
Society for Range Management Research Priorities

The Society for Range Management was organized partly to develop an understanding of rangeland ecosystems and the principles applicable to the management of rangeland resources, to assist those who work with rangeland resources keep abreast of new findings and techniques in the science and art of range management, to improve the effectiveness of range management to obtain products and values necessary for man's welfare, and to create a public appreciation of the economic and social benefits to be obtained from the range environment. In this capacity, our research priorities focus on different aspects of each of the CSREES Strategic Goals. While our primary focus has been in the "Protect and Enhance the Nation's Natural Resource Base and Environment" we have interests in working with CSREES to achieve each of the other goals.

Enhance Economic Opportunities for Agricultural Producers

Managed grazing is the predominant form of rangeland-based agriculture, our research priorities center on developing grazing management technologies that protect and/or enhance environmental quality. Other potential rural economic opportunities such as agriculture and eco-tourism, environmental markets (wetlands, carbon sequestration, and wildlife habitat) and energy production also offer opportunities and should be examined.

Support Increased Economic Opportunities and Improved Quality of Life in Rural America

The demography of rural rangeland ecosystems is changing. Research is needed to better understand the ecological and social connectedness between rural rangeland based economies and the overall economic and social well-being of American society and to develop new and innovative rangeland based enterprises that are ecologically and economically sustainable, socially desirable and capable of sustaining rural American communities.

Enhance Protection and Safety of the Nation's Agriculture and Food Supply

Research should focus on developing technologies that protect rangeland resources critical to the production of food and fiber while maintaining and/or enhancing biodiversity. This should include developing effective resource assessment and monitoring technologies that identify long-term trends in the ecological condition and functional capacity of rangeland ecosystems and developing technologies that limit ecological, economic, and social risks associated with such phenomena as drought and wildfires.

Improve the Nation's Nutrition and Health

Protect and Enhance the Nation's Natural Resource Base and Environment

Our research focus is on the management of riparian areas, the manipulation of rangeland vegetation to provide a quality environment for a wide array of uses (e.g., wildlife habitat, declining species, species of concern, endangered species, recreation), developing effective technologies for managing and controlling invasive and noxious weeds, and the functional restoration of degraded rangelands (including, but not limited to productive capacity). Each of our research needs identified in other strategic goals is ultimately related to this goal.