



The Ecological Society of America

ESA Long Range Planning Project Application

I. PLEASE INDICATE THE CONSTITUENT GROUP APPLYING FOR THE FUNDS:

Committee: _____

Section: Rangeland Ecology _____

Chapter: _____

Project Contact:

Name: Jeff Herrick* _____

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Position with Constituent Group: Chair _____

* Current chair is listed as primary contact. Vice-chair (chair-elect = Sam Fuhlendorf) and current secretary (Bob Nowak) participated in the development of this proposal. Additional input was provided by past chairs (Dave Pyke and Dave Breshears) and secretary (Robert Washington-Allen) through their earlier participation in the development of our strategic plan.

II. FUNDING AMOUNT REQUESTED (UP TO 2,500): \$2,250 _____

Please attach a budget estimate cataloging the use of the requested funds in areas such as travel/ meeting; phone/fax; printing and duplication; postage, etc.

Internet expert*: \$1,500

Travel costs** \$750

TOTAL \$2,250

* To work with section officers to develop integrated web-site and list-server (100 hours @ \$15/hour).

** To support participation of SRM president-elect or designate in ESA 2003 meetings.

III. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY.

Please be sure to indicate which objective(s) of the Society the project will address (see attached long range plan). Continue on back if necessary.

Objective number(s): 1.3-1.5, 2.4-2.6, 3.1 and 5.2-5.5.

Description:

Summary. We propose two related activities: (1) development of an internet-based system for increasing the availability of management-relevant rangeland ecology data and knowledge that may not be appropriate for publication in a traditional journal, and to increase the quality of interpretation of these data through dialogue and (2) development of a plan for increased cooperation with the Society for Range Management.

Justification. Most management decisions are based on the long-term knowledge of land managers, occasionally supported by reference to unpublished local observations and studies, which are frequently non-replicated. The ecological literature (including journal articles of both the Society for Range Management and ESA) is based primarily on short-term studies and is rarely cited. Similarly, few scientists are aware of or make use of the immense quantity of frequently undocumented long-term anecdotal observations and studies. There is a tremendous opportunity to increase the quantity of data available to ecologists and the quality of data interpretation for both ecologists and land managers. We propose to promote increased interaction between ecologists and land managers through an internet-based system and through increased cooperation between ESA and its management-oriented counterpart, the Society for Range Management. The Rangeland Ecology Section has generated an extraordinary amount of interest among both current and potential future ESA members, reflected in the extremely high level of energy and participation in our section meetings, two symposia (2001 and 2002) and one workshop (2002), as well as the development (last year) of our long-range plan. We believe that the ESA has a unique opportunity to dramatically increase the extent to which science is applied to management while improving the quality of data interpretation by scientists through their interaction with long-term land managers.

(Activity 1) Internet-based system for increasing rangeland ecology data availability and interpretation.

We propose to hire an internet expert (probably a student) to work with the section's secretary (Bob Nowak) to develop an integrated website and list-server. We are currently migrating our draft web site to ESA's server and will finalize the web site in the next 3 months. The requested funding will cover development and modification, to the extent possible, of a list-server and ultimately it's automatic linkage to our web site. Dr. Nowak has committed to continuing to support the system at least through the end of his term. He will automate the system to the point that future secretaries will be able to maintain it with very limited training. The listserver would be used to solicit short summaries of accumulated observations and small datasets which would be accessible through the website. Subscribers to the listserver would then be encouraged to comment on the observations and datasets based on their own experience and knowledge of ecological processes and the scientific literature. Our hope, of course, is that some of the interactions on the listserver will lead to collaborations between ecologists and managers. We expect this communication and subsequent collaboration to result in both improved management and the publication of some of these currently unknown long-term datasets and knowledge in the society's journals. We also believe that this might serve as a model for other sections interested in increasing communication between basic ecologists, applied ecologists and land managers. We will publicize this new website and listserver at both the ESA and Society for Range Management meetings, and with notices in newsletters of other relevant scientific and management organizations.

(Activity 2) Plan for increased cooperation with the Society for Range Management. We propose to use our Section meeting at the 2003 ESA meetings to explore opportunities for increasing the relevance of ecology to management of grassland, shrubland and savanna ecosystems together with the Society for Range Management. We will invite the president-elect of SRM or her/his designate to attend the 2002 ESA meetings and participate in this evening session. We expect one result to be a proposal for a joint symposium to be held at

both the 2004 meetings of both societies. We will use funding from this grant to pay at least 50% of the travel and registration costs of the president-elect of the Society of Range Management in order to facilitate her/his participation in the 2003 ESA meetings.

PLEASE LIST THE ANTICIPATED OUTCOME AND/OR DELIVERABLES EXPECTED FROM THIS UNDERTAKING:

Deliverables:

- Integrated list-server and website.
- Written plan for increased cooperation between the Society for Range Management and ESA.
- Joint symposium proposal for 2004 ESA and SRM meetings.

Outcomes (numbering based on ESA Long-Range Plan goals):

1.3 Recognize and promote the integration of multiple approaches to ecological science *by promoting the interpretation and dissemination of non-traditional ecological data.*

1.4 Promote opportunities for ecologists to learn new ideas and techniques in ecology and related fields *by providing an easily accessible forum for discussing these ideas and techniques and through collaborative symposia with the Society for Range Management.*

1.5 Increase the diversity of ecologists, including representation of cultural, ethnic, gender, intellectual and disciplinary perspectives, and persons with disabilities *by providing opportunities for non-traditional ecologists to present and discuss their ideas, observations and data with ESA members.*

2.4 Increase the breadth of areas of ecology that are included within journals and meetings *by encouraging people who have not published in the journals to at least begin to present their data in a written form. We hope that this will eventually lead to the submission of manuscripts (especially to Ecological Applications) that better reflect applications of ecological science to the management of deserts, grasslands, shrublands, savannas and other rangeland ecosystems.*

2.5 Continue to improve the effectiveness of annual meetings *by attracting more people to participate through the web-site/list-server and development of increased cooperation with the Society for Range Management.*

2.6 Facilitate two-way communication between ecologists and users of our science *through the establishment and promotion of a web site/list-server accessible to all.*

3.1 Contribute to ecological curricula and instruction in formal and informal educational settings *by establishing an informal opportunity for ecologists to educate managers and others interested in rangeland ecology.*

5.2 Increase the number of ecologists who participate in policy development and implementation,

5.3 Be a prime source of ecological information for policy development and implementation,

5.4 Promote the inclusion of ecological science in decision making and implementation, and

5.5 Promote the objective and responsible use of science *by increasing communication among managers, policy-makers and basic and applied ecologists.*

PROJECT START DATE: ___ December 1, 2002

PROJECT COMPLETION DATE: __ November

30, 2003

Please fax (202) 833-8773 or mail this form to ESA Headquarters: 1707 H Street, NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20006

Application deadline is October 21, 2002