as the \$1,000 scholarship recipient. The \$1,000 passion grant was awarded to Dixie Crowe for professional development goals. She will provide a recap of what she is using the money for in this newsletter.

The scholarship and passion grant can be applied for any time up until the May deadline. For CSU students the money will be sent to the CSU Cashier’s office to be deposited for the Fall 2025 semester. For the passion grant, the money will be sent directly to the recipient. Full details are on the section website. [CSSRM Scholarship and Grant Applications](#) You are welcome to use the old forms until the new ones are updated. Just be sure to note you are applying for the 2025 scholarship or grant.

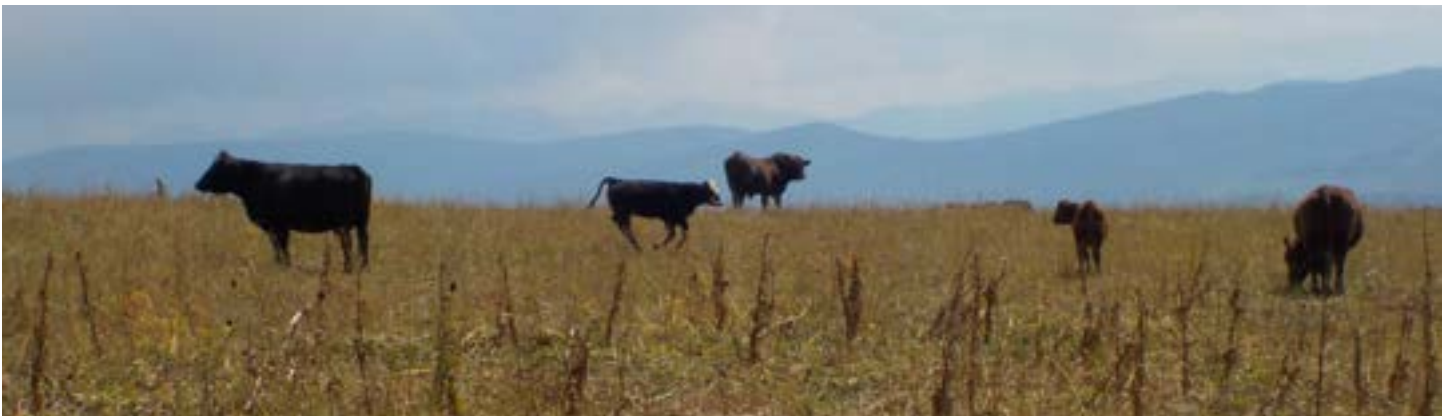


Photo by Monica Klinger

Professional Development Through Passion Grant Update

By Dixie Crowe, Past-President

I completed several of my professional development goals in 2024 thanks to being awarded the Passion Grant from the Colorado Section. First, I’d like to thank my mentors Clare Hydock and Ben Berlinger for listening to my ideas for my proposal and giving me their support and of course thank you to the Scholarship Committee for awarding me the grant. While I’ve completed two of my original development goals, I still have one more to go and I added a fourth to my plan.

Regenerate Conference

I attended the Regenerate Conference put on by Quivira Coalition, Holistic Management International, and American Grassfed in Denver. Of course it was during a snowstorm, but fortunately while I was able to stay two nights in a local hotel I didn’t have to drive

the icy roads to the National Western Complex because I could attend the conference virtually. The videos of the key note speakers are available on the Quivira YouTube Channel here [Regenerate Conference Speakers](#).

Part of what I got out of the conference was learning about a lot of hands on experience in rangelands and farming from producers that helps me think about problem solving for my clients in new ways. Latrice Tatsey from the Blackfoot Nation talked about how the bison she added to her operation discovered new ways to get out of fenced



areas by using tree stumps to jump over the fence. She ran her cattle and bison herd together and the bison brought the cattle down from the high elevations in the fall themselves when it was time to get to warmer ground. It definitely made me take a second look at a property that I wrote a bison grazing plan for before I sent it to the producer. I think the other really engaging part of the conference was hearing from younger producers and the non-traditional ways they approached farming and ranching, whether that was cobbling together rented ground, finding fellowship with other young producers, or being the next generation but having to pivot the business model to keep the family land in the family and generating income. For me, Tracy Shane's presentation on using drone technologies for forage and grazing in rangelands was also very intriguing. There's so much potential to add technology to our tool kits and of course it goes without saying that ground truthing the data is still essential.

Soil Horse Course

Some of you may know my bachelor's degree is in equine science and I spent many years working for the head veterinarian of the CSU Equine Reproduction Laboratory on a series of free eBooks on equine reproduction. You can get them from Apple Books here: [Patrick McCue DVM Equine Reproduction eBooks](#), and they're best viewed on an iPad, but will also work on an iPhone. A portion of the clients I serve in my six counties in SE Colorado include of equine clients from summer dude ranches, horse riding therapy programs, breeding operations, and regular horse owners who all need some kind of problem solved in their range and pastures to ensure their horses stay healthy. I've been able to combine my love of horses, rangelands, and soil to try to solve their problems.



Photo by Monica Klinger.

So much of the range research in the west is on feral horses on Herd Management Areas (HMAs) on public land, but there are domesticated horses using rangelands that have fallen through the cracks. While Animal Use Equivalence (AUE) tables let us mathematically determine stocking rates, let's be honest, a horse is not a cow and they don't use the range the same way. There's been some great research coming out of east coast universities looking at rotational grazing practices with domestic horses on pastures. Guess what? Yup, it improves the forage value, the plant communities, and soil health. In the past, if you don't have irrigation water in Colorado or a highly productive wet meadow or subirrigated ground we would probably tell the producer they were going to need more acres to make that work or less time in the field/pasture and more supplemental hay. But what if there was a way to provide a version of rotational grazing that gives mental/emotional enrichment for the horses with a rotational scheme based on hours per day instead of days and possibly some other inputs to stop degrading the land and start improving it?

You can call me a dreamer, but look what cattle producers have been able to accomplish with rotational grazing. It looks different for every producer of course. It takes a few early adopters, successes, and publicizing those successes to start that paradigm shift. I think you also have to be able to talk to horse people where they're at and touch on things that will improve their horse's mental, emotional, and general health to start moving that needle. You can't come at them with reducing bare ground when almost all of the extension literature, the equine industry, and equine trade magazines tells them that sacrifice areas are just part of horse ownership. How can they tell the difference between sacrifice areas and bare ground from overgrazing/compaction when they've never been shown? We can see it as professionals, but it's not enough just to point it out and tell them what they're doing wrong.

So I've also used part of the grant to take Nicole Master's online "Soil Horse Course." Many of you have probably read Nicole's book "For the Love of Soil" or maybe you've heard her as a speaker at a local event. She has worked with livestock producers all over the

world and has decades of hands-on knowledge and successes that are working. She is also a horse owner herself and has been able to apply her knowledge on her own properties. Nicole's premise is that grazing horses doesn't have to be destructive to the plants and soil if it's well managed. Many of the soil principles in this course are part of our soil health toolkit, but she also has some very interesting material that is specific to horses and horse health that were surprising at first blush, but make sense when you stop and think about it. And of course being the person I am, I go out and try to find research literature that supports or refutes what she's saying. It's supported by research.



Photo from Nicole Master's Integrity Soils website.

What if a lot of horse behavioral issues are due to the lack of quality nutrients in the forage? Lush pasture doesn't always mean dangerous, it is the stressed plants that are causing issues. When horses aren't getting optimal nutrition then nutritionally linked conditions start showing up. When phosphorus (P) in plant tissue is low, horses eat more to try to get enough to correct that. When phosphorus is at the right level horses spend less time eating and more time laying down. Nonstructural carbohydrates are highest in overgrazed pastures and are higher in fructans, which show up in lush spring growth, in frosted fields or after cool nights, and after drought. I'm sure you recall that P is a very important energy receptor in ADP and ATP, which is part of photosynthesis in plants and animal metabolism.

A term she uses is "funny protein" which has higher levels of soluble nitrogen (N), lower levels of protein N, lower levels of phenolics which makes plants vulnerable to fungal and insect attacks. For horses this means higher levels of simple sugars (laminitis), lower levels of glutathione (related to detoxification, cancer rates, stress and pain), and lower levels of complex starches and polysaccharides. So how are funny proteins created? They happen when there is excess N and chlorine from fertilizers, manure, and pesticides impacting the soil biology, a calcium (Ca) deficiency in the soil, an inadequate calcium to potassium (K) ratio, inadequate sulfur (S), and low levels of trace elements that act as catalysts for metabolic reactions and enzymes such as zinc (Zn), manganese (Mn), boron (B), molybdenum (Mo), and copper (Cu). This is mostly occurring in soils with low biological activity. You may be tempted to pull out the old standard of lets solve this from the horse end with mineral blocks, supplemental feed, etc. But the key here is if we improve grazing so that plants are feeding soil microbiology appropriately and receiving the building blocks they need in return, then we're back to healthier more resilient and nutritious range plants that can feed horses and improve our range soils.

Obviously I'm very passionate about everything I've learned from this course, but I also have a new way to have discussions with my horse clients where we can start making changes that will improve range conditions and horse health that isn't just a modified version of what I do with cattle producers.

Associate Certified Professional in Range Management from SRM

I did my range degree as a master's student, so I missed out on being able to take the Under Graduate Rangeland Management Exam (URME) at SRM. I'm currently studying to take the Certified Professional in Range exam. I'm in the beginning of my fourth year as a professional, so I will come in under the associate level when I pass the exam. I had hoped to take the exam and pass before SRM in Spokane so that the conference would count as continuing education credits, but I am still studying for the exam.



Photo from www.Rangelands.org

Horse Manure Management

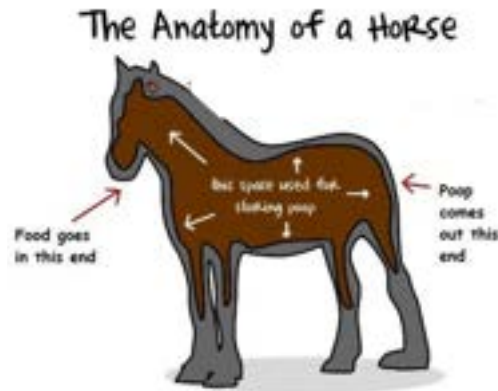


Illustration from University of Minnesota Equine Extension Horse Manure Management online course.

I decided to add an online course from the University of Minnesota Horse Extension program in horse manure management. It is a HUGE issue for my equine clients! I've seen a lot of practices of spreading manure on our fragile rangelands and harrowing it in that are creating a lot of problems for my clients such as forage decline, disease spread, increased flies, etc. I'm sure you are all slapping your foreheads at this obvious mistake, but they really don't know this is a problem until it becomes a huge issue for them and they call me in. This is a standard practice for many horse owners that works well in the east, but isn't really a good fit for our arid and semiarid rangelands. Also, using dewormers and adding that manure into the main pile and spreading it is disrupting our dung beetles who are so important for eating larvae that help control our fly populations. So what should my clients be doing with their manure? What are the best practices that can be adapted to our climate? Well, I've just completed module 1 and have five weeks left to go. So I'll have to update you in the next newsletter, but I've already learned a lot and fortunately I have a great extension staff instructors that I've posed some questions to and I'm waiting for their replies.

Student Activities Committee Update

CSSRM and the 2024 FFA Range Judging & Plant Identification Events

Ben Berlinger, Youth Activities Chair

Several CSSRM members assisted the Youth Activities Committee with FFA range judging events this fall. These range management educational events were held across the state thanks to the many volunteers, not only from CSSRM, but also the State Land Board, Colorado Department of Agriculture, CSU Extension, Colorado State Conservation Board, NRCS, and local ranchers. The CSSRM recognizes the importance of the accomplishments of these agriculture students with SRM plaques and a \$200 cash award for the winning individual at the state level.




Photo on left: Ms. Rossi and Tim Bedell of the Oak Creek FFA from NW Colorado at the State Competition. Photo in Center: Michael Amaya of Rye FFA at the SE Colorado contest. Photo on right: Kinsley Mayo at the State FFA contest.



Photo on left: Ben Berlinger (right) presents Weston Morgan from McClave FFA, the overall winner at the FFA Range Judging State Competition, with the overall plaque and a check for \$200 from the Colorado Section.

The Colorado Section would like to extend our appreciation and a special thank you to Don Hajar and Pawnee Buttes Seeds for their generous financial support of our Youth FFA Range Judging Program!



2025 SRM High School Youth Forum Delegates Selected for Spokane

Ben Berlinger, Youth Activities Chair

Colorado high school students **Belle Schier**, Flagler FFA, **Kinsley Mayo**, La Junta FFA, and **Michael Amaya**, Rye FFA, have been selected by the Colorado Section to participate in the High School Youth Forum (HSYF), an SRM sponsored youth activity held jointly during the 2025 Annual SRM annual meeting in Spokane in February. These three high school students were chosen to attend the HSYF based on their high degree of achievements in FFA range judging and plant identification, and their leadership skills in agriculture education.

Additionally, the CSSRM is proud to have our first-place winning delegate to the HSYF in Sparks returning to participate in Spokane. **Katelyn Huskins** (pictured below) will be presenting her award-winning paper, *Our Disappearing Rangelands*, to the entire SRM membership at the awards ceremony in Spokane. Congratulations to these four Colorado youth for their outstanding achievements in range management this year! Remember to support these young people in Spokane by attending their paper presentations on Tuesday of the meeting week! And watch for news on how our delegates performed in the paper presentation contest in the next *Range Rider*.



Photo on left: Katelyn Huskins presenting her first semester in college at the 2024 SE Regional FFA Range Judging competition. Photo on right: SRM President Dr. Perryman presents the 2024 first place HSYF plaque to Katelyn at the SRM International Meeting in Sparks, Nevada.

Camp Rocky 2024

Ben Berlinger, Youth Activities Chair

Camp Rocky 2024 was held on July 7-12 at the Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp near Divide. This year there were 21 high school students participating from all parts of Colorado. Camp Rocky is Colorado's premier outdoor learning experience for high school students who want to learn more about and gain a better appreciation of the natural resources of Colorado. This year's curriculum consisted of three major disciplines: Range Management, Soil and Water Conservation, and Wildlife Management. The range management group instructors were **Dan Nosal** and **Ben Berlinger**, who also represented the Colorado Section (CSSRM). **Dixie Crowe**, CSSRM President, instructed the Soil & Water Conservation students.

The range management students participated in constructing a prescribed grazing cell consisting of five paddocks using wildlife-friendly electric fences. They developed a grazing strategy for three alpacas to demonstrate how managed grazing can benefit rangeland health by improving plant vigor and species diversity.

The CSSRM presented certificates to all the range management students. A SRM belt buckle was presented to Carlie Brandt, of Sedgwick County, for her outstanding involvement in the range group. Each student in the range management group received a copy of the *Range and Pasture Management Source Unit for Colorado Teachers* reference book to take home with them. The book was used throughout the week by the range management group as an instructional resource. Contact Ben Berlinger, CSSRM Youth Activities Chair, at bberling701@gmail.com for further information about Camp Rocky, or if you would like to obtain a copy of the Range Management Source Unit book.



Photo on left: Students in the range management group stand in the field with co-instructor Dan Nosal (3rd from right). Photo by Ben Berlinger. Photo on right: The three alpacas were loaned to class so they could get a hands-on experience working with electric fencing and livestock. Photo by Ben Berlinger.

Membership Committee Update

By Kathleen Delzell, Director and temporary Membership Committee Chair

Hello again, I want to begin by thanking Retta Bruegger for being CSSRM's Temporary Membership Chair when I had to shift gears and concentrate on SRM's membership committee nearly two years ago.

I am writing this time as a Colorado Section Board Member. Because membership has been my niche since the summer of 2018, I volunteered to pick-up that piece of Section business until someone else volunteers to chair the committee. Are you interested? Please contact me, or any other Board Members.

Retta wrote the Membership Report for The Range Rider's Spring/Summer 2023 issue. She reported 197 members as of May that year. Exact membership numbers for 2024 have been hard to reconstruct since data from the May 1, 2024 report are not available. Approximate totals based on invoice dates that became available several months later showed a total of 159 members and so may not reflect our actual membership numbers.

Exact membership numbers for December 31, 2024 are also not available. Section reports have not updated nightly since May 2023. The last report I received on December 3, 2024 was from a direct request from me to Chris Lapine, formerly from Allen Press, now with Knowledgeworks Global, Ltd/KBI, which is part of the changeover plan for the SRM website and membership platform. The report shows 178 total CSSRM members, our lowest membership level since I started tracking section reports in 2018 (see Table 1).

Table 1. Approximate Number of Section Members based on December 3, 2024 report. May data unavailable.

| 2024 Membership Category | Approximate Number of Members in category type based on December 3, 2024 report from National |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Regular + Family members | 79 |
| Legacy + Family members | 25 |
| Young Professional | 9 |
| Student | 9 (includes HSYF, undergraduates, and graduate students) |
| Emertis | 16 |
| Commercial | 2 (Arkansas Valley Seed, Pawnee Buttes Seed) |
| Institutional/Non-Profit | 1 (Western Landowners Alliance) |
| Colorado as an additional section | 37 |
| TOTAL Section Members | 178 |

However, even though the membership reports seem to be missing some data as SRM transitions away from Allen Press, our membership payment check from SRM in 2024 only shows a loss of three members per Past-President Dixie Crowe. There may also be some members who renew for the next calendar year early, which would be reflected in the previous calendar year's numbers. So are we really down 19 members or just three members or somewhere in between? These reporting issues are impacting all sections.

Additionally, you may not have received a renewal notice for 2025 due to the changes at National and the membership platform. So you will need to go on to the Rangelands.org website to renew your membership before you head to SRM Spokane to get the membership registration rate.

Hopefully, when the summer/fall issue of the Range Rider is ready to go out we will have better numbers to share with you. I hope to see you in Spokane at the annual meeting and at the CSU Alumni event and social on Tuesday, February 11th.

2025 Section Election - Call for Nominees

By Dixie Crowe, Past-President

One of my roles as Past-President is to find nominees to run for President-Elect and for two Directors to serve on the Section Board. The presidency role is a three year term, which starts as President-Elect. The President-Elect puts on the annual section meeting, then spends one year as President, and a third year as Past-President. Directors serve a two-year term on the board and are voting members on section business at the board meetings that help move the goals of the section forward.

The President-Elect and President also serve on the SRM Parent Society Advisory Council. The AC considers important business from other committees, the sections, and from within the AC to bring forward to the parent society Board of Directors. An example of the work of the AC over the last several years was to recommend to SRM that a task force look at the High School Youth Forum and consider its value to the society. You can see the results of that task force report in Julie Elliot's report on page 10. Another example of the AC recommendations was the Good Grazing Makes Sense Program to translate valuable range science to actionable resources for livestock producers (see page 18).

If you'd like to volunteer to run for a Director or the President-Elect position, please let me know. We are also looking for more volunteers for the Awards Committee, the Investment Committee, and the Planning Committee for the Annual Section Meeting. If there is something you're passionate about and would like to volunteer for that is not on the list, drop me an email! Please contact me at cosec.srm@gmail.com to put your name on the list. The election ballot will be mailed out in late August/early September.

Good Grazing Makes Cents Program for Livestock Producers

By Randy Reichert, Information & Education Chair

"Making sense of the science makes cents on the range."

The Good Grazing Makes Cents website helps provide practical management information for producers' operations. Visit the program website at <https://goodgrazing.org>. Material available in the program includes a monthly newsletter, expert video content,

and Society for Range Management resources such as academic journals and other benefits. Each month the GGMC team will dissect a new topic intended to improve the productivity of the land and the bottom line of members. Membership in the GGMC program is \$75 per year. Members of participating livestock organizations are eligible for a discounted rate of \$50. Not ready to commit? Try signing up for the newsletter and see if you're finding value in the resources provided.





Photo by Monica Klinger.

2025 SRM in Spokane - Benefits of Attending as a Rancher

By Randy Reichert, Information & Education Committee Chair

We tend to see our local ranchers come to events such as our summer field days. However, there are producer-focused events at SRM Spokane that you might want to share with your producers. The SRM Annual Meeting Agenda is jam-packed with



presentations, workshops, and discussions on topics that not only matter to ranchers but ones that are having an impact on the ranch's bottom dollar. Fire rehabilitation, cheatgrass control, carbon markets, and holistic management practices are all on the schedule this year, along with many other issues of importance.

And while attending those sessions to learn more will be valuable, there's perhaps even more value in the conversations that follow, the opportunity to meet others who have successfully worked through a problem you're facing, or even see it in action on a ranch tour. If you haven't considered attending the Society for Range Management Annual Meeting in the past, maybe the 78th meeting in Spokane this February is your year! View the Schedule-at-a-Glance here https://rangelands.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/2025-SRM-Annual-Meeting_Schedule-at-a-Glance-2.pdf.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH

- 10:20 AM - 5 PM.....Producers Forum**
Conversational style discussion with Allan Savory, Jon Lundgren and Alejandro Carrillo

- 10:20 AM - Noon.....Technical Sessions**
Workshop: Rejuvra (indaziflam): come participate in a grass-roots effort to share information on effectiveness and BMPs for controlling exotic annual grasses.

Symposium: USDA-ARS Poisonous Plant Research Lab Presents Poisonous Plants in the Pacific Northwest

- 1:20 PM - 3 PM.....Technical Sessions**
Symposium/Workshop: The science and practice of native seed selection for restoration: Where are we, and what is needed? Part 1 of 2: Symposium

Workshop: Process-based Management the Science and Application; Part 1 of 4

- 3:20 PM - 5 PM.....Technical Sessions**
Symposium/Workshop: The science and practice of native seed selection for restoration: Where are we, and what is needed? Part 2 of 2: Workshop

Process-based management the Science and Application; Part 2 of 4

- 5 PM - 8 PM.....Producer Forum Social**

Presentations at Range Symposium in Australia

CSSRM Board Director, Emily Lockard, and Past-President, Matt Barnes, will be attending the XII International Rangeland Congress in June behind held at the Adelaide Convention Center in Adelaide, Australia where they will be both be presenting their own research.

The International Rangeland Congress meets every five years and is a platform for scientific exchange and education on the contemporary challenges and opportunities facing the rangelands and its communities. We will ensure there are many opportunities to network and connect with fellow delegates and to celebrate achievements in our fields.



**XII INTERNATIONAL
RANGELAND
CONGRESS
AUSTRALIA 2025**

2025 CSSRM Annual Section Meeting Planning



Planning is underway for the 2025 Annual Section Meeting by President-Elect Monica Klinger. Currently the plan is to have the meeting in SW Colorado. Date and time will be announced soon so you can plan to attend. We hope to see you there!

Did you miss the 2024 Annual Meeting? Pinyon-Juniper Management and Virtual Fencing on the Colorado Plateau was recorded. You can find the links to the recordings on the section website here <https://www.cssrm.org/2024-annual-meeting.html>.



2026 The International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists

From the Australian Rangeland Society Rangeland Management Newsletter

The United Nations General Assembly voted unanimously to designate 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists. The Government of Mongolia led the way presenting the proposal to the UN and 67 other governments formally joined with Mongolia to co-sponsor this resolution. The Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia, David Littleproud formally supported the initiative.

Many people in Australia have worked on this initiative, with momentum growing over the past couple of years. We now have a Regional IYRP Group for Australasia, who will work together with the Australian Rangeland Society members and others to bring us an exciting program. We hope that research projects and other activities can be initiated now, to culminate in activities during 2026.



Importantly, the IYRP has led to the largest ever collaboration of world-wide rangeland organisations and pastoral groups. This network of groups will continue to work together to develop an exciting program of events leading up to and including the IYRP. Collaborations and networks can achieve amazing things. More information can be found on the IYRP website. <https://iyrp.info>



CSSRM
The Range Rider
NEWSLETTER



Photos by Dixie Crowe from left to right: plains prickly poppy, metallic green bee in a barrel cactus flower, range lizard which may be a western earless lizard, heart-shaped plains prickly pear cactus paddle.

Winter 2025 Range Rider Newsletter, Editor: Dixie Crowe
