

Rangeland Resources Institute



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Colorado State University (CSU) is pleased to announce the formation of the CSU Rangeland Resources Institute (RRI) to better meet the needs of rangeland managers, ranchers, researchers & agencies working to sustain worldwide rangeland resources.

Societies' uses of rangelands continue to increase, and agencies and private landowners still desire access to professionals with rangeland expertise. However, visibility of reliable sources for rangeland management, monitoring, valuation, modeling and assessment information is declining alarmingly.

Rangeland management departments are being dissolved and those that still exist are merging into more general natural resources curriculum. Currently active rangeland professionals are retiring in increasing numbers each year. Availability of information and expertise necessary to sustain rangeland resources is critical for conservation of this valuable resource and the rangeland ecosystem services it provides.

Formation of the Rangeland Resources Institute at Colorado State University will help remedy these problems and increase visibility and accessibility of useful rangeland management information, regionally, nationally, and internationally.

Rangeland Resources Institute Goals include:

- Provide rangeland stakeholders with a clearinghouse for rangeland management issues with regard to research, management, inventory, monitoring, and modeling information;
- Develop, expand and integrate distance learning programs for professional/continuing education and/or agency training needs, to complement existing undergraduate and graduate-level range management coursework and/or degree programs;

- Explore interactions among social, ecological, and economic aspects of rangeland resources, including associations with dependent human communities;
- Identify rangeland ecosystem services, encompassing goods, services, and core processes, as well as potential valuation methods and incentive opportunities for rangeland sustainability;
- Evaluate characteristics of rangeland ecosystem services, including potential for inclusion in programs of conservation incentives, in conjunction with ongoing work within USDA and NGO's;
- Develop tools, and technologies for social, ecological, and economic rangeland inventory, monitoring, and assessment of rangeland ecosystem services information at appropriate scales;
- Work with scale issues associated with rangeland monitoring consistency and/or compatibility at local, regional, and national scales; and,
- Expand social rangeland sustainability frameworks, management paradigms and ecosystem services work to the international rangeland community.

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