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**Society for  
Range  
Management**  
Arizona Section

## A Letter from the (New) President

Howdy Rangers!

Im thrilled to fill the shoes of the illustrious Josh Grace as the section's President for the next year. We have a bunch of great programming scheduled for the upcoming year, including a funshoot in April and our summer meeting at the Grand Canyon! I hope that you all feel comfortable reaching out to myself and the section board if you have ideas for things you would like to see form us.

In February, we had a successful winter meeting where we heard talks that focused on rangeland management from soil to snout. We had lots of great discussions and we were able to raise substantial funds for the section, including over \$1418 in the silent auction (Thanks Alisha for running that!).

In addition to learning and sharing, the meeting was also an opportunity to celebrate! We awarded the 2022 Range Manager of the Year award to Andrew and Micaela McGibbon from the Santa Rita Ranch. We also awarded the 2022 Professional & Technical Guidance award to Matthew Kilford. We awarded the Outstanding Young Professional Award to Alisha Phipps. Finally, we highlighted some of the significant awards of our student members including Philippa Johnstone, Ava Hamstead, Robin Bradley and Tierra Seca. Congrats all! The meeting was also a time to say goodbye to some of our outgoing offices, including Sarah James (Director North), Vanessa Prilesen (Director South), Emilio Carillo (Past President), and Josh Grace (President). Thank you all for our dedicated service to the section!

We are looking forward to a great year! See y'all out on the range.

Elise

## (NEW) Director's Note South

I am a recent graduate from the University of Arizona Range program, and currently employed as a Research Ecologist (postdoc) with the USDA-Agricultural Research Service in Tucson, AZ. My current work involves analyzing large federal datasets to understand current plant community distributions and their status on private and public rangelands across the West. I am excited to be newly elected in the Director-South position for the AZ Section. Please feel free to provide any input and suggestions on helpful information I could find or provide, as well as any upcoming rangeland-focused events coming up across southern AZ.

So far, this spring has been busy in the rangelands world with not only the Society for Range Management Annual Meeting in ID, but also a couple of federal protocol training sessions. Tucson recently welcomed rangeland folks from the Natural Resource Conservation Practice to get trained on collecting National Resource Inventory data (similar to Bureau of Land Management AIM) on private rangelands across the US. We also played host to the Bureau of Land Management Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health version 5 training. Both of these events were a success with great field days in the Vail and Sonoita areas. Big thanks to Past-President Emilio Carrillo in selecting interesting field sites to learn and practice these protocols!

## Job Announcements!

# NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS LIVESTOCK OPERATOR FIRE AND FLOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LOFFAP)

Arizona Department of Agriculture

1110 W. Washington Street, Suite 450

Phoenix, AZ 85007

The application period is now open for the LOFFAP2023-3 Grant Cycle. Instructions for completing grant applications can be found in the [LOFFAP Grant Manual & Application Package](#). The Grant Manual and all application forms are available on the AZDA's website at <https://agriculture.az.gov/about-us/divisions/agricultural-consultation-training/livestock-operator-fire-and-flood-assistance>.

[Early Review Deadline](#)

**11:59:59 p.m. (MST) Friday, March 24, 2023**

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Applicants must submit their application package electronically online at:

<https://tinyurl.com/LOFFAP2023-3>.

For additional information, please email or call Ashley Estes, Program Coordinator at [aestes@azda.gov](mailto:aestes@azda.gov) or (602) 542-0972.

## Plant Technician USDA Plant Materials Center - Tucson

**Position title/series/grade/FPL including organizational title: Biological Science Technician (Plants) GS-0404-5/6/7 FPL 08**

**Duty Location:** Tucson, AZ

**AOC:** DE

**Announcement #:** NRCS-23-11880146-MP-AZ-WT

**Open:** 03/21/2023

**Close:** 3/27/2023

**Link:** <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/713498300>

## Tools for Forecasting and reporting Red Brome (*Bromus rubeus*) and Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*)

Researchers at the US Geological Survey, the USA National Phenology Network just released [real-time and short-term forecasts](#) for flowering and senescence in red brome (*Bromus rubeus*). The flowering forecasts can support ranchers in timing grazing after grasses have grown enough to provide good forage, but prior to unpalatable flowering and seeding stages. This practice reduces the development of new seeds and subsequent spread of the species.

Plus, you can report eaf, flower, and fruit status of red brome and cheatgrass (*B. tectorum*) through this simple web-based form: <https://brome.usanpn.org/>. It only takes a few seconds!

## Cool Science!

Livestock removal increases plant cover across the Colorado Plateau:

<https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/acb728>

How has vegetation changed in BLM allotments?

<https://www.partnersinthesage.com/blog/2022/new-study-trends-blm-allotments-30-years>

University of Arizona Cooperative Extension and the Climate Assessment for the Southwest (CLIMAS) are conducting a study to learn how land managers use weather and climate information and how to make this information more accessible and useful. This survey should only take 10 minutes of your time and will

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Click here to take the survey: [https://uarizona.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_3lzcOf2ZSxTIW9M](https://uarizona.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3lzcOf2ZSxTIW9M)

Please feel free to contact Mike Crimmins ([crimmins@arizona.edu](mailto:crimmins@arizona.edu)) with any questions or comments.

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Check out the Art of Range Podcast to learn about cutting edge science related to ranch management,  
range management, and livestock!

<https://artofrange.com/episodes>

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