

ESA Rangeland Ecology Section: 2004 and Beyond (an invitation)

ESA Rangeland Ecology Section members met twice* at the Savannah meetings (in addition to the social and symposium) to discuss ideas and specific plans for future activities. Please contact coordinators listed for each if you would like to help out. If you're interested in taking the lead on any of the ideas that don't have coordinators listed (or have other ideas), please send a message to this listserve inviting others to join you, and/or contact any of the officers to discuss. Updates to these activities will be posted on the "Activities" portion of the Section's web site.

*Approximately 30 members contributed to the Wednesday evening workshop ("Strategies for Increasing the Relevance of Rangeland Ecology Research") and 10 or so stayed after the symposium to discuss 2004 workshops and symposia.

Ongoing

Website development: Section website (<http://www.ag.unr.edu/esa/>)

Rangeland forum website (informal forum to post, describe and discuss observations, data, and results).

Section role: sponsor

Lead contact: Bob Nowak (nowak@cabnr.unr.edu)

January 25-30, 2004

Society for Range Management Meetings, Salt Lake City, Utah

Symposium/workshop: "Is Rangeland Ecology Relevant? Research Needs for Rangeland Management Research Needs in the 21st century" To be followed by discussion of future opportunities for SRM/ESA interaction.

Section role: lead organizer and co-sponsor (with SRM)

Lead contact: Bob Budd (bbudd@TNC.ORG)

Additional contacts: Sam Fuhlendorf (fuhlend@mail.pss.okstate.edu), Jeff Herrick (jherrick@nmsu.edu)

January 25-30, 2004

Society for Range Management Meetings, Salt Lake City, Utah

Symposium/workshop: Monitoring workshop. To include a hands-on component.

Section role: co-sponsor (with SRM)

Lead contact: Jack Alexander (jack@countgrass.com)

Additional contacts: Pete Sundt (psundt@zokes.com)

January 25-30, 2004

Society for Range Management Meetings, Salt Lake City, Utah

Symposium/workshop: Drivers of GHG, extinction, consumption and human population: local, global solutions

Section role: co-sponsor

Lead contact: Lori Hidinger (lori@esa.org)

Additional contacts: contact Lori for list of speakers and organizers

August 1-6, 2005

ESA National Meetings, Portland Oregon

Symposium (proposal due September 15): Management (grazing and beyond) impacts on global rangelands

Section role: lead sponsor (co-sponsors needed)

Lead contact: Ed Fredrickson (efredric@nmsu.edu)

Additional contacts: Sam Fuhlendorf (fuhlend@mail.pss.okstate.edu), Lizzie King (egking@ucdavis.edu)

August 1-6, 2005

ESA National Meetings, Portland Oregon

Possible workshop (proposal due December 1): Monitoring workshop. To include a hands-on component.

Section role: co-sponsor (with SRM)

Lead contact: Pete Sundt? (psundt@zokes.com)

Additional contacts: Jack Alexander? (jack@countgrass.com)

New Initiatives and Ideas with Contacts (please see section website (<http://www.ag.unr.edu/esa/members.htm>) for e-mail addresses)

New international rangeland ecology journal

An SRM task force has already been established. Options include joining with SRM and/or other US and international organizations.

Lead contact: Lizzie King

Workshop(s) to identify land manager research needs and on-site workshops with managers (both general and problem-specific)

Contacts: Bob Budd, Bob Nowak, Tony Joern

Top 10 lists (for website and/or symposia)

- Top 10 things we've learned about rangelands (new knowledge that could/can be applied)
- Top 10 surprises
- Top 10 myths that many land managers hold about rangeland ecology (and those that ecologists hold about managers?)

Contacts: Dave Breshears, Sam Fuhlendorf

K-12 (and University) Curriculum Development

There are a number of initiatives underway. Please see the Society website (http://www.esa.org/education/education_section/) or contact Lori Hiding for information on ESA-led activities. Also see the EcoEdNet site

(<http://www.ecoed.net/index.php>), and contribute to the course list on the Section website

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(<http://www.ag.unr.edu/esa/Education.htm>). The Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park in Las Cruces, NM (www.cdnnp.org) has developed a number of teaching modules and curriculum units that are designed to simultaneously teach kids critical thinking skills and the scientific method while exposing them to desert ecology. Plenty of volunteer opportunities with these and many others. Are there other things that we could be doing, perhaps in collaboration with the ESA Education section?

Contacts: Mari-Vaughn Johnson, Jeff Herrick, Lori Hidinger

More Ideas (from 2003 Savannah Workshop)

- (1) Increasing opportunities for international participation in US professional societies (contact: _____ Moffat).
 - (2) Joint symposia with other societies.
 - (3) Encourage ESA members to collect/report management-relevant data. Includes encouraging journals to publish these data, even if not essential to more theoretical interpretations.
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... And questions participants raised (from 2003 Savannah Workshop) – possible themes for future symposia, workshops and papers

How do we deal with sociological/cultural barriers to communication and science adoption?

What are the economic incentives and barriers to land use and management change?

Are demonstration studies effective?

How do we address the issue of economic and ecological risk when communicating new science/ideas to managers?

Is the “extension” system broken? What/who is the delivery mechanism for the 21st century?*

How can we work more effectively with existing extension (university, federal, state and private)?*

How can we get other ecologists involved?

How can we break down barriers between “range”- related disciplines?

What is the history of international collaboration?

What are the benefits of international collaboration?

Who will/can/needs to adopt new technologies and apply new knowledge to management (early adopters)?

What are rangelands?

Are there success stories we can highlight (e.g. SBI 2002 Symposium in Tucson)?

Is a goal of the section to change how humans interact with grassland, shrubland and savanna ecosystems (either directly or by enhancing the flow of information that can be used by others to do so)?

What does America (and the world) want for rangelands?

Which is more important for us to focus on: manager-driven research or interpretation for managers of new data (which may or may not have been generated in response to manager objectives)?

How can SRM help ESA and vice-versa?

*Sam Fuhlendorf and Linda Wallace are following up on these ideas.