



*2010 TSSRM President Bill Pinchak and Outstanding Young Range Professional Chad Ellis*

## **Texas Section Society for Range Management Outstanding Young Range Professional Chad Ellis**

The Outstanding Young Range Professional Award is presented by the Society to an individual member who has demonstrated extraordinary potential and promise as a range management professional.

This year's recipient is one in which the Texas Section is fortunate to welcome back to Texas as one of its former members and a truly outstanding young professional. Since graduating with his Master's degree from Angelo State University in 2001, no other young member of SRM has excelled so quickly through the ranks of NRCS and GLCI. Chad Ellis began his range career as a rangeland management specialist in San Angelo, Texas. Thereafter, he moved to Brackettville followed by a move to Alpine. From Alpine, he accepted the position of State Rangeland Management Specialist-GLCI Coordinator for the state of Florida.

During Chad's time in Florida, he developed a prescribed grazing incentive for EQIP and developed strong collaborative efforts with Florida Grazing Lands Coalition to develop outreach programs for grazing management issues. In addition, he served as an advisor to the Florida Cattleman Association, USDA-ARS, and the University of Florida for technical research and development. Chad also served as an advisor to Florida State University for their research for small scale producers. Lastly, he worked closely with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Service for the development of their Grazing polices and with the Florida Department of Agriculture to develop cow/calf and equine "Best Management Practices".

During his time in San Angelo, Brackettville, and Alpine, Chad was instrumental in the installation of 185 miles of fences, 25 watering facilities, and 115 miles of pipelines. In addition, he was responsible for the implementation of brush management on over 100,000 acres, prescribed burns on 20,000 acres, range plantings on 20,500 acres, and diversions on 25,000 acres. He wrote prescribed grazing plans on over 600,000 acres and riparian CCRP plans for over 5,000 acres. He has presented 15 formal presentations at producer-oriented and scientific meetings. In addition, he has published numerous articles and co-authored peer reviewed publications as well. Chad has served on the Board of Directors for the Florida Section for the Society for Range Management. He also served as a Co-chair of the annual TSSRM meeting held in Del Rio, Texas. Currently, he is serving as Rangeland Management Specialist for the Central National Technology Support Center with NRCS.

The Texas Section Society for Range Management is proud to announce that Chad Ellis is the 2010 recipient of the Outstanding Young Range Professional Award.