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A Message from the President

Howdy Rangers,

Summer is upon us, which means monsoon! Monsoon season is the best season for becoming familiar with resources for predicting precipitation (link to: <https://www.weather.gov/media/psr/2023ArizonaMonsoonOutlookOnePager.pdf>) and forage (link to: <https://grasscast.unl.edu/>). Monsoon season is also when our summer meeting is held! Its one of the best events of the year where our membership gets to meet, camp and socialize together as we learn from

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in August to share new ideas. If you have anything you would like to see at the meeting, please reach out to any of the AZSRM Board of Directors!

Join us for the SRMAZ Summer Meeting!

Our summer meeting will take place in the beautiful Ten-X campground in the Kaibab National Forest! Enjoy a break from summer heat while learning about rare plants and stand management in forested rangelands, take an archaeology tour, and get a deep dive on Virtual Fencing during the workshop! Check out the tentative agenda below; final agenda and registration coming soon!

Arizona Section - Society for Range Management Summer Meeting 2023



August 9-11, 2023

Ten-X Campground Kaibab National Forest Tusayan, AZ

Wednesday, August 9, 2023

Ten-X Campground, Off State Highway 64, Tusayan, AZ

12:00 pm Arrival/Registration/ Set up Camp
12:30pm Student Activities- Rangeland Scavenger Hunt
5:30pm NRCWAY Fundraiser Barbecue (\$25 Donation Encouraged)
6:30pm General Membership Meeting
7:30pm Social and Networking
(BYOG- Bring Your own camp Games)

Thursday, August 10, 2022

Ten-X Campground, Off State Highway 64, Tusayan, AZ

7:30am Breakfast (Provided by Tierra Seco, UArizona)
8:30am Introductions and Overview, Elise Gornish, AZSRM President
9:00am Virtual Fence Workshop (UACE, sponsored by Western SARE)
Topics include:
• Technology and components
• Demonstration of implementation
• Demonstration of software and hardware
• Cost-benefit analysis of Virtual Fencing
12-1:00pm Lunch (provided)
3:00pm Workshop Concludes
4:00 pm Social and Networking
5:30pm Conclude Rangeland Scavenger Hunt and Select Winners
6:00pm Dinner (Provided)
7:00pm Social and Networking



Cooperative Extension



Arizona Section - Society for Range Management Summer Meeting 2021

Friday, August 11, 2023

Tusayan Ranger District, Tusayan, AZ

7:30am Breakfast (Provided by Tierra Seco, UArizona)
8:00am Break Camp
9:00am Field Tour- Rare Plants and Timber Stand Improvement (Jesse Duff-Woodruff, Kaibab National Forest)
10:30am Archaeology Field Tour (Charlie Webber, Kaibab National Forest)
12:30pm Lunch (Provided)
1:00pm Adjourn

Meeting Notes:

A Note from the Director: South

Hello Everyone!

My name is Heather Spieth, and I am a Rangeland Management Specialist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. I have been with the agency for almost a year now and a board member for the AZ SRM for 8 months. I live on a ranch in Mammoth, Arizona called Triangle Bar with my husband, Christian and 2 children, Cheyenne, and Montana. It is a 39,000-acre ranch that sits just North of the town of Oracle on the West side of the San Pedro River.

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have learned so much in just a short amount of time. I have also had the pleasure in teaching young students and professionals what we do as Rangeland Management Specialists and passing on information how to be good stewards of the land and proper grazing management.

On March 8th of this year, the NRCS assisted the Tohono O'odham Nation and the Southwest Indian Agricultural Association, INC with their Annual Range Day that they coordinate with the middle schools within the TO Nation. Multiple agencies were present to educate these students about what they do pertaining to wildlife, the environment and on the range. There were educational demos on livestock care and nutrition along with invasive species and what that agency is doing to stop the spread. There were also wildlife presentations on track identification, welding and different trades that are important to learn to keep operations functioning, and plant identification. It was a super fun day and a great experience for these students to enjoy what rangelands and wildlife have to offer and what kind of jobs are out there to keep the proper management going!

I look forward to seeing everyone in August for our Summer Meeting!!

Heather Spieth

Director South



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Why are we hosting a virtual fencing workshop?

Virtual fencing (VF) is currently a hot topic in rangeland management. 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. According to the VF companies, all a rancher or land manager needs to do is buy a bunch of technology, put some necklaces on cows, and start managing cattle. Right? Wrong. Very wrong. Virtual fencing is significantly more complicated.

With support from Arizona Experiment Station and the Marley Foundation for Sustainable Rangeland Stewardship, in cooperation with the Santa Rita Ranch LLC, The University of Arizona conducted a pilot study at the Santa Rita Experimental Range to assess basic product function and utility on Arizona rangelands. Over the last three years, we learned a lot and have created a full day workshop to share that knowledge with you.

At the AZSRM summer meeting at the Ten-X Campground, we will move beyond the basics of VF and demonstrate the actual components of a VF system. Participants will learn about the VF software where all tasks associated with implementing a VF system are completed. A mobile radio base station will be on hand for a live demonstration about the importance of proper placement to maximize base station coverage. The art and science of collaring livestock will also be discussed and demonstrated. Finally, we will cover aspects of animal welfare, potential policy implications, and the next steps for VF research in Arizona. There is a lot to know about VF and we want to share our lessons learned with you.

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.

This work is supported by USDA NIFA Western SARE (project number WPDP22-016), AFRI IDEAS (award no. 2022-10726), the Arizona Experiment Station, and the Marley Endowment for Sustainable Rangeland Stewardship.



A cow wears a virtual fence collar on the Santa Rita Experimental Range

Changing a Landscape to a LifeScape: The Wild and Working Lands Film Festival

Check out this amazing video documenting how rangeland management can move a landscape from degraded to ecologically and economically health!

<https://iwjv.org/new-video-changing-a-landscape-to-a-lifescape/>

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