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### A Message from the Director South

I've been focusing much of my efforts recently in helping to organize an event in southeast AZ called "Grassland Resilience Workshop Series: Brush Management & Soil Health." I highly recommend the membership, especially those in southern AZ, to attend and/or get involved if interested. Should be an interesting and exciting workshop!

The Conservation and Adaptation Resources Toolbox (CART), University of Arizona/Gornish Lab, Altar Valley Conservation Alliance, Santa Rita Experimental Range, USDA-Agricultural Research Service, and Cienega Watershed Partnership, are thrilled to announce a 4-part workshop series focused on mesquite management and soil health in southeastern Arizona.

Join us for a virtual kick-off webinar on October 10th with Julia Guglielmo, Brett Blum/Mitch McClaran, and Scott Jones will introduce three important grasslands in our region and lay the groundwork for field visits in the coming months. This Grassland Resilience Workshop Series brings together land managers, ranchers, and researchers to learn about standard management practices to improve soil health and manage mesquite encroachment in three adjacent semi-arid grasslands: the Santa Rita Experimental Range, the Altar Valley, and the BLM Las Cienegas National Conservation Area.

Participants will learn how partners implement standard management practices to improve soil health and manage mesquite encroachment. Speakers: Brett Blum/Mitch McClaran - Brett is the director of the Southern Arizona Experiment Station at the Santa Rita Experimental Range and Mitch has been undertaking research on the Range for many years. Julia Guglielmo - Conservation & Science Director for the Altar Valley Conservation Alliance. Scott Jones -

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This free workshop series will bring together land managers, ranchers, and researchers to learn about standard management practices in three adjacent watersheds to improve soil health and manage mesquite encroachment.

Sessions include the kick-off virtual webinar (Oct 10th), and three in-person field visits and workshops:

Santa Rita Experimental Range: October 20th

Altar Valley: November 3rd

Las Cienegas NCA: TBD

Please help us share this Workshop Series far and wide and do not hesitate to get in touch with any questions or if you would like to be involved as a presenter, speaker, field lead, etc. by contacting: arielleger@arizona.edu or Austin.rutherford@usda.gov

#### It's Award Nomination Season!

Howdy Rangers,

Please take a moment to nominate that deserving person(s) for one of our awards. Nominee's need not be a member of AzSRM nor does the person submitting the nomination. A little recognition goes a long way!

To nominate a person (or persons) for an award, please read the description for each award category below. There are 3 ways to submit nominations;

1. Download, print and hand fill nomination form (PDF). Scan and email the

completed nomination forms to: awards@azrangelands.org

OR

2. Download the "Electronic Fillable pdf form" and fill out on an electronic device. Email the completed nomination forms to:

awards@azrangelands.org

OR

3. Complete the "Online nomination form". No need for downloading, printing nor emailing.

Outstanding Service Award

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have been made during the past year, or a previous year. 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.

Outstanding Service Award Nomination Form; This form can be printed out and completed by hand and scanned & emailed.

Electronic Fillable pdf form; This form can be completed on your electronic device and emailed.

Online nomination form; Click link to go to online nomination form.

Outstanding Young Professional Award

The Outstanding Young Professional Award recognizes superior performance and leadership potential in any range-related area for young professionals who have contributed to 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.

Nominee must be no more than 40 years of age.

Outstanding Young Professionals Award Nomination Form; This form can be printed out and completed by hand and scanned & emailed.

Electronic Fillable pdf form; This form can be completed on your electronic device and emailed.

Online nomination form; Click link to go to online nomination form.

Professional & Technical Guidance Award

The *Professional & Technical Guidance Award* recognizes 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 or Federal or State agencies or universities, other government agencies, or individuals operating independently or as members of agricultural firms.

Professional and Technical Guidance Nomination Form; This form can be printed out and completed by hand and scanned & emailed.

Electronic Fillable pdf form; This form can be completed on your electronic device and emailed

Online nomination form; Click link to go to online nomination form.

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the ranching community who exemplify excellence in land stewardship and rangeland conservation within their management practices.

Range Manager of the Year Award Nomination Form; This form can be printed out and completed by hand and scanned & emailed.

Electronic Fillable pdf form; This form can be completed on your electronic device and emailed

Online nomination form; Click link to go to online nomination form.

Visit our Awards page at the link below for more info!

https://azrangelands.org/nominate

Thank you!

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## **Grassland Resilience Workshop Series: Brush Management & Soil Health**

This free workshop series will bring together land managers, ranchers, and researchers to learn about the standard management practices in three adjacent watersheds to improve soil health and manage mesquite encroachment. Sessions include a kick-off virtual webinar, and three in-person field visits and workshops. Workshops will feature local experts on the ecological features of the landscape, treatment planning and implementation, and effects of management on soil health, vegetation, and habitat quality. Register for the Virtual Kick-Off Webinar and workshops below - registration is limited!



#### Tuesday, October 10th, 2023: Virtual Kick-Off Webinar

. 10am, Register for this virtual event here: https://tinyurl.com/workshopkickoff



#### Friday, October 20th, 2023: Santa Rita Experimental Range

· 9am - 5pm, https://workshop1SRER.eventbrite.com



SRER Registration:

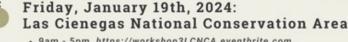


#### Friday, November 3rd, 2023: Altar Valley

9am - 5pm, https://workshop2AltarValley.eventbrite.com



LCNCA Registration:



· 9am - 5pm, https://workshop3LCNCA.eventbrite.com



This workshop series is convened by the Conservation and Adaptation Resources Toolbox (CART), the Gornish Lab, the Santa Rita Experimental Range, the Altar Valley Conservation Alliance, the Las Cienegas Watershed Partnership, the USDA Agricultural Research Service, and the Pima Natural Resources Conservation District.

QUESTIONS? Contact Ariel Léger, arielleger@arizona.edu













Cooperative Extension





Interested in rangeland and arid lands research? Consider attending the Research Insights in Semi-arid ecosystems (RISE) Symposium on the University of Arizona Campus! The symposium will feature research happening on the Santa Rita Experimental Range and Walnut Gulch Experimental Watershed. Visit the website to learn more and register!

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# <u>Virtual Fencing Workshop: Exploring the System and Rancher Insights</u>

At the AZSRM summer meeting we learned a bit about virtual fencing (VF). This emerging precision livestock management technology has the potential to revolutionize grazing systems by allowing dynamic control of livestock distribution and duration while also reducing the cost of wire fence replacement. But, like any new technology, it can be very complicated.

Join us at a free workshop at the Santa Rita Ranch on November 16 to better understand virtual fencing. Participants will learn about VF components and the differences between vendors. Ranchers using VF at the landscape-scale will share their experiences and perspective. We will also discuss and demonstrate the art and science of collaring livestock and placing base stations.

Virtual fencing is exciting, new, and has a lot of potential—and risk. We hope this workshop empowers you to effectively evaluate VF for sustainable rangeland management. <u>Learn more about the workshop</u> or <u>register now!</u> Registration is free and includes lunch.

This work is supported by USDA NIFA Western SARE (project number WPDP22-016), AFRI IDEAS (award no. 2022-10726), the Arizona Experiment

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# Exploring the Boundaries of Virtual Fencing

# Agenda

VF 101
VF Vendors
Rancher Perspective
Collaring Demo
Base Station Demo

# November 16

Santa Rita Ranch Green Valley, AZ

Starts at 9am



# **Register Now**

rangelandsgateway.org/virtual-fence/workshop-2

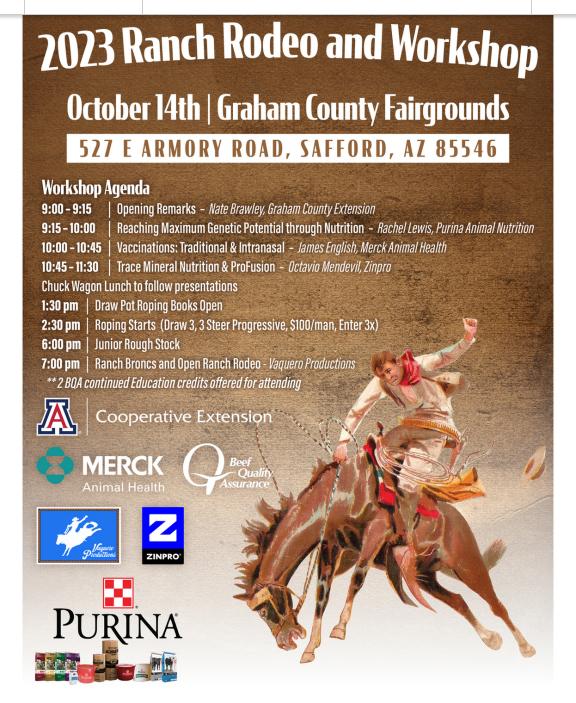
Registration is free and includes lunch

Supported by USDA NIFA WSARE (WPDP22-016), AFRI IDEAS (2022-10726), Arizona Experiment Station & the Marley Endowment for Sustainable Rangeland Stewardship





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**Job Announcement!** 

Assistant Professor and Extensions Specialist; Texas A&M

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