

Arizona Section Newsletter

June 2017



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Society for Range Management



President's Message - James Heitholt

Well the heat finally showed up and the spring/summer field seasons are in full swing. A few updates from the Board of Directors and Committees: The Board has been busy assisting President-Elect Iric Burden in planning the summer meeting that will be hosted by the Hualapai Tribe in Northern Arizona. Iric has put together a great agenda and I hope to see everyone there. As usual there will be a General Membership meeting the first night of the Annual Summer Meeting at 7:00 pm. Please send me any new ideas, topics or issues that you would like to discuss at that meeting. Recently the U of A's Student Chapter (Tierra Seca) held elections and a new



president was selected. Congratulations to Clara Miller! Kelsey Hawkes has stepped down as the Section's Awards Committee Chairperson and Jason Martin has volunteered to step up and take her place. Kelsey did an amazing job and we appreciate all of her hard work. Please keep an eye out for those you work with who might deserve recognition for their exemplary work, and nominate them for one of annual section awards. I would also like to say thank you to our volunteers that serve on both the Board of Directors and Section Committees, as well as those who help with Range Tours and NRCWAY. These commitments are important to the continual development of our profession and recruitment of our future professional workforce. Stay safe out there.

CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS! Deadline September 01, 2017

Each year within the Arizona Section, we recognize and honor dedication to range management through the following awards:

> **Professional and Technical Guidance Outstanding Service Outstanding Young Professional** Range Manager of the Year

Nomination forms can be found on pages 9-13 of this newsletter. The deadline date is especially critical for the Range Manager of the Year award, as time is needed for ranch visits in advance of the award presentation at the 2018 winter section meeting.

Please send nomination forms to Jason Martin (Committee Chair):

jmartin@blm.gov (email preferred)

Jason Martin, Bureau of Land Management, 711 S. 14th Ave, Safford, AZ 85546

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Board of Directors

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jheitholt@fs.fed.us

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brischke@cals.arizona.edu

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U of A Student President Clara Miller claramiller@email.arizona.edu

ASU Student President Justin Eddinger Justin.Eddinger@asu.edu

The Year of Native Rangelands Arizona SRM Meeting Status Update

Hello to all my fellow Range Partners,

This is a reminder to please mark your calendars if you have not already:

DATE: August 9 - 11

LOCATION: Hualapai (Youth Camp)

TOPICS: Feral horses, Black Footed Ferrets, Fire, History of Hualapai Grazing Management, Management issues with wildlife, Brush Management

Schedule:

August 9, 2017

3:00 - 6:00 p.m. Arrive

6:00 p.m. - Dinner will be provided

7:00 p.m. - General Membership Meeting

August 10, 2017

7:00 - 8:00 a.m. Breakfast

8:00 – 12:00 p.m. Tour and discussion (History of Hualapai Grazing

Management, Feral Horses, Fire History

12:00 – 1: 00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Tour and discussion (Black Footed Ferret and Prairie

Dogs, Brush Management

6:00 p.m. Dinner will be provided

7:00 p.m. History of Hualapai Tribe Presentation

August 11, 2017

7:00 - 8:00 a.m. Breakfast

8:00 – 11:00 a.m. Travel to the Rim of the Grand Canyon to discuss

wildlife displacement issues

11:00 - 12:00 p.m. Lunch

Adjourn after lunch

The Hualapai Tribe has completely built a new youth camp and it is GORGEOUS! This will undoubtedly be one of the nicer facilities we have ever stayed at! I am very excited to have Hualapai hosting this event and can't wait for all of you to experience it as well. Thank you and I look forward to seeing all of you in the field!

Sincerely, Iric B. Burden Arizona SRM Section - President Elect

Director South Report - Doug Whitbeck

The winter rains and our ephemeral season have come to an end here in southwestern Arizona. However, the bloom carries on with the cholla and the ironwood still strutting their stuff for the desert pollinators. The amazing ephemeral bloom this year has left a carpet of desiccated annual forbs and grasses in the understory. Therefore, this fire season has already been busy for our local firefighters. So be mindful of any sources of sparks to prevent any unintended ignitions while traveling across or recreating on our rangelands! You know the Smokey Bear motto...

With rising temperatures, our monitoring season is also coming to an end. So, now is the time to catch up on data analysis and GIS work from the comfort of our air-conditioned dwellings. As many herds are moving, many range students who are graduating this

month are also moving on to greener pastures. Congratulations to all of our range graduates!

Keeping our youth involved and aware of natural resources is important for our future. We are lucky here in Arizona to have the NRCWAY youth camp available to students in 8-12th grade. This is a great opportunity to get kids outdoors and introduced to the natural world. We are in need of more kids to keep this going so spread the word! And for our older crowd, there's an AZ Cooperative Extension workshop on rangeland precipitation monitoring being held in beautiful Miami, Arizona, on June 15th. Lunch will be provided and a free rain gauge!

Rachel and I are also working on putting together our fall field tour which may include some spectacular desert riparian areas and the

ranch surrounding them northeast of Tucson so stay tuned!





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Director North Report - Joey Dahms

As part of the Year of Native Range, the Arizona Section co-hosted a spring field tour and monitoring workshop with UA Cooperative Extension on the Hualapai Reservation in April. The workshop/tour was a great success with over 30 people attending both days! The crowd was made up of people representing most of the tribes located in Northern Arizona as well as agency folk and some from the general public.

The first day consisted of a group of presentations on the importance of monitoring, an how to actually implement a program. After everyone was thoroughly confused, there were field exercises in the afternoon where

participants were able to practice some common methods and ask questions from the so called "pros".

The second day focused on some of the great work going on within some of the Hualapai Grazing Districts and the issues that they face. We were able to look at some extensive Juniper treatments and compare the pros and cons of



some common methods such as masticating and clipping.

There was some great discussion on what methods to use depending varying locations and situations. To end the day, the AZ Game and Fish Department lead an intense discussion on Prairie Dogs and the Black Footed Ferret reintroductions occurring around the state. All in all, it was a great learning experience to everyone involved and I hope everyone's curiosity and enthusiasm carry into the upcoming summer meeting.

Don't forget about our Arizona Section Website!

Have you ever wondered what the Board of Directors has been up to between our general meetings? Have you ever wondered how to get in contact with a member of the Board, but don't have their contact information?

You can find all that and more at http://azrangelands.org/

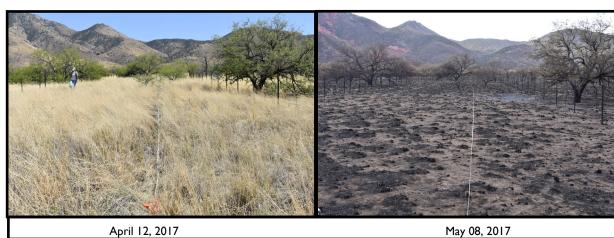
Our website has copies of the recent meeting minutes from our Board of Director meetings, a contact list of all of the members of the board, copies of our recent newsletters, and much more!

Check it out!

Wildfire Season in Arizona

Arizona is certainly no stranger to the yearly wildfire affecting its forests and rangelands and those whose livelihoods exist within those lands. Two of the more recent, and among the top five largest recorded wildfires in Arizona history include the Wallow Fire and the Horseshoe Two Fire, both igniting from human activities in May 2011. As seen when the Arizona Section visited the burned areas of those fires in 2014 and 2016, respectively, ecosystem recovery can be circumstantially very slow, especially where a fire has burned at very high temperatures and into the tree canopies. The sight of charred trees and blackened soil scarring the landscape can be especially disheartening. While it is possible that with future changes in climate, severely burned high elevation ecosystems may never return to the states as they previously existed, it is still an inspiring process to see those ecosystems recover at all, constantly striving to generate new life.

The 2017 wildfire season was off to an early start with the **Sawmill Fire**. This fire began from human activities on April 23 on the Santa Rita Experimental Range (SRER) south of Tucson, then quickly spread east across the mountain and toward the Empire Ranch due to weather conditions and topographic influence. Burning almost 47,000 acres, the Sawmill Fire was fueled by high amounts of dry perennial grass biomass and spread through mesquite, oak woodland, pinyon-juniper, and riparian woodland fuel types. However, the Sawmill Fire, at least within the initial burn area on the SRER, did not burn particularly hot compared to the Wallow and Horseshoe Two fires. Mesquite trees were relatively unharmed, with leaves drying out only where the fire burned in the understory. Recovery and regrowth among perennial grasses and forbs began almost immediately following the fire.



Rita Ranch headquarters less than two weeks prior to ignition, and from the same location a week following the end of burning. (photos by Kelsey Hawkes).

Left: fuel conditions on the SRER near the Santa

Below: perennial grass regrowth two weeks following end of burning (photo by Rachel Turner).

Other wildfires in Arizona which have helped to kick off the fire season include the **Pinal Fire** (south of Globe, AZ), the **Snake Ridge Fire** (above the Mogollon Rim), and the **Dove Fire** (San Carlos Apache Reservation); all three were ignited by lightning during the month of May. As of June 01, all three are <u>still active</u>. Remember fire safety, be aware of road closures, and be careful out there!



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Rangeland Precipitation Monitoring Workshop

June 15, 2017 – 9:00am - 2:30pm (Check-in begins at 8:30am) Bullion Plaza Cultural Center 150 N Plaza Circle Miami, Arizona 85539-1629

This University of Arizona Cooperative Extension workshop will cover some of the basics of collecting and using precipitation data for rangeland management as well as introducing some new tools and strategies to make the job easier.

- Learn about precipitation monitoring best practices for rangeland monitoring...how many gauges do I need? Where should I put them? How often should they be read? How do I interpret the data?
- Learn about do-it-yourself rain gauge designs including a new type that makes reading gauges faster and more accurate
- Learn about a new online tool to manage and interpret precipitation data

Lunch will be provided and every family will receive a free rain gauge!



Preliminary Agenda - 9-2:30pm

- Workshop overview
- Precipitation Monitoring Best Practices
- How to construct a clear PVC range rain gauge
- Overview and training on how to use myRAINge Log online precipitation data management tool

Space is limited, please register for this event below. This will help us plan for food and provide you with meeting updates.

Register here...

https://uarizona.co1.gualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV 1yQYXb2ch4TJ5Up

Questions or comments? Contact:

Mike Crimmins, Extension Specialist – Climate Science

University of Arizona Cooperative Extension

Phone: 520-626-4244

Email: crimmins@email.arizona.edu



Natural Resource Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth

July 17 - July 21, 2017 James 4-H Camp

Highlights

Learn lifelong skills and create lifetime friendships.

Explore and study Arizona's forests, streams, rangelands, soils, plants, and wildlife with expert instructors who will intrigue and challenge you!

Lots of small group learning activities in the forests of the Prescott National Forest.

Gain hands-on experience with hi-tech equipment, field testing, data collection and project design.

Details

Dates: July 17-21, 2017 **Where**: James 4-H Camp between Prescott & Jerome

Tuition: \$150 per student (Financial assistance is available. Please indicate on application if assistance is needed.)

Open to all youth entering **grades 8-12** in the fall of 2017.

Limit: 35 participants.

Deadline for Applications: Postmarked by **May 1, 2017** and include \$75 deposit.

Applicants will be notified of selection results no later than June 1, 2017.

Upon notification of acceptance, the remaining \$75 fee is to be paid unless other aid has been requested and awarded. An exciting opportunity for you to explore the great outdoors and experience the thrill of a unique adventure. The 53_{rd} Annual Natural Resource Conservation W orkshop for Arizona Youth is an interactive camp bringing together the latest in science and natural resource technology.

Mingus Mountain, in the Prescott National Forest, is the setting for learning about water, soils, plants, and other natural resources. You will discover nature by conducting experiments and completing outdoor projects. A major focus will be on natural resource basics and management techniques. This is a hands-on workshop! Youth will have many opportunities to discuss natural resource issues. Various group activities such as fishing, hiking, swimming, volleyball & horseshoes will be available during your free time.







Eligibility

Youth entering grades 8-12 in the fall of 2017 are eligible to apply. Youth must have an interest and desire to learn more about the environment in which we live. No applicant will be denied attendance because of financial need. Selection is made based on the merit of the application.

How To Apply

Complete the application or type the following on a single sheet of paper: Name, address, phone number, grade entering in the Fall of 2017, and email address (if available). Answer the following questions: 1) Explain why you would like to attend this camp. 2) Describe your interests and activities related to natural resources. 3) Describe any other special interests, hobbies, and involvement in community or school activities. 4) If appropriate, indicate the need for financial assistance.

Mail application with \$75 deposit, postmarked by May 1st to: Kim McReynolds, W orkshop Director, AZ Section Society for Range Management 450 S. Haskell, Suite A, W illcox AZ 85643

Questions: Contact Kim at 520-766-3602 or kimm@ cals.arizona.edu

Location & Accommodations

James 4-H Camp is located on a secluded 88 acre wooded site at an elevation of 6,500 feet on Mingus Mountain in the Prescott National Forest. Participants will be housed in rustic cabins with a central bathhouse consisting of modern bathrooms and showers.



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Field Follies — Andrew Brischke

Not all of my follies are about forgetting appropriate footware and flat tires. I also ride horseback, not often, but I do. Not often because of a special relationship I have with horses. I don't really care to climb on their backs and I don't believe they really care to carry me. I'm a rotund guy with short legs. Let's quickly do some horseback math shall we? Big guy + short legs = big horse with short stirrups and me endlessly searching for a rock tall enough to use as a step-stool.

This particular folly happened about three years ago when a sizeable group of us had to go monitoring in a remote area of the Santa Theresa Mountains. We were able to borrow some ponies from the permittee, and the consultant and I met them at their headquarters early in the morning. The permittees had the horses ready before our arrival and a general manifest of who was riding each animal. The permittees took one look at me and went to get a different horse. They drafted the largest, most sure-footed horse they owned. I'm sure it was because of my lacking horsemanship skills.

We switched saddles and I walked my mount to a loading dock where I could easily jump on his back. It is important to remember my weight is not distributed evenly and I carry a backpack that adds about 35 lbs. to my top half. Anyways, while everybody patiently waited and watched me get on, I put my foot in the stirrup and loaded up to throw my other leg over. The horse witnessed me loading up and took a step sideways. I felt this and gave a little extra push off the dock to cover the added distance.

Does anybody remember Newton's First Law of Motion? Well, as I hurled my body onto the horse my body stayed in motion right over the other side of the animal. I tumbled to the ground with an audible thud and a chorus of laughter. The horse gave a well-timed neigh with delight. I didn't know animals had a sense of humor. I dusted myself off, picked up my dignity and backpack and walked that wise-cracking horse back to the side of the dock. The second attempt went better and we were off.

I fell off a second time that day. This time my sure-footed horse tripped and dumped me into the side of a rock. I suspect he just needed a quick break from having to transport the oversized load all day. Near the end of our trip, I knew my horse was through with me when we turned for home.

My horse had a little fire under him all day and wanted to go. I thought that by the end of the day his tired legs would've slowed him a bit. I was wrong. Everybody I was with did a great job of keeping me in the back to slow my horse down. But, when we turned for home my horse's patience had been filled and was looking forward to a well-deserved rest. My horse weaved his way to the front as if he was American Pharoah in the Kentucky Derby and took off up the last hill. I was able to stop him at the top and wait for the others. We once again positioned ourselves behind everyone but soon weaved our way back to the front. Then as soon as my horse saw home, we raced for the roses. My hat flew off as I rapped off a chain of fear-laced profanities and white-knuckled the horn to an ever dissipating chorus of laughter. I didn't fall off though, and everybody had a good laugh. As soon as the color came back to my face, my belly jiggled with laughter as well.

RANGE MANAGER OF THE YEAR AWARD

ARIZONA SECTION SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT

INFORMATION AND CRITERIA FORM

Nomination Deadline: September 01, 2017

Requirements for Nominee Eligibility:

- Need not be a member of the International Society for Range Management
- Must be a ranch owner, operator, or manager of an economic ranch unit
- Must not be a member of State or County Awards Committee or of the Board of Directors
- Must not have received this award within the previous six years

Description

This award recognizes an individual or individuals from the ranching community who exemplify excellence in land stewardship and rangeland conservation within their management practices.

Instructions: Give complete responses to the attached questionnaire on the next page. If possible, please submit ranch maps with the nomination form.

Nominee Information: Nominee Name:			County:	
			Phone:Email:	
Is this person a:	Owner Owner	Manager	Partner	
Nominator Information: Nominator Name:				
Nominator Signature:			Date:	
Email:			Phone:	

Send this form and your complete description of the nominees qualifications to the awards committee chair:

Jason Martin, Bureau of Land Management, 711 S. 14th Ave, Safford, AZ 85546

imartin@blm.gov (email preferred)

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RANGE MANAGER OF THE YEAR AWARD ... CONTINUED OUESTIONAIRRE

Please provide the following information:

1. General Information

- a. Location of ranch
- b. Approximate size of the ranch unit (e.g. sections, acres)
- c. Type of ranch operation (e.g. purebred, commercial, cow/calf, steer/yearlings, sheep)
- d. Generally describe the topography and climate
- e. List the primary vegetation types on the ranch (estimate percent composition of types)
- f. Land ownership composition (estimate percent of each, e.g. private, state, Forest Service, BLM, other)
- g. Other general, information for guidance of the Awards Committee, e.g. ranch history, number of generations

2. Collaboration with Land Management Agencies in Solving Management Problems:

- a. Has the nominee sought planning assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for either private, leased, or agency-managed lands? If yes, describe.
- b. If the ranch unit is predominantly federal or state land, has the permittee taken advantage of BLM, Forest Service, or State Land Department range management planning services? If yes, describe.
- c. Describe any joint cooperative plans, i.e. jointly prepared management plan between a rancher, agency, and/or another organization (e.g. NRCS, BLM, USFS, AZGFD, ASLD)
- d. Does the nominee have an individually developed management plan? If yes, describe.

3. Range Management Practices

- a. Describe the grazing system, e.g. rest-rotation, deferred, continuous, etc.
- b. Does the nominee have inherent distribution problems getting proper use of the range? Please describe.
- c. How does the nominee manage or plan for periods of drought? For wildfire?
- d. Is the range maintaining itself, improving, or is the trend downward? Describe how the nominee's management strategies have affected the trend.
- e. Describe water developments, e.g. list the number of dirt tanks, wells, developed and undeveloped springs, number and miles of pipeline, number and miles of interior fences, number of artificial watersheds, etc.
- f. Is salting and supplementation used to benefit forage and livestock?
- g. Describe any land treatment measures, e.g. noxious plant control, seeding, erosion control, prescribed fire, maintenance of range improvements, other special problems
- h. Describe considerations given to wildlife, including endangered species, when planning management practices
- i. Describe monitoring practices (e.g. vegetation, precipitation, etc.) and how that information is used when making management decisions.

4. Livestock Practices

- a. Given the type of livestock operation, please describe (if applicable):
 - i. Herd composition (type and breed of livestock)
 - ii. Season and length of grazing
 - iii. Grazing density (e.g. in acres/AU) or stocking rate
 - iv. General herd quality
 - v. Source of the livestock and/or breeding practices
 - vi. Calf crop percentage
 - vii. Average daily gain and/or weight of marketed animals
 - viii. Death loss % attributed to predators, poisonous plants, sickness, etc.
 - ix. Use of scientific practices, e.g. pregnancy tests, A.I., bull testing, etc.
 - x. Predator control/mitigation/adaptation practices

5. Community Affiliations

- a. List memberships/roles in community, state, fraternal, or national organizations
- b. Is the nominee involved in any outside public affairs, such as ranch field days, fishing for youth, etc. in cooperation with agencies/schools?

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

ARIZONA SECTION SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT

INFORMATION AND CRITERIA FORM

Nomination Deadline: September 01, 2017

Requirements for Nominee Eligibility:

- Need not be a member of the International Society for Range Management
- Does not have to reside in the state of Arizona, but must contribute to a considerable amount of work in the state.
- Must not be a member of State or County Awards Committee or of the Board of Directors
- Must not have received this award within the previous six years

Description:

This person must have made a contribution to the advancement of the art and science of range management that is worthy of special recognition. It may have been made during the past year or a previous year, but the contribution must still be recognized for its merit. Such contributions may include new or better methods to aid range management; an outstanding article, publication, or information activity that has been widely acclaimed; or unusual leadership in the ranching or professional field of range conservation management.

Instructions: Give a complete description of how this individual has contributed to the development/ enhancement of range management in the past year or years. Please give examples of groups, committees, studies, and/or range practices with which the nominee is involved. Nominations may be disqualified by the awards committee if nomination form is not fully completed.

Nominee Information: Nominee Name: ______ County: _______ Address: ______ Phone: _______ Email: ______ Date: _______ Nominator Information: Nominator Signature: ______ Date: ________ Email: _____ Phone:

Send this form and your complete description of the nominees qualifications to the awards committee chair:

Jason Martin, Bureau of Land Management, 711 S. 14th Ave, Safford, AZ 85546

jmartin@blm.gov (email preferred)

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OUTSTANDING YOUNG PROFESSIONAL AWARD

ARIZONA SECTION SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT

INFORMATION AND CRITERIA FORM

Nomination Deadline: September 01, 2017

Requirements for Nominee Eligibility:

- Must be a member of the International Society for Range Management
- Must be less than 40 years of age on January 1 of the following year of nomination
- Must not be a member of State or County Awards Committee or of the Board of Directors
- Must not have received this award within the previous six years

Description:

This award recognizes superior performance and leadership potential in any range-related area for young professionals who have contributed to the betterment of range management in the state. Examples of individuals may be a person who is involved in the outside community or local associations that is bringing outside awareness to range management; involved in extensive coordinated efforts between agency and ranch managers; or an individual who is consistently taking part in or is instrumental in public outreach through workshops; etc. This is an excellent opportunity to recognize a hard-working individual for their dedication to their profession!

Instructions: Give a complete description of how this individual has contributed to the development/ enhancement of range management in the past year or years. Please give examples of groups, committees, studies, and/or range practices with which the nominee is involved. Nominations may be disqualified by the awards committee if nomination form is not fully completed.

Nominee Information:	
Nominee Name:	County:
Address:	Phone:
	Email:
A	
Agency / Organization:	
Nominator Information:	
Nominator Name:	
Nominator Signature:	Date:
Email:	Phone:

Send this form and your complete description of the nominees qualifications to the awards committee chair:

Jason Martin, Bureau of Land Management, 711 S. 14th Ave, Safford, AZ 85546

jmartin@blm.gov (email preferred)

PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL GUIDANCE AWARD

ARIZONA SECTION SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT

INFORMATION AND CRITERIA FORM

Nomination Deadline: September 01, 2017

Requirements for Nominee Eligibility:

- Need not be a member of the International Society for Range Management
- Must not be a ranch owner, operator, or manager of an economic ranch unit
- Must not be a member of State or County Awards Committee or of the Board of Directors
- Must not have received this award within the previous six years

Description:

A person or persons with range management or range conservation expertise and education, but not a ranch owner or operator, may be selected and honored for their contribution to excellence in grazing management. Such persons may be employees of Federal or State agencies or universities, other government agencies, or individuals operating independently or as members of agricultural firms.

Instructions: Give a complete description of how this individual has contributed to the development/ enhancement of range management in the past year or years. Please give examples of groups, committees, studies, and/or range practices with which the nominee is involved. Nominations may be disqualified by the awards committee if nomination form is not fully completed.

Nominee Information: Nominee Name:	County:
Address:	Phone:
	Email:
Agency / Organization:	
Nominator Information: Nominator Name:	
Nominator Signature:	Date:
Email:	Phone:

Send this form and your complete description of the nominees qualifications to the awards committee chair:

Jason Martin, Bureau of Land Management, 711 S. 14th Ave, Safford, AZ 85546

jmartin@blm.gov (email preferred)

Calendar of Events

2017

June 03, 2017 Erosion Contr	ol with Grasses.	, UA Sierra Vi	sta Campus, S	Sierra Vista
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June 15, 2017 Rangeland Precipitation Monitoring Workshop, Miami, AZ

July 13-14, 2017 Arizona Women in Agriculture Conference, Scottsdale, AZ

July 17-21, 2017 NRCWAY camp

July 26-28, 2017 113th Annual Arizona Cattle Growers Association Convention, Prescott, AZ

August 9-11, 2017 AZ Section Summer Meeting, Hualapai Youth Camp, Peach Springs, AZ

September 09, 2017 Arizona Domestic Well Owner's Basics Workshop, Sierra Vista, AZ

2018

January 28—Feb 02, 2018 Society for Range Management Annual Meeting, Sparks, NV

January 31—Feb 02, 2018 Cattle Industry Convention & NCBA Trade Show, Phoenix, AZ

Arizona Section-Society For Range Management c/o: Kelsey Hawkes
School of Natural Resources and the Environment
University of Arizona
1064 E Lowell Street
Tucson, AZ 85721

