

Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management
Youth Activities Report – February 14, 2022

Albuquerque High School Youth Forum in Review

Colorado high school students **Ana Lockard**, **Emma Amato**, and **Alex Mattorano** were selected by the Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management (SRM) to participate in the High School Youth Forum (HSYF), an SRM sponsored youth activity held jointly during the 75th SRM annual meeting held in Albuquerque on February 6-10, 2022.

Ana is currently a junior at Lone Star high school near Otis, CO; Emma is a freshman at Branson high school; and Alex is a senior attending Hoehne high school. All three students were selected to represent the CO Section SRM based on their outstanding achievements last year in the *Colorado FFA range judging and plant identification* events. The Agriculture Teachers/FFA Advisors for all three students attended the Forum with the students to broaden their knowledge of range management for professional development.

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

At the SRM Awards Ceremony the top five presentations are recognized based on the evaluations of five judges. Emma was honored with third place for her presentation on virtual fencing on the Bow and Arrow Ranch in southeastern Colorado. Ana received fifth place honors for her presentation in which she highlighted the range management and conservation achievements on the Fox Ranch in her home county of Yuma. Alex presented his paper on high stock density grazing as a range management tool on the Bow and Arrow Ranch. All three students made visits to these ranches to interview the managers and learn about the range management being applied.

Visit the Colorado Section SRM's website at www.cssrm.org to read all three papers presented by these outstanding high school youth. The images below highlight the event.



(L-R) Maral Howell, Ag Teacher Branson FFA; Emma Amato; Alex Mattorano; Ana Lockard; Saralynn Vetter, Ag Teacher Lone Star FFA; Ben Berlinger, CO Section SRM Youth Activities Chair.



Colorado delegates Ana Lockard and Emma Amato with SRM President Poncho Ortego.



HSYF delegates at Albuquerque Convention Center following the paper presentation contest.