



# NOMINEES FOR THE CSSRM 2020 ELECTION



**President-Elect:**  
**Retta Bruegger**

Greetings fellow CSSRMers! After many years of benefitting from CSSRM, I'm excited to put my hat in the ring for president-elect.

CSSRM is a place where range professionals, students and land managers in Colorado can be challenged, and grow in skills, knowledge, and outlook. It is also a way that young professionals get involved in rangeland management and learn about the "art" of range science from those who have done it for decades. For me, at its best, CSSRM has provided practical experience and big ideas that have challenged me to keep learning.

My first CSSRM meeting was in 2012, soon after I graduated from the University of Arizona in range science. I was determined to go to the field tour in Kim, CO at least 10 hours away from my temporary residence in my parent's backyard on the western slope but I lacked money. So instead of staying in a hotel, I drove to the San Luis Valley, slept in my car, and got up at 4 am to be in Kim on time. I remember talking to past-president Lisa VanAmburg at the meeting who said something like "you did what?!" when she questioned me about my journey to Kim. Though I hope to avoid sleeping in my car in route to future CSSRM field days, one thing I appreciate about CSSRM is that it is a professional society where you *could* sleep in your car before a field day.

One thing I love about rangelands is if you are a range nerd, even highway medians can be interesting. My favorite quote is by Jack Handy: "I don't think God put me on this planet to judge others. I think He put me on this planet to gather specimens and take them back to my home planet."

In running for president elect, I aspire to return the favor of networking and continual learning to my peers by organizing a compelling and challenging annual conference. And maybe take some specimens back to my home planet.

## Board of Directors (vote for two)

Courtney Hurst

Monica Klingler

Erin Kowalski

Dan Nosal



## Board of Directors: Courtney Hurst

Since earning my Masters of Natural Resource Stewardship from Colorado State University in 2006, I've pursued professional opportunities in natural resource and land management. These opportunities have included, working with Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust as a Stewardship Intern, a position as the Stewardship Director at the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust, working with George Whitten and Julie Sullivan as their 2015 New Agrarian Apprentice through the Quivira Coalition, and currently working with the Colorado State Land Board as a Resource Specialist.

I've been a CSSRM member since 2018, and I've just completed my first term as a Colorado Section of Society for Range Management Board Member. I would love the opportunity to continue to serve the section in this capacity. I'm passionate about land health, soil health, animal health and ultimately, people health. When I'm not working on these things, I can be found with my dogs, Blue and Ranger, exploring this beautiful state.



## **Board of Directors:** **Monica Kingler**

I'm running for the Board of Directors so I can learn more about the CSSRM and all the ins and outs of its administration.

I have been a member of SRM since I was in college - 1988. I dabbled some as Student President for a year but never got involved after getting a job with the Forest Service. I just haven't been very involved! My kids are grown and I have a little more time to help out - which I'd like to do, for a great organization that I have learned from, met great people from, and whom I appreciate for the information/research/opportunities that are available. I hope to give back a little for what I've received.

I like the diversity of rangelands - landscapes, soils, geology, plants, wildlife, livestock, uses/users; they are a treasure with so many aspects to explore and learn about. You could spend a lifetime learning about any one of the topics just listed. I like that you have to touch on all these aspects to understand how rangelands work. In my job, I hope to provide good management of them so everyone can use and appreciate them.

As noted earlier, I joined SRM/CSSRM in 1988, as a CSU student. From 1992-2000, I was a member of the New Mexico SRM Section, since I worked on the Gila National Forest. I have been back with the CSSRM from 2000 to present.

As a kid, I planned to be a rancher when I grew up. Unfortunately, that didn't work out, though my family and I do have quite a few critters. Then I thought I'd be a veterinarian. I worked for a vet for 3 years. I decided that though I love animals, I really liked being outdoors, learning about our natural resources. That led me to the Forest Service, where I get to work with ranchers daily and be outdoors and be horseback - most of my favorite things! I have worked for the US Forest Service since 1990, as a Rangeland Management Specialist.

My favorite thing in the world is my family. My husband and I live in Western Colorado in the big town of Collbran. We have 2 kids; our daughter just started teaching high school Agricultural Education in southwest Colorado. Kathleen Delzell (and mom) are encouraging her to promote rangelands in her part of the state! Our son has one more year of college. He is hoping to work in the water management industry. I love horseback riding, hiking, camping, gardening - pretty much anything that allows me to be outside. My husband and I are still adjusting to being empty nesters and look forward to getting out to explore the world a little.



## **Board of Directors:**

### **Erin Kowalski**

I want to be a board member so I can help give back, because the Society for Range Management has done so much for me and my career. Joining the SRM solidified my choice to pursue a career in rangeland management and the conferences continue to teach me valuable knowledge and connect me with other passionate individuals. I hope my background and enthusiasm will bring something useful to the CSSRM group.

I grew up in the country of Western Colorado and always found myself drawn to the outdoors and the land. I was always interested in biology and botany, but the curiosity in ecology really came to fruition during my first seasonal job spraying noxious weeds. Not only did I learn to identify plants but the interactions among species truly fascinated me.

While perusing my graduate degree at CSU, I became involved in the SRM through the CSU Rangeland Ecology Club. Meeting like-minded people at the annual convention, I knew I was moving toward a career I was meant to be in. After working my way through seasonal jobs for the government and a private environmental consulting firm, I am now a Rangeland Management Specialist for the Grand Junction BLM field office. I love collaborating with permittees to work through problems and reaching solutions together while enhancing the range.



## **Board of Directors:**

### **Dan Nosal**

My interest in SRM stems from a belief that rangelands should and can be managed to provide a sustainable resource for grass-fed products while also maintaining a healthy ecosystem for wildlife. If elected, I will strive to promote this belief and these principles within the organization.

Being a member of SRM since about 1980 has allowed me to participate in the following activities: past CSSRM BOD member, past CSSRM president, CSSRM Youth Activities committee member, and Transportation and Producer Forum chair for the 2010 and 2020 International meetings in Denver.

Current position is a multi-county Rangeland Management Specialist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in the Franktown field office. Education includes a BS and MS in Rangeland Management from the University of Nebraska in 1979 and 1983, respectively. Worked as a graduate student/ranch hand at the Sandhills Ag Lab near North Platte, NE for three years. Was a member of the UNL Range Club and the Nebraska Section – SRM.

My career with NRCS began in Hoxie, KS as a Range Conservationist in 1983. I have been at my current position in Franktown, CO since 1990. Other activities include Denver Area Council – Boy Scouts of America Conservation Committee member, Lowry Ranch Advisory Committee member, SRM representative for the State Land Board Roundtable, and a rangeland management instructor for Camp Rocky youth conservation camp.