



TEXAS SECTION

SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT



President's Address

This last few summer months have almost felt like normal, especially at the 66th Annual Youth Range Workshop in Junction June 20-25. Registration was full for this event by April 27th. 32 campers, 4 junior directors, and 11 cabin directors (college students majoring in range) attended the workshop and experienced learning about rangelands from the very best of the best representing TSSRM. Carlyne Savage of Anderson County was named Trail Boss. The "Big Bluestem" outfit received the Sam Coleman Award of Excellence. Folks, we do not give enough credit and praise to the outstanding leaders behind range camp. Well done y'all. You have consistently raised the bar and elevated camp to an exciting level where rangelands, ranching,

and stewardship are cool. Please look for YRW online at their new website at: <https://tssrm-youthrangeworkshop.com/> and on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/TSSRMYouthRangeWorkshop/>.

Our fearless 1st Vice President, Dr. Bill Fox, attended 4H Youth Roundup in College Station to watch our future professionals get a jumpstart on their competition, and boy, did they impress. Dr. Fox presented awards to the top individuals in Range Evaluation and Plant Identification Contests. Although, participation was not as high as in “normal” years, our Range Contest leaders rallied and produced a quality contest.

Finally, our Dry Creek Ranch Tour was a huge success and a heck of a good time. We had over 90 participants register and 75 tour Carl and Pat’s beautiful ranch in Mertzon, Texas. Thank you to Rode Mills, Sawyer Warick, Deann Burson, Rainey Bingham, Carson and Bonnie Womack, Grant Teplicek, Victoria Urbanzyck, Matthew Coffman, and many others. A HUGE thank you to our sponsors, Texas Grazing Land Coalition, Great Plains Fire Science Exchange, The Prairie Project, Bamert Seed, and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service for all their support and efforts to make this such a meaningful and pleasant meeting that our TSSRM membership needed!

Our new website continues to make excellent progress and will be officially launched fall of 2021! We are working to make it user-friendly, easy to navigate and find resources with as few clicks possible, integrated into annual meeting planning and registration, and aesthetically pleasing. Thank you for your patience while we produce a creative, functioning product for our membership to rely on!

Lastly, as fluid as COVID-19 life is, so is annual meeting planning. We still plan to be in Victoria October 21-22. However, the meeting will look different this year due to increased positive cases. More information will follow, but I promise you TSSRM will have a strong presence in the safest manner possible. The committee has been working hard on finalizing the details in Victoria with emphasis on making the meeting producer-friendly and FUN! Please be on the lookout for a Range Flash soon with the annual meeting flyer, application, and more details. I look forward to catching up with the membership and enjoying another great meeting!

Respectfully,

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BIG NEWS!!!

Things are changing for the 2021 Annual TSSRM Meeting in Victoria, Texas!

Our annual meeting will be a hybrid meeting format. On site events in Victoria will include a gala evening on October 21st honoring our award recipients at Diebel Cattle Company. We have a fun celebration planned with a yummy meal, cash bar, and band at the site of a 5th generation coastal prairie ranch. A shuttle bus will be available so you can let your hair down and relax!

The following day, a tour will visit two historic ranches (both recognized by TSSRM for outstanding stewardship) with lunch in historic Goliad, near the Presidio La Bahia.

We are working on various student events to be held virtually, including the popular 3-Minute Professional Presentations, posters, URME and Collegiate Plant ID. Top presentations will be featured at

the gala.

An updated registration form will be out soon. \$40 for the gala, \$30 for the tour, or \$60 gets you to both!

We will follow recommended COVID-19 protocols. Masks are encouraged if you are unvaccinated and events will be held outdoors. As you may have guessed, an increase in COVID-19 cases and the uncertainties that accompany them have all been factors in our decision regarding meeting space, financial deposits, etc.

Host hotel information:

Hilton Garden Inn
123 Huvar St
Victoria, TX 77901
Phone: 361-573-0303
Fax: 361.485-0222
Group Code: TSSRM1

A RangeFlash containing a registration link will be sent out as soon as it becomes available.

****Although our plans are to proceed as described above, COVID has taught us all lessons in adaptability before. These meeting plans may be subject to change. We are committed to keeping the members of the Texas Section in the loop as much as possible! Keep an eye out for RangeFlash e-mails or our Texas SRM Facebook page for the latest details!*

You can still submit your entries for the photo contest!



Photo Contest Categories:

Plants
Native Wildlife
People
Ranching & Livestock
Texas Landscapes
Annual Meeting Theme:
“Celebrating Partnerships”



Deadline for Photo Entries is **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8th**

Email Photo Entries to tssrm.photo@gmail.com

For More Information: <https://texasrm.org/photo-contest/>



Plant of the Season by Dr. Jake Landers

Little Bluestem **(*Schizachyrium scoparium*)**

Once a Keystone Species of the Edwards Plateau rangeland, Little bluestem, *Schizachyrium scoparium*, may be returning to prominence due to the management of the current generation of ranchers. Earlier it was the dominant grass of the shallow limestone soils of the plateau and was found in 90% of the counties in Texas.

A Keystone Species is one that is so important that its damage or demise would cause great changes in the ecosystem. Think of the “Key” stone in an arch. Its removal would cause the structure to come crashing down. Of course, it’s more complicated than that in a living system, and the loss of a Keystone Species would result in unpredictable changes as the mixture of plant and animal species respond.

Dramatic changes have occurred in the last 150 years. Early on, as the land was being settled by people of European heritage, cattle numbers increased on the open range and became an important economic asset. There seemed to be no limit to the number of animals that the native grasses could support. Attitudes changed somewhat with the arrival of fencing, but cattle numbers were still high. And add on to that the arrival of sheep and goats.

Little bluestem produces abundant leaves in early summer when it is favorably grazed, but by late summer each clump is sending up seed stalks, and grazing is shifted to shorter and more palatable grasses. In fall and winter the stalks turn rusty red, and are quite visible to the rancher, who may be thinking I could have had more cows in here to graze it down. When that thinking was applied, Little bluestem could survive only where it was protected by Shinoak and other woody species.

As a Keystone Species Little bluestem was the abundant fuel source which allowed hot fires, naturally occurring or human set, to sweep through the landscape damaging woody plants and stimulating grasses. The absence of hot fires has encouraged the establishment of more woody plants, particularly Mesquite and Cedar.

In recent years with better management it is extending out from thickets of Liveoak and Shinoak and rocky sites where it survived. Its return to dominance in pastures is slower than its appearance on many roadsides where it only has to contend with mowing, not grazing. An old rancher once told me "It's a worthless grass, my cattle never eat it". He only identified it in winter as a rusty, red, ungrazed grass, he didn't recognize it green. Maybe that opinion is changing. JL



Little bluestem stand found on the Abilene Bow Hunter's Range in Taylor County, Texas. Photo by Deann Burson.

Editor's Note:

This issue of the newsletter features a student spotlight article written by Youth Range Workshop participant and Trail Boss Award recipient, Miss Carlyne Savage. This bright young lady was a joy to have at the workshop and is destined to do wonderful things in her future!



Student Spotlight

Carolynne Savage

My name is Carolynne Savage, I am seventeen years old and from Larue, Texas. I live on a thirteen-acre farm with my parents and three younger sisters, (ages twelve, two, and ten months), we raise dairy goats, show rabbits, and honey bees. My family is the owner of Robyn Hill Farm where we produce homemade goat milk soap and other skin products such as lip balm, body scrub, and beard oil. My primary responsibilities on our farm include daily rabbit feeding and weekly hive inspections to the three colonies on our property. However, I often assist my mom with goat care through milking our does and assisting with kid delivery. Aside from agriculture, my other hobbies include reading, writing, and painting.

I didn't always find living on a farm such a fulfilling life style. It wasn't until I became involved in Texas 4-H in 2018 that I really began to appreciate the life I had been given. For the first time, I had found something I truly enjoyed and was interested in. Four years in this program has introduced me to new ways of learning and gotten me involved in raising market goats and rabbits, as well as other projects such as Horticulture, Entomology, Public Speaking, and Leadership.

In 2019, I was introduced to a Range and Pasture Plant Identification contest through some friends in 4-H and for whatever reason decided to try my hand at it. This, paired with the collegiate-level gardening classes I was taking to become a Texas Master Gardener, sparked in me an interest in plants that was impossible to ignore. As I became

more involved in each of these areas, I began to realize the need our world has for conservation and turned my attention to Range Management as a career. After attending the 2021 TSSRM Youth Range Workshop, I have no doubt in my mind that this is what my life is called to and hope to pursue a degree in this field. What solidified this decision for me was learning at YRW about the balance a healthy rangeland creates in its ecosystem and how humans can effect that, this was also my favorite topic to explore at camp. Of course, having fun while learning these topics helped my decision along as well. My favorite memories from Range Camp were our daily quiz bowls because they cemented what I was learning, taught me how to more effectively communicate with others, and brought my team closer together. With that being said, one non-range element I learned from the YRW is to not be afraid of getting something wrong. For example, as I prepared to give a presentation for the Kerr County SWCD, as well as the whole camp, I froze. No words would form in my head and, with everyone's full attention, I didn't say a word. After that, I wanted to hide outside for the rest of the day, even when I was given another opportunity to speak. However, I realized that messing up is part of being human, and decided to try again. That failure taught me that being wrong is not always bad, and that trying is what matters. My presentation ended up winning first place and was awarded a buckle. Because of the lessons I learned from this experience, I consider that buckle to be my greatest accomplishment and would encourage future YRW campers to do their best, even if they fail.

As an incoming high school senior, I have spent a great deal of time reflecting on the last several years of my life. Before moving to Texas in 2017, I was perfectly content living in a large city and believed this to be my path in life. Now I know better. Between membership in 4-H and my best friend's mom, Janelle Cole, I have discovered a whole world in nature that I love and want to dedicate time to protecting. Mrs. Cole has introduced me to many of my favorite hobbies, such as beekeeping and pasture plant identification. Her children have exemplified the opportunities available to me as a high school student if I work for them. She has always encouraged me to do my best, even if I had no idea what I was doing, and I can confidently say I would not be the person I am today if it weren't for her and her family. I am exceedingly grateful for the Cole family and often thank the Lord for the blessing of such amazing relationships.

While I once rejected even the idea of country living, I am very pleased with how the last pages of my life have turned out and excitedly anticipate my next chapter. I am looking into becoming more involved in the conservation effort through joining our local Soil and Water Conservation District and assisting the local Volunteer Fire

Department with prescribed burns. I can hardly wait to gain real-world experience through each of these areas and know I will enjoy these interactions. The lessons I learned and the memories I made at the Youth Range Workshop have changed me for the better and challenged me to personally investigate various aspects of Range Management. I will always remember my time at YRW to be some of the best of my life and cannot express how deeply thankful I am to everyone involved in making it a reality.

The TSSRM newsletter wishes to recognize our outstanding faculty members for the research they are conducting on rangelands. This issue will feature Dr. Aaron Norris of Texas Tech University.

Research Spotlight

Dr. Aaron Norris



Title:

Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Natural Resources Management at Texas Tech University

Expertise:

Ruminant nutrition, livestock production systems, and grazing lands management.

Education:

2020-Postdoc, University of Nevada, Reno, Beef Cattle Production

2019-Ph.D, Texas A&M University, Agronomy, Ruminant Nutrition
Emphasis

2015-M.S., Tarleton State University, Ag & Natural Resource Sciences

2013-B.S., Tarleton State University, Animal Production, Range and Ranch
Mgmt. Minor

Research:

The aim of my research program is to support the goals of producers, with a focus on basic and applied research that is relevant and can be readily applied in production scenarios. Major emphasis is placed on demonstrating the environmental and societal benefits of livestock production and healthy grazing lands. Major areas of interest are range nutrition, grazing lands management, livestock and wildlife interactions, and greenhouse gas emissions. Through the application of technologies, such as automated precision feeders/waterers and virtual fencing, we hope to provide more accurate estimates and a better understanding of diet selection, feed and water intake, nutrient requirements, and animal movement in various grazing scenarios. These technologies will also enable the study of different management strategies, including strategic supplementation, targeted grazing, and grazing regimes. Ultimately, my goal is to help improve plant and animal performance and efficiency, promote healthy grazing lands that are resistant and resilient to environmental perturbations, and provide scientific data for management strategies that are often considered anecdotal. Current research in progress includes the evaluation of cattle and feral hog interactions in different ecotypes in the Texas Rolling Plains, companion and cover crop seeding rates and establishment methods to optimize success of range plantings and soil health, and assessment of ecotype and physiological mechanisms that support Mexican feathergrass (*Nasella tenuissima*) invasion in the Southern High Plains. Recently funded projects set to begin in 2022 will include the use of virtual fencing for targeted grazing, range supplementation of phytochemicals to mitigate heat stress and

ectoparasite loads, and evaluation of grazing regimes on grazeable biomass, root morphology and turnover, and soil microbial communities.



DON'T MISS these upcoming lectures in the RWFM STEWARDSHIP WEBINAR SERIES!

Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) licensed agricultural pesticide applicators can earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs) through the RWFM Stewardship Webinar Series every month.

September 2, 2021

Noon CST

Natural Resource Tourism with Wildlife

Dr. Maureen Frank

This webinar will help connect people to their local natural resources by emphasizing wildlife tourism opportunities, natural resources, tourism business, and social sciences to develop appropriate prospects for managing recreation and tourism enterprises. Opportunities like building backyard bird habitat to encouraging youth to become leaders through hunting experiences will be covered. Dr. Frank will help non-landowner birders understand the value of sustainable working lands, and landowners explore the benefits of bird ecotourism.

October 7, 2021

Noon CST

Stewarding Rangelands

Jenny Pluhar and Frank Price

HOW CAN GRAZING MANAGEMENT INFLUENCE RANGELAND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

by Frank Price

The influx of multiple articles and discussion of ecosystem services is currently rampant. It seems everywhere you look someone, or some publication is prompting the importance of and opportunities of improving the quality of ecosystem services. Considerable effort is being made to define what those services are, including environmental-social-economic and even political usage of the term. How to accomplish whatever the goals are, is the key to improving those services. Regardless of the definition, improving-maximizing the health of rangelands is the best method of creating, improving, and maintaining healthy ecosystem services. More simply said: Well planned-properly applied GRAZING MANAGEMENT.

Much of the talk of ES is based on sequestering carbon and storing it in the soil. It seems for many to be the goal and certainly is a valid point. Fortunately, when the range is healthy enough to be sequestering carbon, the other criteria- including clean water-quantity of available water-fertile soil-erosion control-aesthetic appeal-contribution to human-animal-environmental health-- are all addressed. Thus, if we that are involved in rangeland stewardship, whether it be the science or application, play a pivotal role in addressing these 'modern' environmental health concerns. This is where the expertise and knowledge of the Society of Range Management can play a major part in making this discussion an important part of our environment's future recovery and success.

The venture to enhance the ecosystem services including sequestering carbon and ability to do so, are based on the effectiveness of the rangeland manager to cause the many resources available to him to enhance the environmental equilibrium of those resources. West of the 100th meridian, limited rainfall is always of critical importance. Being able to put that limited resource to the best use is perhaps the determining factor of the success of the manager to make positive or negative impact to the environment and the profitability of the

ranching operation. Establishing continuous cover of the soil with healthy plant life should be the goal of the operator. When this is accomplished, evaporation is reduced to a minimum, runoff is limited to extreme rain events and the loss of moisture suddenly becomes only the issue of transpiration, which is an essential process of healthy growing plants.

Healthy-growing plants create healthy soils which in turn create an excellent place to store that limited rainfall for future plant use. (My ranch headquarters has experienced a slight increase in rainfall average since 1983, not less.) From a historical standpoint I find little evidence that rainfall has become less over time, however the utilization of that moisture is greatly reduced. (Bare soils are a huge waste of the valuable water resource.) Those healthy soils and the humus they contain are the building blocks of virtually every ecological factor needed to maintain a biodiverse healthy ecosystem, storing valuable water, and sequestering large amounts of carbon needed to produce even more healthy plant life.

Profitability of the ranching operation is critical to the successful implementation and continuing improvement of the rangeland resource--be it a profitable livestock operation, sale of viable ecosystem services or possible sale of carbon being stored within the soil. Short of outside industry or government funding the successful carbon sequestering venture, that profit is the only viable reason for the effort required to move forward.

Rainfall and the effective utilization of it is the limiting factor in maximizing ecosystem services. Much research and time will be required to determine if carbon sequestering will have value in the west, while other services like water quality and volume may have a more predictable value to the rancher, as wildlife and social acceptance can be a large player in positive rangeland health. The ranchman is perhaps the best player in building improved rangeland as he controls the livestock and the potential rangeland benefits they have to offer. More simply said, grazing and rest of proper numbers of animals is the one factor that can truly make a difference.

Not having experience with state and federal lands, I am naive in understanding the complexities of grazing those areas; however, careful thought to find ways of implementing that rest from grazing is key to overall rangeland improvement. Simply asking that stocking rate or density be adjusted is folly at best. That practice alone is proven within modern grazing operations to be relatively ineffective and at best only prolongs the poor rangeland health issue. Those

plants that are extremely palatable, of good nutritive value, deep rooted, water-maximizing plants simply can't recover from past continuous grazing and must have rest from grazing to maximize their production.

This is not a simple process to initiate and eventually accomplish, but numerous ranching operators are measuring great success in making the lofty goal of moving our depleted rangelands toward what they once were prior to European man's interference. Much has been lost that can never be recreated, but the success of those practitioners that have learned to utilize the tools available is providing some awesome evidence that it is worth the effort. **The SRMs place in making this a practicable-successful process is providing the knowledge base of how to utilize those tools. Nothing more, nothing less.** The problem may be in SRM membership and leadership understanding what tools are viable and what went wrong in the first place.

The recent article in Rangelands Vol 43, Issue 2 'Visions for large landscape drought resilience in rangelands' is an example of how SRM is failing in its approach to rangeland recovery and drought resistance. The article discusses in detail how to deal with the effects of drought and how to overcome the debilitating effect of the continuing drought cycle and its increasing recurrence west of the 100th meridian. It is disappointing the SRM is not actively discussing and providing detailed information as to how to improve the rangeland health by proper grazing management techniques that are proven to mitigate many of the debilitating effects of low rainfall periods. A short simple statement is all that is needed to begin this process. Healthy rangelands are not as severely affected by drought as those lands that are in degraded condition. A properly applied and managed grazing program utilizing rest and animal impact are the basis of that rangeland recovery.

There are six criteria that are essential to rangeland health those are:

1. Keep it covered.
2. Rest
3. Diversity of plants and micro-organisms
4. Minimize old-moribund plants
5. Livestock
6. Make it profitable.

The question has been raised by SRM ecosystem services task force committee as to "How can grazing management influence rangeland services?' The above statement is but a beginning of how to address this key issue. It

must be a straightforward statement that does not try to cover past mistakes, but a statement that promotes true rangeland recovery and the benefits to those ecosystem services-- Whatever they may be 'contrived' to be.



Indian grass-Sideoats-Little Blue-Old World Bluestem-Buffalo-No bare soil

Yes, the Old World while not preferred, has become an integral part of our grazing systems. Utilizing it is a small part of the grazing management plan. Rangelands like this are likely maximizing the sequestering of carbon and are certainly assisting the manager in providing a profitable operation.

THE BETTER IT GETS THE FASTER IT GETS BETTER

Frank S Price

Rangelandsanderanching.com

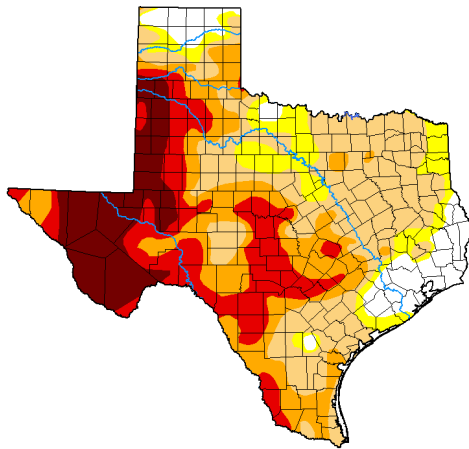
Texas has made significant improvements on the Drought Monitor Map since the beginning of the year! Interestingly, last month was the warmest July on record for the planet, but the 21st coolest for Texas.

For the latest water outlook information, click the Texas + Water link below!

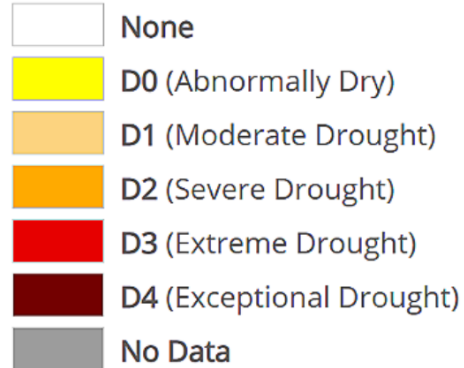
Drought Monitor-Start of Year 2021

TEXAS

December 29, 2020

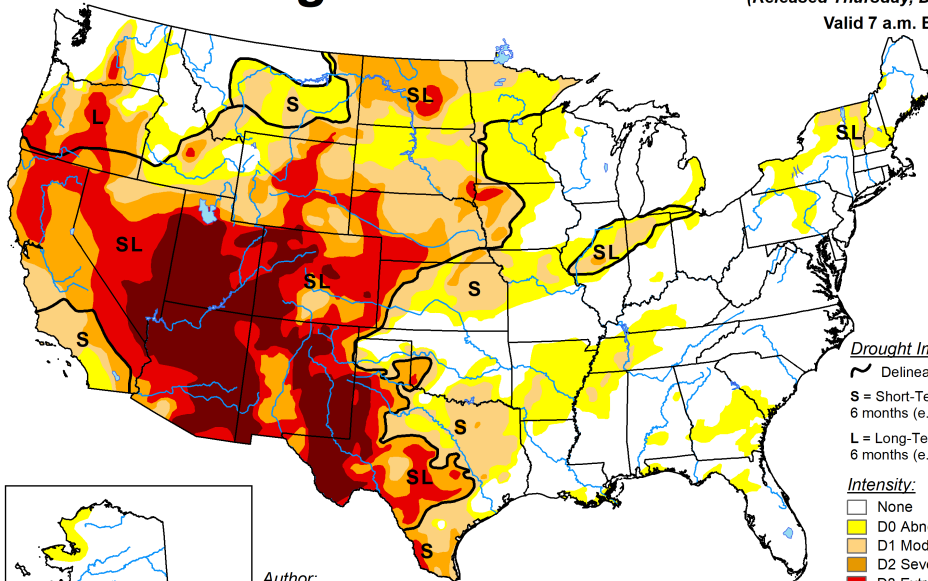


Intensity



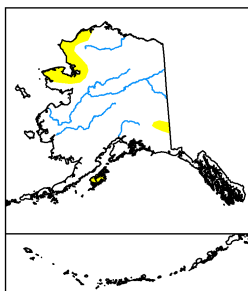
U.S. Drought Monitor

December 29, 2020
(Released Thursday, Dec. 31, 2020)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

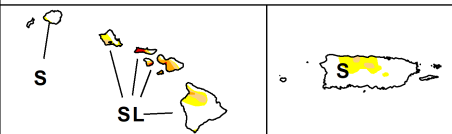


Drought Impact Types:
 Delineates dominant impacts
 S = Short-Term, typically less than 6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
 L = Long-Term, typically greater than 6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

Intensity:
 None
 D0 Abnormally Dry
 D1 Moderate Drought
 D2 Severe Drought
 D3 Extreme Drought
 D4 Exceptional Drought



Author:
Adam Hartman
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



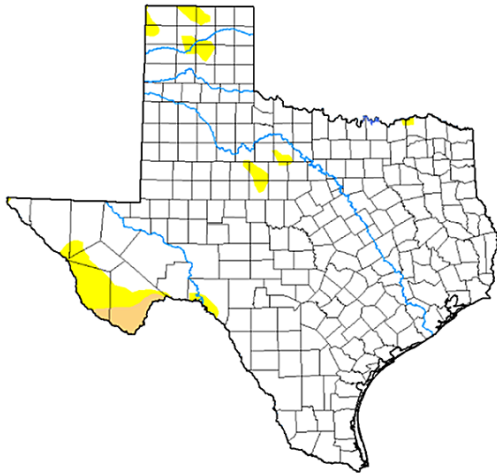
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Drought Monitor-Current

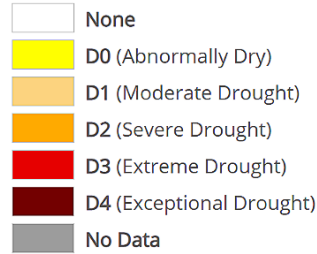
TEXAS



Map released: Thurs. August 26, 2021

Data valid: August 24, 2021 at 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity

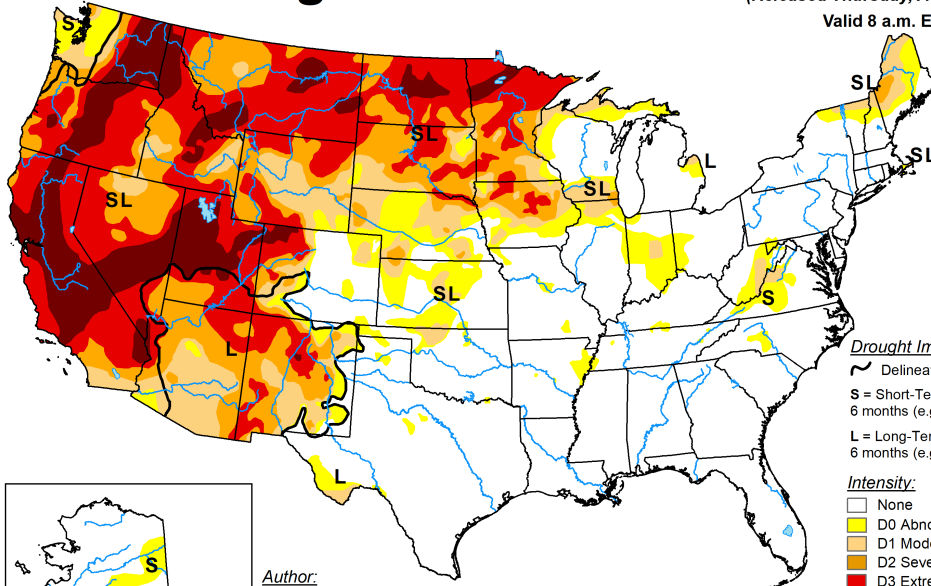


U.S. Drought Monitor

August 24, 2021

(Released Thursday, Aug. 26, 2021)

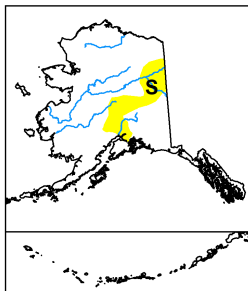
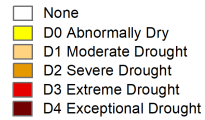
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



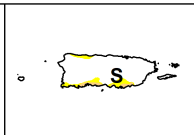
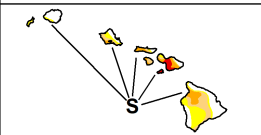
Drought Impact Types:

- Delineates dominant impacts
- S** = Short-Term, typically less than 6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
- L** = Long-Term, typically greater than 6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

Intensity:



Author:
Curtis Riganti
National Drought Mitigation Center



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

CLICK BELOW FOR MORE WATER OUTLOOK INFORMATION!

Texas + Water

LAST CALL FOR ABSTRACTS!

ABSTRACTS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR POSTER AND ORAL PRESENTATIONS
AT THE
TEXAS SECTION SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT ANNUAL MEETING
THAT WILL BE HELD ON
OCTOBER 20-22, 2021 IN VICTORIA, TX

****Abstracts are still be accepted for presentations, although this will now be hosted as a virtual contest. More details coming soon!****

Abstracts are now being accepted for the Don Pendleton Memorial Collegiate Awards

All abstracts should be ≤ 300 words and follow the format and style of Rangeland Ecology and Management (click link below for example).

Submission of abstracts following format guidelines is essential.

1. Poster Presentations

Undergraduate, graduate, and TSSRM members are encouraged to submit abstracts related to rangeland and wildlife ecology and management, as well as, other relevant information in rangeland ecology or management. Students are encouraged to submit abstracts with preliminary results. Posters should not exceed 48" in length and 36" in height. Awards will be given to the top 3 outstanding undergraduate and graduate poster presentations. Abstracts for Poster presentations should be submitted to Tony Falk, Anthony.Falk@tamuk.edu. **All presenters will be notified of acceptance by September 15th, 2021 with the date, time, and location of the poster session.**

2. Oral presentations

Graduate students and young professionals who recently completed a graduate program (graduation has to be less than 1 year from the deadline for abstract submission) are encouraged to submit abstracts related to rangeland and wildlife ecology and management. Each abstract must include completed

results to be considered for the oral presentations. A maximum of 8 abstracts will be selected for oral presentations based on research quality and campus representation. Abstracts that were not accepted for the oral presentations will be able to present their results in the poster session. Awards will be given to the top 3 outstanding Oral presentations. Abstracts for Oral presentations should be submitted to Dean Wiemers, dwwiemers@swtjc.edu. ***The selected oral presentations will be notified by September 15th, 2021. Once oral presentations are accepted, presenters will be notified with date and time for their oral presentation. All other abstracts will be notified of acceptance for poster presentations by September 15th, 2021 with the date, time, and location of the poster session.***

Deadline for submission of abstracts is September 1st, 2021.

Click the link below to read the guidelines for submission.

[Abstract Submission Guidelines](#)

2022 Director Nominees

Keep an eye out for an upcoming RangeFlash containing a survey link to vote!



Rode Mills- Director Nominee

Born and raised out in West Texas. I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science with a minor in Range and Wildlife Management from Angelo State University in 2014. My advisor, Dr. Cody Scott, first got me interested in the Texas Section of the Society for Range Management when he took me to the 2013 annual meeting held in Fort Worth where I received the Outstanding Range Student award. It was also Dr. Scott who steered me in the direction of NRCS when he encouraged me to apply for an internship.

I began working for the NRCS, following graduation, as a Rangeland Management Specialist in the Lampasas Field Office. From there my career has taken me to Brady, Rocksprings and to Alpine, TX where I am currently the Rangeland Management Specialist for the Trans-Pecos Region of Texas and liaison with the Trans-Pecos Grazing Land Coalition. In all my positions with the NRCS I have had a passion for working with landowners to improve their rangeland through the planning and implementation of sound management practices. Throughout my career I have met a lot of great people including NRCS employees, ranchers, and affiliates.

I have been a member of TSSRM since 2015 and have been involved with both the Grassroots Committee (2019-present) and recently the Mentorship committee (2021-present). I am currently helping to plan the first ever TSSRM summer field tour in which we will tour the 2020 Outstanding Rangeland

Stewardship Award winning ranch. I was a director at the 2019 TSSRM Youth Range Workshop and am currently a Co-Coordinator for YRW 2021.

I am honored to be nominated as a director for TSSRM and if elected I look forward to working with the Board of Directors and Committees to organize events and pursue avenues to increase involvement and retention of members. I will strive to come up with new ways and improve upon existing practices to recruit new members and help spread the work about TSSRM and its multitude of benefits. The people I've met, the networking and the experiences I've had while being a member of TSSRM are invaluable to me and I hope to help new young professionals find their own path in the field of range management and I can't think of a better place to start than TSSRM. Thank you for this nomination and opportunity.



James Demoin-Director Nominee

James Demoin grew up in La Vernia, Texas where he attended grade school and was employed on several working farms and ranches. During his first semester of college, his advisor introduced him to range and wildlife management and cleared the path that would make the difference in his life. James is a graduate of Palo Alto College where he received his AS in Agriculture. He is also a graduate of Texas A&M University-Kingsville where he

received his BS in Range and Wildlife Management and minored in Plant and Soil Science. In college, James volunteered with South Texas Buckskin Brigades Camp, San Antonio Livestock Exposition Inc., and assisted with several range and wildlife research projects. James worked as a student worker with South Texas Natives, USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Center, and interned with TPWD.

James is currently the District Conservationist in George West, Texas for the USDA-NRCS. James, his wife Kerrie, and their son Guy, enjoy spending time outdoors gardening, hunting, fishing, and being good stewards of their land and animals. During the last 11.5 years, James has served citizens of Bastrop, Mills, Frio and Live Oak Counties promoting conservation and working closely with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Agri-Life Extension. He has been a member of TSSRM for the last 10 years. During that tenure, he served on the Outstanding Rangeland Stewardship committee as a member 2014-2015, became chairman of the ORS committee in 2016 to 2020, has participated in photo contests, mentor projects, and assisted where he was needed.

James is interested in serving as a TSSRM Director to give back to SRM. He is honored to be nominated for the position of TSSRM Director and will pledge his time and support to the Society during the 2022-2024 term if selected. A few of the items he would like to promote is recruiting new members, retaining the members we have, attracting more producers to annual meetings, and more involvement of members in our section committees and activities.



Katy Hoskins-Director Nominee

I am a general partner in the 101 Ranch Company LLC and Hoskins Family Partnership, FLP. Along with my husband, Curt, we have owned and operated the 101 Ranch since 1988. We were in Culberson County for 14 years and moved to Nolan County in 2002. We are a small operation and raise commercial Angus cattle. I've been a member of the Texas Section SRM since 1983 after being a part of the High School Youth Forum at the National SRM Meeting. Of particular interest to me is habitat restoration and maintaining quality habitat for both cattle grazing and healthy wildlife populations. In 2017 I completed the QuailMaster's Program with Dr. Dale Rollins and in 2019 I completed the TAEX Rx Burn School with Dr. Morgan Treadwell.

Education:

B.S. – Range Science, Texas A&M Univ. 1988

M.Ed. – Sul Ross State Univ. 1996

Organizations:

Texas Section, SRM

Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association

Texas Wildlife Association

Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society

Southern Rolling Plains Grazing Land Coalition

Volunteer Work:

Rolling Plains Quail Research

Ranch Kids On The Land (kidsontheland.org)

Texas Master Naturalists



Steven Evans-Director Nominee

Steven was raised in southwest Texas on both ranches that his family owned and his father managed. He received his BS in Rangeland Ecology and Management from Texas A&M University and his MS in Rangeland Ecosystem Science from Colorado State University. His emphasis area within his BS was wildlife biology and his emphasis area during his MS was in riparian and wildlife management. During his undergraduate degree Steven worked within the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station in wildlife genetics and helped conduct a study looking at genetic markers between south Texas and East Texas bobwhite quail, with the results of the study helping to determine restocking success. Steven also completed his first whitetail deer management plan while an undergraduate, under the direction of wildlife and range professionals, for an individual landowner in southwest Texas. His MS degree research focused on

seasonal cattle diet selection along mountain streams in north central Colorado.

Upon completion of his MS degree Steven managed two ranches totaling 15,500 acres for 10 years. His management responsibilities have given him experience in brush management for native wildlife that includes prescribed fire, selective shearing, and blading, within both the south Texas plains and Edwards Plateau vegetation communities. He also oversaw all livestock grazing, ranch improvements (water development for wildlife and livestock, road and fence construction, facility maintenance), and business decisions. Additionally, he conducted all wildlife surveys and designed management plans for whitetail deer, Rio Grande turkey, Bobwhite and Blue Quail, and exotic species. He implemented guided and lease hunting operations on both ranches. Steven also represented his employer on local, regional, and statewide issues concerning natural resources. This has given him the opportunity to address both the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department commission and a joint committee of the state legislature.

Steven has also consulted for landowners in southwest and central Texas helping them determine livestock stocking rates, giving range improvement recommendations, and helping them design wildlife management plans for property tax valuation, and completing annual wildlife management reports. He has moved whitetail deer for one client utilizing a TTT permit under the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. He has worked in Colorado as a professional guide and packer for elk and mule deer hunts, and has experience in raising and handling exotic animals. He started, and was the Adult Advisor for, the 4H wildlife project in Uvalde County, Texas.

He started teaching range and wildlife management courses at Southwest Texas Junior College, in Uvalde, Texas, while continuing to manage a 2,000 acre ranch in Edwards County, Texas. He taught courses in wildlife conservation, ranch mapping, rangeland ecology, and oversaw ranch internship practicums. Additionally, he assisted in the wildlife techniques course, where students conducted prescribed burns and developed management plans for individual landowners, and he co-instructed plant identification labs. He coached the plant identification team where students competed in state-wide contests, as well as hosting the plant ID contest for the region 8 Texas big game awards for several years.

Steven has scientific publications in both the Journal of Range Management

and the Journal of Wildlife Management. He co-developed the plant key for the guide book Common Woody Plants and Cacti of South Texas - A Field Guide, and has written a series of articles concerning water conservation on rangelands. His interests are in the areas of science based ranch management, habitat management for native wildlife, range animal nutrition, and riparian management.

Steven currently serves as a lecturer in the Department of Rangeland, Wildlife and Fisheries Management at Texas A&M University in College Station, where he instructs primarily in the area of rangeland resources. He currently teaches Rangeland Ecology, Rangeland Inventory and Monitoring, Range Analysis and Management Planning, Vegetation Sampling Methods and Designs in Ecosystems, and Vegetation Management. He also serves as a member of the AgriLife Herbicide Use Committee and the Ecology and Natural Resource Teaching Area Management Committee. He represents Texas A&M University on the Range Science Education Council, coaches the Undergraduate Range Management Exam team, and is the Assistant Range Club advisor. He is a member of the Society for Range Management and Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society.



Brett Huegele-Director Nominee

Brett Huegele is a native of South Texas and Victoria County. Brett has worked for McFaddin Enterprises Ltd. since 2010 and as the biologist he works with all aspects of the ranching and hunting enterprise operations In Victoria, Refugio,

Bee, and San Patricio counties. His duties include habitat management, restoration and conservation projects, data collection and record keeping through GIS mapping software, multi-faceted hunting enterprise operations management, surface use management concerning mineral resources and sustainable yield of natural resources. Brett strives to promote the conservation of the native ecosystem of the Gulf Coast tall grass prairies through boots on the ground management. He is a state certified prescribed burn manager, a board member of the Coastal Bend Prescribed Burn Association, a board member of The Coastal Prairie GLC, and a board member with the Victoria Soil and Water Conservation district.

2022 2nd Vice-President Nominee



Humberto L. Perotto-Baldivieso-2nd VP Nominee

I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Range and Wildlife Sciences and Research Scientist at the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Texas A&M University-Kingsville. I have an undergraduate in Agronomy (Universidad Mayor de San Simon-Cochabamba, Bolivia), a master's degree in Forestry and a PhD in Rangeland Ecology and Management (both degrees from Texas A&M University-College Station). Landscape ecology has been the glue for my interdisciplinary background. My main interests are landscape ecology, spatial analysis, invasive species, and habitat structure for livestock and wildlife on rangeland ecosystems.

I have been a member of the Society for Range Management since 2003 and I joined the Texas Section in 2016. I have worked as the chair of the Don Pendleton Memorial Student Award between 2016 and 2018. In 2019, I

became the chair for the Publications Awards Committee for the Texas Section. In 2019, I received the Texas Section Outstanding Achievement Award. At the National level, I chaired the International Affairs Committee in 2009, the GIS and Remote Sensing Committee in 2018. I have organized symposiums at the State and National levels with a focus on the application of geospatial technologies in rangeland ecosystems.

It would be a great honor to serve the Texas Section of the Society for Range Management as a Second Vice-President. My vision is to look into the future of the profession and work with academic institutions, ranchers, and state and federal agencies to develop the new generation of range professionals with the skillsets required to face the challenges ahead. We are currently developing some of these skillsets through agreements and grants provided by NRCS and USDA-NIFA. Attracting new young professionals and providing them with tools and skillsets to work with our ranchers to maintain and conserve our rangelands is the next key goal for our society. Working towards that goal in our section requires a combined effort between ranchers, academics, and state and federal agencies. I look forward to further facilitate this process and develop strategies that will help our section attract more people into our profession.

2021 Calendar & Events

- September 2: RWFMS Stewardship Webinar: *Natural Resource Tourism with Wildlife*
- September 17: Burn School Field Day-Eldorado, Texas
- October 7: RWFMS Stewardship Webinar: *Stewarding Rangelands*
- October 20-22: Annual Meeting in Victoria, Texas
- October 29: Burn School Field Day-Eldorado, Texas

For additional events or more information, check out the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension calendar at <https://calendar.tamu.edu/agrilifeextension/>.

For calendar submission, please contact Deann Burson at deann.burson@ag.tamu.edu

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