

August 6, 2002

Please note this long term plan is a draft and is available for your discussion and revision through the listserv and other avenues. I am sending it again because I understand some servers had crashed for different reasons or others:

Sender: http://us.f404.mail.yahoo.com/ym/Compose?To=esa_range_ecology-owner@daacs.esd.ornl.gov&YY=71292&order=down&sort=date&pos=0

Precedence: bulk

ESA Rangeland Ecology Section
Long-Range Plan
PRELIMINARY DRAFT -- July 26, 2002

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Current Status

We are excited about the potential for this new and rapidly growing section. We started with less than 30 members in 2000 and now have over 125 members. By the end of the 2002 annual meetings, we will have sponsored two symposia and two workshops. Our first symposia stimulated a "Commentary" in the ESA Bulletin (volume 83, pages 194-196). We have also established a listserv and begun development of a webpage. This document is the result of a strategic planning session supported by a grant from ESA for long-range planning.

Purpose of Rangeland Ecology Section

The objectives of this section are to facilitate communication of all aspects of rangeland ecology and management among applied and basic ecologists, natural resource managers and interested members of the public.

Community Served

Current ESA members and potential future ESA members, including rangeland professionals who are not currently members of ESA Rangeland managers and other stakeholders who are unlikely to join ESA Policymakers at the local, state, federal and international levels

Objectives

The objectives of the Rangeland Ecology Section reflect the five long-range goals established by ESA in its Long Range Plan (2002):

1. Improve ecological science and its application
2. Improve communication
3. Enhance publication and public awareness
4. Increase resources
5. Inform policy

We will address these goals by pursuing each of the following action items.

Specific Action Items

ESA Symposia

We will improve the quality of and level of participation in our symposia through the development of a long-term, flexible plan in which ideas for future symposia are developed more than one year in advance. We will strive to generate high-impact symposia proposals annually that will attract large audiences including participants working in both rangelands and other ecosystems. We hope to increase interest in rangeland ecosystems by organizing symposia that will attract a significant number of people who are not currently section members. We will strive to involve other sections and, where appropriate, other societies.

Additional Symposia

We will also seek to become involved in symposia and other events sponsored by other societies, including but not limited to the Society for Range Management (SRM), the American Geophysical Union (AGU), the International Association for Landscape Ecology (IALE), the International Rangelands Congress (IRC), the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER), the International Society for Ecological Modelling (ISEM), the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWSC), the American Water Resources Association (AWRA), the Wildlife Society and the American Society of Agronomy Tri-Society (ASA, CSSA, SSSA).

We will do this by both co-sponsoring events initiated by these organizations, and by encouraging our members to participate in them by advertising them through our listserv and website.

Workshops

Internal (within ESA) workshop. We will strive to sponsor at least one workshop at each annual meeting. These workshops will be designed to provide opportunities for ESA members to learn about new tools and initiatives in rangeland ecology and management. For example, in 2002 we are sponsoring one workshop on a tool used for rangeland evaluation (the "Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health" manual) and one workshop that is designed to increase ESA member involvement in a new initiative (the Sustainable Rangelands Roundtable).

External workshops. We will seek opportunities to become involved with workshops related to rangeland ecology that are held independently of the annual ESA meeting. In general, these workshops will be designed to communicate science and science-based management tools to a broader audience. Our involvement may include direct participation in the organization and leadership of these workshops by Rangeland Ecology Section members, recruiting other ESA members and leaders and/or participants, and financial support.

Publications

We will increase communication among individuals interested in rangeland ecology through publications.

Communication among applied and basic ecologists. The past and current chair will work together each year to generate a publication highlighting current issues in rangeland ecology and management for submission to a publication in a forum with relatively wide circulation in the ecological community (e.g. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*). We will also solicit written, published reviews of section-sponsored symposia and workshops.

Communication among ecologists, rangeland managers, policymakers and other stakeholders. We encourage bottom-up approaches initiated by individual members working in their local communities and at state, national and international levels. We also believe that the Section can play a more direct role in facilitating communication through the following activities. - Inviting local land managers to participate in workshops we sponsor at ESA annual meetings and working with ESA meeting organizers to facilitate their participation.

- Participation in and co-sponsorship of SBI-sponsored events, and cooperation with SEEDS and other ESA outreach programs. - Co-sponsorship of and participation in symposia and workshops sponsored by other organizations (see above).

- Participate in development of relevant issues of "Issues in Ecology".

Internet communication

Web page and listserv. The web page and listserv will be maintained for both internal communication among section members and outreach to other ESA members and the general public.

Web page and listserv management.

We seek to establish the Section webpage on ESAs webpage, and to establish a permanent location for our listserv, preferably associated with ESA. We also seek to identify a webmaster who would be willing to take responsibility for the web page for a longer period of time than the standard officer terms. Finally we will attempt to ensure that the listserv is as active as possible by asking the current secretary (who is responsible for managing it) to transfer responsibility to another individual of their choosing when unable to. Although a single manager has had no problem managing current levels of traffic on the listserv, we expect traffic to increase as the Section continues to grow. The listserv is open to the general public.

Web page content.

We seek to develop and continually improve the value of the web page to both ESA members and the general public. Web page content could include the following:

- Mission statement and section description
- Section-sponsored upcoming symposia and workshops
- Links to other relevant symposia, workshops and societies
- Photo gallery
- Section-sponsored publications
- Job announcements
- Opportunities for professional development
- Teaching support (including links e.g. <http://www.biology.duke.edu/jackson/ecophys/>), Syllabi, Textbook reviews, etc.

Awards

We seek to establish one or more section-sponsored awards. Activities that we would like to consider recognizing include:

- Presentations and posters
- Effective implementation of science-based rangeland management
- Advances in understanding of rangeland ecology

Financial resources

We will seek to maintain a solid financial base to support our activities primarily by maintaining and increasing membership in the section and ESA as a whole. Where possible, we will also pursue opportunities to seek additional external funding.