Quarterly Newsletter

2020 Photo Contest Runner-Up Photo 'Grama Near Sonoita By Ashley Wright





June 2021 Newsletter

In This Issue...

Contest Runner-Up	2
2021 Summer Meeting Save the Date	2
Call for 2021 Award Nomi- nations	2
President's Message— Emilio Carrillo	3-4
UofA Chapter Update— <i>Eamonn Mazur</i>	4
Board of Directors Contact Information	4
2021 Summer Meeting Flyer and Registration	5
Director South Report— Vanessa Prileson	6
Call for Auction Items!	6
NOAA Climate Normals Up- date— <i>Dr. Crimmins</i>	7
Arizona Section is on Ama- zon Smile	7
Arizona Short Term Drought Status Report	8
Science Roundup!	8
2022 SRM Meeting Sign-Up	9
SW Noxious, Invasive Weeds Short Course	9
Indigenous Grazing Lands Coalition formation	9
2020 Award Winners Bios	10-1
Lost Resources—Kelli Spleiss	12
Calendar of Events	13

On the Cover...

2020 Arizona Rangelands Photo Contest Runner-Up Photo:

"Grama Near Sonoita" was photographed by Ashley Wright, Area Assistant Agent for Livestock serving Cochise, Pima, and Santa Cruz Counties. Ashley's photo beautifully captures the colorful diversity of our desert grasslands. Congratulations, Ashley!



2021 Summer Meeting Registration Now Open!

The Arizona SRM annual summer meeting and fundraiser auction is scheduled for August 11-13, 2021 in Prescott, AZ See Page 5 for more details.

Call for Arizona Section SRM 2021 Award Nominations

Due October 31, 2021 to <u>awards@azrangelands.org</u> for: **Range Manager of the Year Outstanding Young Professional Outstanding Service Professional and Technical Guidance** *Nomination forms are available at azrangelands.org/awards*

President's Message—Emilio Carrillo



Hello AzSRMer's!

As we enter into the summer season (officially June 20th) we've had a good start to the fire season. This was plainly (or painfully) apparent as my family & I were driving back from the White Mountains for a cool Mother's Day camping trip. As we

passed through Show Low and reached the turn off to Highway 260 we noticed a sign saying "Road Closed Ahead". We figured ADOT was re-paving or painting stripes....the normal annoying things ADOT usually schedules on holidays. As we drove on a little further we were stopped by an ADOT worker. He said that Highway 60 was closed from that point down to Globe due to a wildfire. He then told us an alternate route to Tucson was through Heber, Payson, down the beeline, and through Phoenix. Needless to say, what is normally a 4 hour drive turned into a 7 hour drive. When we arrived at home, I told my wife "It's going to be a good fire season!"

I have a few updates for you in this newsletter. So I will cut to the chase:

- 1. Membership renewal
- 2. Section survey
- 3. NRCWAY trustees
- 4. NRCWAY summer camp
- 5. National winter meeting 2022 Albuquerque

Membership Renewal

Just a friendly reminder that if you haven't had a chance to renew your membership, please do. Our numbers are a little low. To renew your membership please visit the SRM website to do so. https:// srm.allenpress.com/srm/MEMBERSHIP.aspx. you lf have any questions about membership you can contact our Membership Chairperson, Joey Dahms, at joseph.dahms@usda.gov.

Section Survey

Coming out very shortly is a survey that was created by our board of directors. This survey is specific to Arizona members of the SRM and aimed towards gathering feedback on how we can better serve you! This short survey is very important in determining your needs and expectations as a member. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey. Your feedback will be invaluable. Please keep an eye out for an email with a link to the survey.

Summer Meeting 2021

The summer meeting is in full planning mode! It will be held in Prescott AZ at the Deep Well Ranch north of town. Meeting dates are August 11th through the 13th. Please save the date! We are working on the agenda that will be exciting!. The meeting will be our traditional camp out style format. However, for those of us that like modern accommodations, hotels are nearby. See the flyer below for more information. If you have any questions Grace please contact Josh at jgrace@azrangelands.org. We hope you'll be able to join us!

NRCWAY Endowment

For those who may not be aware NRCWAY (Natural Resource Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth) has an established endowment fund. The fund has sat idle for a long time and it's long since overdue for us to get it in order and manageable. To make it more manageable we need to change companies that oversee the fund. We need a majority vote by the trustees to accomplish this. Thanks to the 5 volunteers below for agreeing to be trustee! We realize your time is precious. Thanks to Josh Grace for doing all the legwork to get the ball rolling and getting our affairs in order. A BIG THANK YOU to you all!!!!

- 1. Susan Pater
- 2. Iric Burden
- 3. Steve Barker
- 4. Willie Sommers
- 5. John Kava

Continued on Page 4...

President's Message

Continued from Page 3... Since we are on the NRCWAY topic I'd like to mention that it was decided not to hold the annual summer workshop. It has normally been held at a U of A facility and logistically it was not possible to host the meeting this year. We plan to start up the workshops again next year.

National Winter Meeting 2022

The national winner meeting is slated to be held in Albuquerque, NM. February 6 - 10, 2022. AzSRM has agreed to partner with NM-SRM to plan and host the meeting. A lot of work goes into an event of this magnitude. We are in need of more people to help out with various committees. If you are interested in helping out contact Andrew Brischke (brischke@cals.arizona.edu) or Ashley Hall (ashleys3@email.arizona.edu) for information.

That's all for now! Until next time.

Emilio Carrillo, President, Arizona Section SRM

As summer approaches and the 2020-21 school year comes to a close, I want to sincerely thank our beloved graduating seniors Jacob Brown, Grace Nykol, Claire Bigelow, James Bradley, and TZ Leiser. From fantastic showings at the most recent national conference to their constant dedication to Tierra Seca, I thank you all for making the most of a truly bizarre and extraordinary year. Going into the summer, we hope to host several monthly meetings while preparing for the AZSRM annual summer meeting in August. We also held our officer elections, resulting in the new Tierra Seca officer team: Eamonn Mazur (President), Alex Binford-Walsh (Vice President), Carter Blouin (Treasurer), and Elizabeth Ebadirad (Secretary). I have full confidence that our team will do amazing things, culminating in the highly anticipated 2022 SRM conference in Albuquerque next year. Until then, many club members are off to internships, jobs, graduate school, and exciting adventures all over the country. Wherever you go, I wish everyone a safe and relaxing summer.

2021 Arizona Section Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

President Emilio Carrillo ECarrillo@azrangelands.org

President-Elect Joshua Grace JGrace@azrangelands.org

Vice President Elise Gornish EGornish@arizona.edu

Past President Erin Thomas EThomas@azrangelands.org

Secretary Shai Schendel Shai.Schendel@usda.gov

Treasurer Aaron Lien ALien@arizona.edu Director North Andy Habgood Andrew.Habgood@usda.gov

Director North Alvin Whitehair Alvin.Whitehair@bia.gov

Director South Brett Myers Brett.Myers@usda.gov

Director South Vanessa Prileson Vanessa.Prileson@pima.gov

UofA Chapter President Eamonn Mazur UofATierraSeca@gmail.com

ASU Chapter President Sienna Stea SStea@asu.edu Membership Joey Dahms Joseph.Dahms@usda.gov

Public Relations/Outreach Andrew Antaya AAntaya@azrangelands.org

Native Range Erin Thomas EThomas@azrangelands.org

Young Professionals Brett Myers Brett.Myers@usda.gov

Rancher Affairs Alanna Lonsdale Alanna.R.Lonsdale@gmail.com

Scholarship Larry Howery LHowery@ag.arizona.edu **Awards** Jason Martin

Jason Martin awards@azrangelands.org

Auction/Fundraising Alisha Phipps Alisha.Phipps@usda.gov

NRCWAY Kim McReynolds KimM@cals.arizona.edu

Science Elise Gornish EGornish@arizona.edu

Newsletter Kelsey Landreville Newsletter@azrangelands.org

Historian Willie Sommers WSommers@dffm.az.gov

June 2021 Newsletter | Arizona Section Society for Range Management

4

Welcome -- TO HISTORIC DOWNTOWN PRESCOT

AZSRM 2021 SUMMER MEETING

Join us as we visit Prescott, AZ, and the Deep Well Ranch. This historical ranch is a working cattle ranch and charitable entity, participating in grazing research and educational outreach.

> Rangeland Tour/Presentations Membership Meeting Auction Camping Food and Social NRCWAY BBQ

Dates: August 11-13, 2021

Location: Eagle Ridge Group Campground Prescott National Forest

Registration is now available!

https://azrangelands.org/events email: info@azrangelands.org



Director South Report-Vanessa Prileson

I decided to take a break from the scientific and technical daily slog of running a Rangeland Management program during drought, and reflect a little bit on some of the feelings I have. One is that I have learned it is better to be out on the land together looking at things than not on the land at all. People are your best assets, and together with our ranching partners, we can find a way forward, in this drought and those that follow. Another is to look at photos of times when the range looked great! As a result, somehow this poem formed on the page, perhaps my way of processing some of the current challenges as one of your Directors South.

Here are a list of drought relief resources as a reminder, provided graciously by Alisha Phipps:

USDA programs: <u>https://www.farmers.gov/recover</u>

Farm Service Agency (FSA): <u>https://</u> <u>www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/</u> <u>disaster-assistance-program/index</u> or contact your local FSA office for information.

USDA Risk Management Pasture, Rangeland and Forage Program: <u>https://www.rma.usda.gov/Policy-</u> <u>and-Procedure/Insurance-Plans/Pasture-</u> <u>Rangeland-Forage-and-Evaluation-Report</u>

Together on the Land

By Vanessa Prileson

You meet up, monitor and measure

On the land you dearly love

Even in its worst version

Hard packed and dry, unforgiving rocky ground digs into your knees

Spiky old grass stems protest your touch, and they all seem to crinkle and crumble to dust

A few sharp green leaves boldly strike out, determined to convince you that it, the sideoats, will survive

With the tactic of mimicking the nearby cactus spines

The transect goes slowly in this vast veldt of space, how can it, you wonder, provide more than a trace?

Try not to always want to be in control

Be patient with progress, reach out to your people, and embrace collaboration

Any time together on the land fosters understanding

For when the rains come, no one should celebrate alone.



CALL FOR AUCTION ITEMS!

The Arizona Section will hold its annual auction fundraiser at the 2021 summer meeting in Prescott, AZ. Please send a photo and short description of the item(s) you would like to donate to the auction to our fundraising committee chair, Alisha Phipps at Alisha.Phipps@usda.gov. We are planning to post photos of the items onto our website for viewing prior to the meeting. Proceeds from the auction go directly to the Arizona Section and the Natural Resources Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth. Thank you for your support!

NOAA 1991-2020 Climate Normals Update

NOAA releases 1991-2020 Climate Normals Update By Dr. Mike Crimmins, University of Arizona

Stories about climate and drought in the West have dominated the news over the past couple of months, and you may have noticed a flurry of reporting on a recently released update to something called the "Climate Normals". You may be wondering what the heck "normals" are. You may also be thinking that there isn't anything normal about climate – most especially, those that study the climate, i.e. climatologists. Here is a quick explainer on the recently released 1991-2020 NOAA Climate Normals (https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/products/usclimate-normals) and some links to further reading for a deeper dive on this climatological data product.

What are Climate Normals?

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) maintains many of the long-term climate observing sites in the U.S. and oversees the collection and maintenance of these data at the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI, formerly known as the National Climatic Data Center). One of their responsibilities is developing and maintaining a standard set of reference measures that describe current climate in terms of averages in precipitation, temperature and other variables like growing degree days. The World Meteorological Organization established in the early 1900's that 30 years was a sufficient period of time to establish these averages -- or normals -- to describe current climate conditions.

In the U.S., NOAA updates these 30-year normals every 10 years. The recent release now covers the 1991-2020 period, shifting forward a decade from the previous 1981-2010 normals period. Stations often have different periods of record (some longer, some shorter). Constraining all stations to using this same reference period for calculating averages ensures that they are comparable.

What has changed for Arizona with the release of the new normals?

The new 1991-2020 normals are warmer and drier than

the previous 1981-2010, as the most recent decade was warmer and drier than previous decades. The Southwest observed some of the most pronounced warming anywhere in the U.S., with an increase of about 0.5 to 1 deg F, consistent with a climate change signal across our region. This new climate normal period is also about 5-10% drier, as it drops the wet 1980's period and added in the most recent 10 years, which were quite dry.

Will I notice that the normals have changed?

The change will be subtle in most ways we typically interact with climate information. The normal high and low mentioned on the evening news are based on this update. Warmer normal temperatures means it will be less common to hear about an above-normal high or low temperature. Seasonal climate outlooks issued by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center (https:// www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/) will also eventually be impacted these updates. Outlooks for precipitation and temperature are issued in terms of probabilities of observing below, above, or near-normal values. A common outlook for the Southwest was an increased chance of abovenormal temperatures in all seasons due to strong trends in temperatures over the past several decades. Moving the "normal" bar upward for temperature will make it harder to base the outlook on trends alone for the time being and will lead to weaker temperature outlooks with more uncertainty. (More information on how these outlooks are made can be found here: Where Do Seasonal Climate Predictions Belong in the Drought Management Toolbox? https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/ article/pii/S0190052816300268)

The National Weather Service Forecast Office in Phoenix put together a great deep dive on this topic with a description of changes in temperature and precipitation across the Southwest (available here: <u>https://www.weather.gov/psr/19912020Normals</u>). In the meantime, enjoy getting to know your new normals. You have plenty of time (10 years).

Did you know... for every purchase made on Amazon.com, the Arizona Section will receive a small donation at no extra cost to you? Simply go to https:// smile.amazon.com and select the Arizona Section Society for Range Management as your designated charity.

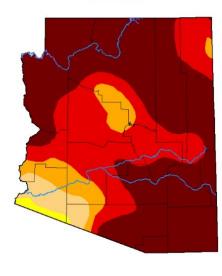
ARIZONA SHORT-TERM DROUGHT STATUS REPORT

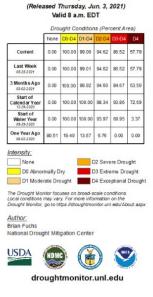
MAY 2021

May is typically one of the two driest months in Arizona. Up to 0.50 inches of rain were received throughout Coconino, Yavapai, Gila, and Apache counties. However, this was not enough to improve current drought conditions. While north central Arizona received most of the rain, the rest of the state remained exceedingly dry, roughly 60%-90% below last year's average precipitation levels for the month.

Drought conditions have remained largely unchanged through the month with 95% of the state in Severe (D2) to Exceptional (D4) drought. No substantial improvement to drought is expected in June.

Wildland fires continued to impact the state with abovenormal fire risk. Stage 2 fire restrictions were issued on state lands in Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, Pima, Pinal, and Santa Cruz counties. All other counties continued Stage 1 fire restrictions. U.S. Drought Monitor Arizona





June 1, 2021

May temperatures across the state were generally average for the month. The outlook for summer shows above average temperatures expected, with equal chances for above, normal, or below average amounts of rain.

Summary produced by the State Drought Monitoring Technical Committee — June 7, 2021

Science Roundup!

By Dr. Elise Gornish, Science Committee Chair

New study shows conducted 4 years after wildfire in Wyoming big sagebrush found that careful application of fall-winter grazing appears to be a valuable tool for managing exotic annual grass cover and abundance, but longer-term research is necessary to determine if it can facilitate the return of native perennial dominance. <u>https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1550742421000300</u>

New perspective on Embracing Complexity & Humility in Rangeland Science: <u>https://www.sciencedirect.com/</u> <u>science/article/pii/S0190052821000262</u> A new study in a cold desert in China found that Grazing rest stimulates soil inorganic N turnover: <u>https://</u> <u>www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/</u>

<u>S0341816221002411?casa_token=r0qo3CPV-</u> <u>r8AAAAA:7sUsvPS7uHb75sZM-</u> <u>wb02iNNAKbeKzikBUTBNZAmUGzLpeuvmkGG-</u> <u>DRq5hZ0mD97RzCrvxMmJvg</u>



2022 SRM Conference—Albuquerque, NM

The Arizona Section and New Mexico Section are cohosting the 75th annual Society for Range Management (SRM) conference in Albuquerque, NM. Ashley Hall and Andrew Brischke are the planning committee co-chairs representing the Arizona Section, and Brenda Simpson and Richard Bonine are the co-chairs representing the New Mexico Section. The 2022 annual conference is planned for February 06-10, 2022. The theme is *Sustainability through Culture and Innovation*.

Planning an international conference requires a strong team. As an Arizona Section member, we ask that you consider volunteering to join one or more planning sub -committees for the 2022 conference. Committee responsibilities range from the program, finance, student competitions, and Public Relations/Outreach. Help is especially needed in the Public Relations/Outreach Committee. Please contact Ashley Hall (AshleyS3@arizona.edu) and/or Andrew Brischke (Brischke@cals.arizona.edu) for more information and to get involved. Thanks in advance for your support of the Arizona and New Mexico Sections and Parent Society SRM.



27th Annual Southwest Invasive Plant Short Course

The 27th Annual South West Noxious, Invasive Plant Short Course will be held virtually again this year via Zoom on July 20-22, 2021. **Early bird registration is now available until July 16, 2021.** You can register, view the agenda, and learn more information at: <u>https://www.eventbrite.com/e/27th-annual-southwestern-noxious-invasive-plant-short-course-tickets-159193926319</u>. Email questions to Dr. Larry Howery at <u>lhowery@ag.arizona.edu</u>. Note that next year (2022), we fully intend to be back in Farmington, NM to offer the Short Course, live and in-person!

Formation of the Indigenous Grazing Lands Coalition

From National Grazing Lands Coalition (NatGLC) *Herd News*, Volume 3, June 2021:

Delane Atcitty, Executive Director of Indian Nations Conservation Alliance (INCA) and SRM Director, along with the entire INCA team are working with the National Grazing Lands Coalition to create an Indigenous Grazing Lands Coalition. You may have watched NatGLC's Facebook post about the NatGLC making a trip to New Mexico and Arizona to interview 20 Native ranchers from nine tribes to create a promotional video for their new GLC. <u>Click here</u> to see a gallery of photos from the trip to the reservation. Atcitty says, "The formation of the Indigenous Grazing Lands Coalition is well overdue, because tribal lands represent 55 million acres of America's 770 million acres of rangeland." Atcitty envisions the coalition being an information hub for tribal ranchers and an outlet for organizations such as the Tribal Natural Resources Department and Indian Affairs Oversight to create partnership and brainstorm new ideas.

The highlight video will debut at INCA's conference in October, will be shown at the 8NGLC Conference in December in Myrtle Beach, and the SRM conference in February 2022

2020 Arizona Section Award Winners

Range Manager of the Year — Bill Brake, Rose Tree Ranch

At the Winter meeting on February 4, 2021, the Arizona Section presented Santa Cruz NRCD Cooperator, Bill Brake, as the 2020 Range Manager of the Year. Mr. Brake has been the resident owner and manager of the Rose Tree Ranch in Elgin, AZ since 1999. He runs a red and black Angus commercial cow/calf operation on 9,700 acres of private, Bureau of Land Management, and AZ State Trust land. He is also a graduate of the University of Arizona.

During his 21 years on the ranch Mr. Brake has initiated the preparation of a Coordinated Resource Management Plan with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Bureau of Land Management, Arizona State Land Department, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Arizona Game and Fish Department, and Santa Cruz Natural Resource Conservation District. This CRM Plan outlines the ranch's deferred rest rotation grazing system. 10 rain gauges spread across the ranch and annual vegetation monitoring of the key forage plants on 6 Key Areas help inform yearly grazing management decisions. Rangeland monitoring has demonstrated that overall rangeland conditions have improved during the 21 years of Mr. Brake's stewardship.

The most telling fact about the Rose Tree Ranch is that when Mr. Brake bought the ranch in 1999 it had only 5 pastures. Now, 21 years later, it has 27 pastures. This change has provided tremendous flexibility to the grazing program by allowing tighter control over the timing, intensity, duration, and frequency of livestock grazing in each pasture. Livestock and wildlife have benefited from Mr. Brake's management and stewardship of the ranch's natural resources.

The award also recognized how Mr. Brake serves his industry and community by participating as Past President of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association (2005-2007), Bureau of Land Management Resource Advisory Council (present), Arizona Game and Fish Commission (present), University of Arizona School of Renewable Natural Resources Advisory Committee (present), National Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (present), and Santa Cruz Natural Resource Conservation District Cooperator (present).

Mr. Brake is also the originator of the "This Ranch Feeds [#] American Families" sign, which is now promoted by the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association Young Rancher Committee. His is on display in front of his working corrals on Upper Elgin Road. Congratulations, Bill!

Professional and Technical Guidance— Iric Burden, Kaibab National Forest

Iric Burden is the recipient of the 2020 Professional and Technical Guidance award. Iric is currently the Range Program Manager for the Kaibab National Forest in northern Arizona. Iric's previous positions in Arizona include Northern Arizona Range Specialist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rangeland Conservationist for the U.S. Forest Service, Rangeland Resource Area Manager for the Arizona State Land Department, and a private Wildlife Specialist.

Some of Iric's most notable accomplishments include: architect and fundraiser for a multi-million dollar seeding project after a landscape-scale blue grama mortality event; collaboration with the US Forest Service for Rangeland Production Monitoring Service (RPMS), lead manager of the Kaibab Wild Horse & Burro Program, initiating efforts to improve herd health through genetic diversity and coordinating removal of 60 burros on the forest for adoption; developed a partnership with UA Cooperative Extension for Three-Forest Cooperative Monitoring Program; Coordinated with Plant Materials Center for seeding trials; pursued and received funding through USFS and NRCS to address critical needs for the ranches affected by the Magnum Fire; and provided information on drought Continued on Page 11...

2020 Arizona Section Award Winners

Continued from page 10... responses in Arizona using climate tools on The Art of Range podcast.

Iric regularly provides range and wildlife presentations for a variety of audiences, his range expertise is sought out by Babbitt Ranches, one of the larger land owners in northern Arizona, and he is also a long-term advisor to the Diablo Trust, a collaborative land stewardship organization in northern Arizona.



Iric's contributions to the Arizona Section SRM are also notable: he was an energetic and progressive leader as the Vice President (x2), President-Elect, President, and Vice President; he developed an Arizo-

na Section SRM Strategic Plan and Bylaw update; created a scholarship and fundraising efforts for Arizona Section member Jessica Orozco; is a 2022 candidate for a Parent Society Director; and is the Chair of the newly developed Diversity and Inclusion Committee. He is also always willing to give his time and expertise to the youth as a speaker at our NRCWAY camp.

Iric is a top choice for many programs around the state because of his technical expertise, professionalism, willingness to help, and constant positive attitude. It would be difficult to dispute Iric's extensive range knowledge, expertise, and passion for caring for our rangelands. Congratulations, Iric!

Outstanding Service — Sarah King, King's Anvil Ranch

Sarah has contributed to the development and enhancement of collaborative range management over the course of the past year and previous years with her lifelong commitment to her family's ranch and her dedication to the Altar Valley Conservation Alliance (AVCA). As the new Executive Director for the AVCA, Sarah has taken the lead of this cohesive organization in her home range. She has shown and continues to show unusual leadership for ranching and rangeland management in times of uncertainty and hardship for ranching and natural resources communities.

When Sarah served as the Communications Director for AVCA, she graciously opened her family's ranch home for annual gatherings and coordination meetings. She is the journalist behind the laptop taking detailed notes to report back to the group and larger audiences. She continues to coordinate these meetings in her role as Executive Director, and connects people in various roles and organizations to improve collaboration on long-term planning efforts and communication systems.

Sarah seamlessly navigates complex topics with diverse stakeholder groups, responds with enthusiasm to every interview or participation request no matter how obscure, and has the knack of settling feelings of individuals and groups with her diplomatic feedback.

Sarah is an effective liaison between AVCA, ranchers and farmers in AVCA, facilitator group Southwest Deci-

sion Resources, Quiet Creek GIS and remote sensing services, university scientists, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. NRCS, Pima County, and many other land agencies and stakeholders in the region. When an individual provides such a wide array of services to her community and profession, she is worthy of spe-



cial recognition. Congratulations Sarah!

2020 Arizona Section Award Winners

Outstanding Young Professional — Julia Sittig, Southwest Decision Resources

Julia has contributed to the development and enhancement to collaborative range management with her dedication and commitment to *two* organizations and professions. As Conservation and Science Director for the Altar Valley Conservation Alliance (AVCA), she networks, organizes workshops and practical field work days, and keeps plan-writing efforts on track with ranchers, land management agencies, university scientists, and a multitude of stakeholders. As a Facilitator for Southwest Decision Resources, she helps coordinate and facilitate large meetings with the stakeholders mentioned above in watersheds throughout Arizona.

Julia's commitment to long hours of practical range event coordination and performing the actual field work for AVCA shows a level of enthusiasm not frequently encountered. Her leadership, facilitation, and collaboration skillsets in her work with SWDR has kept a large and complex network of watershed groups and technical teams on track in the development of the monumental task of writing watershed management plans. Specifically, while balancing these two roles, Julia has explained the importance of drafting the AVCA Watershed Plan in conformance with the Bureau of Reclamation WaterSmart grant timeline at every meeting. Her superb organizational skills have allowed these multi-stakeholder groups to identify, outline, and begin to plan the imple-



mentation process of dozens of range restoration and habitat projects for the AVCA Watershed Plan. Not only can she keep a large group on task, she can also write at a professional, scientific level in real time and diplomatically suggest improvements for restoration project ideas

Julia deserves recognition for her ability to coordinate field event logistics, encourage multi-stakeholder groups to specify their goals and objectives, perform pilot studies, and run analyses and report back to her colleagues with professional scientific prose that everyone can understand. Her work sets a prime example and a polished contribution to the range management profession. Congratulations Julia!

Lost Resources — Kelli Spleiss

From U.S. Forest Service Memorial Website, https:// www.fs.usda.gov/inside-fs/memorial/remembering-kelli-spleiss



Kelli Spleiss passed away April 02, 2021. She served a long and dedicated career with the Forest Service in Range Management and most recently served on the Prescott National Forest from 2007 to 2017. Prior to coming to the Forest, Kelli and her husband, Scott, spent many years serving Arizona on the Coconino, Apache-Sitgreaves, and Coronado National Forests after leaving the Black Range in South Dakota.

Kelli and Scott retired from the Forest Service in 2017 together, just as they did most things in their life. After retirement, they enjoyed traveling, bird hunting in Southeast Arizona, and spending time with their kids, grandbabies, and friends. Kelli exemplified true servant leadership and was committed to and cared for her family and friends dearly.

Kelli was a strong minded, independent woman, and above all, a caring soul. She is survived by her loving and devoted husband Scott, loving son, daughter, son-inlaw, two beautiful grandchildren, sister, and brother.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check out the events page on our website: <u>https://azrangelands.org/events</u>



2021

July 20-22	Southwest Invasive, Noxious Weeds Short Course, virtual via Zoom
August 9-11	Arizona's Conservation Districts Summer Conference, Litchfield Park, AZ
August 11-13	Arizona Section SRM Summer Meeting, Prescott, AZ
October 21-22	Southwest Vegetation Management Association Annual Conference, Avon-
	dale, AZ
December 06-09	8th National Grazing Lands Conference, Myrtle Beach, SC

2022

February 06-10 75th Annual SRM Conference, Albuquerque, NM

Many great events are also listed on the University of Arizona's EcoRestore Portal: https://ecorestore.arizona.edu/calendar

Arizona Section Society for Range Management



Society for Range Management

