

Dear ESA Rangeland Ecology Section member,

Please reply to this message (RangeBiz@cabnr.unr.edu) with your vote for one of the following candidates for Chair-elect of the Rangeland Ecology Section by July 31, 2003. Biographies and statements are below.

___ Linda L. Wallace

___ David D. Briske

The successful candidate will serve as chair elect from August 2003-04 and as chair from August 2004-05

Your vote is confidential. The votes will be tallied by an anonymous administrative assistant at the University of Nevada, Reno and your e-mail deleted.

Thank you,

Bob Nowak
Secretary, ESA Rangeland Ecology Section

David D. Briske
Biography

I first became infatuated with grassland ecology as an undergraduate at North Dakota State University where I received a B.A. in Botany. I pursued this interest by earning my Ph.D. in Range Science from Colorado State University where I investigated the physiological ecology of the xeric perennial grass blue grama. I have recently completed my 25th year on the faculty of the Department of Rangeland Ecology and Management at Texas A&M University where I have continued to explore grassland ecology. My specific research interests include physiological ecology, clonal plant biology, and plant-herbivore interactions. The ecological underpinnings of the alternative procedures currently being developed for rangeland evaluation have been a research priority for the past 5 years. My teaching responsibilities include both undergraduate and graduate courses in topics that parallel my research interests. The overarching goals of my program have been to 1) advance the science of rangeland ecology by generating new research information and 2) organize this information in a conceptual framework that has the potential to influence natural resource management and policy. Contributions toward this latter goal include the development of various synthesis papers and the organization and presentation of numerous rangeland ecology courses to personnel of the Natural Resource Conservation Service over the past 12 years. I have maintained membership with both the ESA and SRM throughout my career.

Perspective

As one of the applied ecology disciplines, rangeland ecology is well positioned to provide a vital link between the science of ecology and natural resource management. The Rangeland Section has the potential to serve as the focal point for the exchange of scientific information in this linkage. I envision two unique, but interrelated, goals to promote the growth and influence of the Section. The first goal is to promote recognition and development of rangeland ecology as a science. This may be best accomplished in the short-term by effective interaction with the broader ESA membership. The second goal is to utilize this scientific information to influence rangeland conservation, management and policy. Section involvement with the SRM and the various land management agencies may be the most effective approach toward this goal. I would welcome the opportunity to continue the activities established by the current and previous officers on behalf of the Section membership. The organization of workshops and symposia at both the ESA and SRM meetings and the continued development of the section web page will effectively address both of the previously stated goals.

Linda L. Wallace

Biosketch and Statement

I was born and raised on the east slope of the Colorado Rockies and received my education from the University of Northern Colorado (B. S.), University of Wyoming (M.S.), University of Georgia (Ph.D.) and Syracuse University (post-doc with Sam McNaughton). I've been at the University of Oklahoma since 1981 where I am Professor of Botany in the Department of Botany & Microbiology. Following my research experience in the Serengeti grasslands, my research has focused on rangelands, particularly on the interactions between grazing animals and their forage plants. I have done extensive research on the tallgrass prairies of Oklahoma and the montane grasslands of Yellowstone. I am currently collaborating with Yiqi Luo as well as scientists from Kansas State, working on how increased temperatures resulting from global change will affect rangeland systems. I have been a panel manager for the USDA Rangeland Ecosystems Program and have extensive administrative experience as a faculty fellow in the Provost's Office at Oklahoma, as well. In my "spare" time, I raise (and graze) Appaloosa reining horses.

One of the artificial dichotomies in Ecology is the separation between theoretical and applied research. This dichotomy is enforced, in part, by funding agencies and their different mandates. However, I feel that the Rangeland Ecology Section of ESA can and should play a major role in bridging this gap. By establishing viable lines of communication between basic and applied ecologists, we can communicate more effectively with resource managers and the public. The ESA is currently beginning an re-examination of its long-range vision (**Cultural Change:** "Changing the Culture to Reflect Contemporary Demands", **Ecoinformatics:** "Access to the Distributed, Heterogeneous Information Required for Comprehensive Understanding of Natural Systems and the Wise Management of Natural Resources: 'Data for all...NOW'", **International Outreach:** "A Vision of increased international collaboration and expansion of the international perspective of ESA", **Public Education and Outreach:** "Building an Informed Public: A Vision of Promise & Prominence", **Research Innovations:** "Ecological Research in the 21st Century: A Vision of a Diverse, High-Tech and Multi-Scale Scientific Approach"). These perspectives represent some important challenges for the Rangeland Ecology Section. I propose to work to continue to strength our outreach internationally (e.g. IALE, IRC, ISEM). All workshops and symposia for the section need to be supported by the membership of the section and I would fulfill those wishes. However, given this vision of the ESA and the new funding emphases that both the USDA and NSF are supporting, we should consider workshops that help train us to incorporate relevant aspects of informatics, molecular tools and novel uses of remotely sensed data into our rangeland research. Of course, these new programs will need to be tightly interwoven with our current efforts in our webpage, symposia and workshop development. Our web-based presence is a crucial communications pathway with all of our stakeholders and we need to support Dr. Nowak's work in that arena. Our continued interactions with the Society for Range Management are also crucial. I think that the future for the Rangelands Ecology Section is bright. Our goals of education and communication concerning one of the most endangered resources in the world, sustainable rangeland systems, are important not only for the future of the ESA, but for all of our futures.