APPENDIX D

**SAES-422**

**Multistate Research Activity Accomplishments Report**

**Project/Activity Number:** WERA 1008

**Project/Activity Title:** The Rangelands Partnership as a Community of Practice

**Period Covered:** April 2022 – April 2023

**Date of This Report:** June 19, 2023

**Annual Meeting Date(s):** April 17-20, 2023

**Participants:** Arispe, Sergio (Sergio.arispe@oregonstate.edu) Oregon State University; Boden, Dana (dboden1@unl.edu) – University of Nebraska; Bruegger, Retta ([retta.bruegger@colostate.edu](mailto:retta.bruegger@colostate.edu)) – Colorado State University; Dalke, Amber – ([adalke@arizona.edu](mailto:adalke@arizona.edu)) – University of Arizona; Ehlert, Krista ([krista.ehlert@sdstate.edu](mailto:krista.ehlert@sdstate.edu)) – South Dakota State University; Fick, Walt ([whfick@ksu.edu](mailto:whfick@ksu.edu)) – Kansas State University; Gondor, Anne ([gondora@arizona.edu](mailto:gondora@arizona.edu)) - University of Arizona; Haddock, Michael (haddock@ksu.edu) – Kansas State University; Hall, Ashley ([ashleys3@arizona.edu](mailto:ashleys3@arizona.edu)) - University of Arizona; Hutchinson, Barbara (barbarah@arizona.edu) - University of Arizona; Jackson, Carolyn (csjaxon@ksu.edu) - Kansas State University; Juve, Nicole ([nicole.km.juve@ndsu.edu](mailto:nicole.km.juve@ndsu.edu)) – North Dakota State University; Karl, Jason, ([jkarl@uidaho.edu](mailto:jkarl@uidaho.edu)) - University of Idaho; Kenyon, Jeremy ([jkenyon@uidaho.edu](mailto:jkenyon@uidaho.edu)) - University of Idaho; Kruger, David ([tseliot@uwyo.edu](mailto:tseliot@uwyo.edu)) - University of Wyoming; Kuden, Jodee ([jlkuden@alaska.edu](mailto:jlkuden@alaska.edu)) - University of Alaska; Lockard, Emily (emily.lockard@colostate.edu) – Colorado State University; Luftig, David (david.luftig@wsu.edu) – Washington State University; Marshall, Nancy (nancy.marshall@sdstate.edu) – South Dakota State University; Meehan, Miranda (miranda.meehan@ndsu.edu) – North Dakota State University; Merrigan, Sheila ([merrigan@arizona.edu](mailto:merrigan@arizona.edu)) - University of Arizona; Noelle, Sarah ([smnoelle@arizona.edu](mailto:smnoelle@arizona.edu)) - University of Arizona; Olsen, Livia (livia@ksu.edu) – Kansas State University; Pfander, Jeanne (jpfander@arizona.edu) - University of Arizona; Shannon, Amy ([ashannon@unr.edu](mailto:ashannon@unr.edu)) - University of Nevada; Shultz, Brad (schultzb@unce.unr.edu) University of Nevada; Thorne, Mark ([thornem@hawaii.edu](mailto:thornem@hawaii.edu)) - University of Hawaii; Tolleson, Doug ([douglas.tolleson@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:douglas.tolleson@ag.tamu.edu)) Texas A&M University; Woodmansee, Grace ([gwoodmansee@ucanr.edu](mailto:gwoodmansee@ucanr.edu)) – University of California; [rangelands@list.cals.arizona.edu](mailto:rangelands@list.cals.arizona.edu)

**Annual Meeting Summary**: The Rangelands Partnership annual meeting was held on April 17-20, 2023. Twenty participants attended the meeting on-site at the Kansas State University (KSU) campus in Manhattan, KS and 10 participants joined virtually. The Dean of the KSU Libraries, Joe Mocnik, Ph.D., welcomed attendees. The keynote talk was presented by Erin Wiersma, Associate Professor of Art at Kansas State University. In her presentation, Erin described her work as an artist on the Konza Prairie Biological Station in the Flint Hills just 6 miles south of the KSU campus. In the always popular RP state lightning talk sessions, participants heard updates from their RP range science and librarian colleagues about state activities, such as Extension programming, grant-funded projects etc. Other presentations included a report on new developments and plans for further development of the Rangelands Gateway (RG); a presentation on Decision Support Tools; an update on the activities of the IYRP North American Regional Support Team and a preview of RangeDocs promotional videos and user guide. Next steps for RP members coming out of discussions during those presentations include: participate in online RP work sessions to add or edit records for RG content; develop a Decision Support Toolbox site in the RG; share state-level IYRP-N.A. programming, outreach activities and resources with RP members via listserv, the RP newsletter and by adding records in the N.A. IYRP website (https://iyrp.info/north-america) in the RG; share with stakeholders the RangeDocs YouTube promotional videos and how-to guide via multiple communication channels.

At the business meeting, Nancy Marshall (Chair) reviewed the past year’s activities & accomplishments; Jeanne Pfander (Secretary) reported on the monthly EC+ meetings and plans for revising the RP Bylaws in the coming year; Jeremy Kenyon (Treasurer) gave an update on the healthy state of RP finances. Sergio Arispe (Oregon) was elected as incoming RP EC Secretary for 2023-24. Jeanne Pfander (Arizona) is moving into the Vice Chair position, and Ashley Hall (Arizona) will lead the EC as Chair. It was confirmed that the next RP Annual Meeting will be held on the Maui campus in Hawaii and hosted by Mark Thorne (HI) in March 2024.

Following a combined discussion by all attendees both on-site and online, goals for the coming year are: Content & Collections group (and any interested and available RP members) will focus on revising sections of the Uses of Range & Pastureland topic and will develop a Decision Support Toolbox. The Marketing & Social Media working group will implement strategies resulting from the Fall 2022 online communications webinar series. The Partnership Sustainability & Membership working group will refine and implement recruitment strategies and materials to recruit RP members for states that have openings for librarian and/or range professional representatives.

Link to agenda: <https://arizona.box.com/s/oaguaf1wb5gjqq83fhvqes7xa9oeg6ad>

**Accomplishments:** Accomplishments, outcomes, and outputs based on WERA objectives:

*Objective 1: Strengthen the RP as a Community of Practice providing opportunities for professional development, networking, and collaborative projects and initiatives.*

* In August 2022 a Zoom-based RP Roundup was offered on Canva, a free-to-use online graphics design tool for creating social media posts, presentations, posters, videos, etc. Thirteen participants from seven universities attended.
* A 3-part Online Communication professional development webinar series was offered in September, October, and November 2022 for RP members and other rangeland professionals. Fifty-nine participants developed knowledge and skills for ensuring relevant information gets to the desired audience in a systematic and effective way.
* Three rangeland professionals and two librarians from Texas A&M University were recruited to join the Partnership.
* The RP had a successful annual meeting with a positive financial return in April 2023, with 30 attendees (twenty in-person and 10 virtual).

*Objective 2: Promote the Rangelands Gateway (RG) and publicize through all communications outlets.*

* RP members have publicized the RG website to their stakeholders through presentations (contributed papers or posters) and social media posts.
* The RP has created online communication plans to promote different aspects of the website in the coming year. (See also Objective 5.)

*Objective 3: Expand the number of resources and collections in the RG database.*

* Per the Memorandum of Agreement with SRM on adding volumes on a rolling window basis, *Rangeland Ecology & Management*, Volume 70 (2017) and *Rangelands*, Volume 42 (2020) were added to the RG database allowing free access to the articles.
* Total number of resources in the RG Library database is currently 25,852.
* RP members continue to increase and improve access to the collections in the RG by adding new records, revising or creating new website pages, improving search functionality and fixing broken links.
* Members of the RP have continued to develop RangeDocs by adding and annotating locally relevant rangeland Extension publication with funding from an RREA NFF grant. The project team continues to seek funding opportunities to improve the search functionality and AI/machine learning capabilities.

*Objective 4: Continue to build and expand the 19-member state rangelands websites with locally specific content in updated formats, providing additional access through the RG database.*

* Online work sessions are scheduled twice a month to provide support for RP members working on adding content to their state sites.

*Objective 5: Develop marketing and new technology capacity to meet the needs and priorities of an increasingly diverse audience.*

* A 3-part Online Communication webinar series was hosted by the RP in September, October and November 2022. The webinars were widely marketed, and registration numbers exceeded the project team's goals (webinar 1 n=100; webinar 2 n=117; webinar 3 n=119). All individuals who registered were able to attend the live event and were also sent the recording and links to resources on the project webpage. While most webinar participants did not respond to the survey, the 44 people that responded estimated they will share some aspect of the webinars with 2,129 people within the next 12 months. The results of this project are expected to, over time, increase the visibility and accessibility of science-based rangelands information to producers, leading ultimately to an increase in economic well-being for producers, improved resource stewardship, and quality of life for producers and ranching communities.
* A series of outreach materials including a user guide and short videos promoting the RangeDocs resource have been created and are available in the Support section on the RangeDocs site (https://docs.rangelandsgateway.org/)
* A WSARE PDP grant was awarded to the RP in March 2023. The project, titled *Strengthening the Technology Toolbox for Sustainable Rangeland Management*, will focus on moving beyond face-to-face outreach by creating professional development opportunities for rangeland Extension professionals to develop and implement innovative technologies and program delivery approaches that will enhance their ability to share sustainable rangeland information with livestock producers.

*Objective 6: Refine the “topic” sections to incorporate new knowledge.*

* Revised 7 existing and developed 7 new Topic/sub-topic pages. All new topics are awaiting a final review and some editing before publishing by September 2023. These new pages incorporate the new Rangelands Gateway format for Topic pages: Did You Know, Overview, Related Resources, Videos, Tools, Updating Featured Resources from the Database, Outside Resources and Further Reading.

*Objective 7: Contribute to the North American IYRP Support Group and its efforts to develop and facilitate outreach and educational activities.*

* Several RP members continue to be involved in IYRP planning at the North American (N.A,) regional level
* Plans for N.A. IYRP Communication Team-Led Initiatives include:
  + Feature-length documentary film (https://www.iyrp.info/north-america/film-projects)
  + Film festival (3–6-minute videos)
  + Identifying and/or submitting short videos for the IYRP website
  + Educational materials (inc. K-12) (https://www.iyrp.info/outreach-materials/322) (logos, extension materials, wallpaper, etc.)
  + Conference events & presentations
  + Social media campaign

*Objective 8: Continue collaboration with The Society for Range Management (SRM) to increase visibility and awareness of both SRM and the RG, a mutually beneficial objective*.

* Members of the RP continue to serve as Co-Chairs, participants, and SRM board liaison for SRM’s Outreach, Communication, and Website committee.
* The RP collaborates with SRM through a Memorandum of Agreement to make Rangeland Ecology & Management (REM) and Rangelands journal content openly available on a rolling window basis.
* At the 2023 SRM annual conference the RP had a trade show booth where information was provided about the Rangelands Partnership, the Rangelands Gateway, RangeDocs, Tip Hudson’s The Art of Range Podcast, IYRP, and the University of Arizona’s Natural Resource Users Law and Policy Center (NRULPC). The booth reached several hundred conference attendees from a wide range of U.S states and international attendees, in particular from Canada.

**Activities:**

Grants: RP members continue to participate in many collaborations on grants and targeted projects.

* NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant “A National Grazingland Information System: Expanding GlobalRangelands.org through a grazingland thesaurus and mobile content access”. (NR193A750008G003.) Launched [RangeDocs](https://docs.rangelandsgateway.org/). The one-year no-cost extension ended September 2022.
* WSARE Professional Development Program project “Increasing the Online Communication Toolbox for Sustainable Rangeland Management: A Train-the-Trainer Program” (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023; WSARE Project #WPDP21-026). The project has received a no-cost extension to May 31, 2024.
* RREA National Focus Funds project “Expanding Extension Capacity Through RangeDocs: Searchable Rangeland Science” (September 1, 2021 – August 30, 2023; USDA NIFA NFF 2021-46401-34740).
* WSARE Professional Development Program project “Strengthening the Technology Toolbox for Sustainable Rangeland Management” (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2025; WSARE Project #WPDP23-007)

Communication: The RP continues to use multiple communication channels to disseminate rangeland knowledge to local, national, and global stakeholders.

* Increased the newsletter subscription and engagement. The electronic newsletter is sent monthly to 231 individuals. The newsletter focuses on RP related updates and articles written by RP members. Fifty-six percent of recipients are highly or moderately engaged and open and click Partnership newsletter articles.

**Next Step Activities:**

* Continue to work with UAz College of Agriculture & Life Sciences technology experts to identify and correct RG website issues, refine the database search interface, and make layout improvements.
* Keep RP members engaged in improving the RG and the Partnership through work sessions, RP Roundups and encouraging Action Group lead contacts to participate in monthly RP Executive Committee meetings.
* Strengthen the communication and technology skills of RP members through professional development opportunities.
* Seek out opportunities to collaborate on grant proposals that will incorporate and/or leverage a connection to the RP.
* Recruit members for state representation as needed.
* Promote and increase the visibility of the RP in publications, presentations social media and marketing.

**Publications:**

Monthly newsletter: <https://us12.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=1e07e5b3765520a0c1bbf6590&id=5c12e84cd8>

RangeDocs: Searchable Science for Rangeland Management. Authors: Amber Dalke, Sheila Merrigan, Jeanne Pfander, George Ruyle. Poster presented at the Arizona Extension Annual Meeting August 10, 2022

Working Across Disciplines, SRM 2023 Annual Mtg. Plenary. February 14, 2023. Speakers: Tip Hudson and Jeanne Pfander. [This plenary discussion on rangelands across disciplines highlighted the Rangeland Partnership as a great example of librarians and range extension professionals working together to bring information to rangeland managers.]

RangeDocs Outreach Videos. Presented by Amber Dalke at the SRM 2023 Annual Meeting’s Outreach, Communications, and Website (OCW) Committee & Rangelands Partnership Meeting.

A National Grazingland Information System: Expanding GlobalRangelands.org Through a Grazing land Thesaurus and Mobile Content Access Conservation Innovation Grants: New Grazing Lands Innovations. A webinar presented by Jason Karl. ([//conservationwebinars.net/webinars/conservation-innovation-grants-new-grazing-lands-innovations/?sr=wp~ondemand](https://conservationwebinars.net/webinars/conservation-innovation-grants-new-grazing-lands-innovations/?sr=wp~ondemand) )

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