2015 Outstanding Achievement Award Recipient Dr. Jim Ansley and TSSRM President Cody Scott

Texas Section Society for Rangeland Management
Outstanding Achievement Award
Dr. Jim Ansley

Nominee: Dr. R. James Ansley, Professor
Texas A&M AgriLife Research
Vernon, TX 76384

SRM Membership: Since 1978

Education:

1983	PhD	Agronomy	University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming
1979	MS	Range Science	Utah State University, Logan, Utah
1975	BA	Biology	Hastings College, Hastings, Nebraska

Work Experience:

2004-Present	Professor, Texas A&M AgriLife Research - Vernon
2011-Present	Adjunct Instructor, Biology, Vernon College, Vernon Texas
1997-2004	Associate Professor, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Vernon

1996-1997	Interim Associate Resident Director, TAES-Vernon
1994-1997	Assistant Professor, TAES - Vernon
1983-1993	Postdoctoral Associate, TAES - Vernon
1980-1983	Graduate Research Assistant, University of Wyoming, Laramie
1979-1980	Consultant, Soil and Land Use Technology, Rock Springs, WY
1978-1979	Technician, Bureau of Land management, Rock Springs, WY
1976-1978	Graduate Assistant, Utah State University, Logan

Other Activities:

Wilbarger County Crime Stoppers Board of Directors 2007-present
Adjunct Instructor, Vernon College, General Biology 1406 and 1407, 2011-present
First Presbyterian Church, Vernon, TX, Elder and Adult Bible Study Instructor 1987-present

Society for Range Management Activities:

Associate Editor, Rangeland Ecology and Management Journal (2014-2016)
Associate Editor, Journal of Range Management/Rangeland Ecology and Management (2003-2006)
Fire Forum Organizer, 2002 - Developed the program for an all-day Forum entitled "Fire Ecology and Management on Central and Southern Plains Rangelands" at the International Society for Range Management Annual Meeting, 18 Feb. 2002, Kansas City, MO. The 8-hour forum had 14 speakers and was attended by over 300.
Chair, Pre-conference Workshops, 2005 International Society for Range Management Annual Meeting Planning Committee, Sept. 2003 - February 2005
Chair, Poster Display Subcommittee, Information and Education Committee (1999-2002) - Developed a new SRM display poster to be shown at national professional society or agribusiness meetings
Chair, Graduate Student Papers Contest, 1989-1990, Committee Member 1987-1990
Member, Publication Awards Committee, 1994
Chair, Printed Program Committee, 1994 Annual Meeting, Ft. Worth
Member, Annual Meeting Planning Committee, 1994 Annual Meeting, Ft. Worth
Co-chair, Public Relations Committee, 1989 Annual Meeting, Wichita Falls
Chair, Printed Program Committee, 1989 Annual Meeting, Wichita Falls
Member, Annual Meeting Planning Committee, 1989 Annual Meeting, Wichita Falls
Member, Information and Education Committee, 1999-2002
Session Moderator, Society for Range Management Annual Meetings
(a) "Plant Ecophysiology/Livestock Production", 13 February 1996, Wichita, KS
(b) "Remote Sensing", 22 February 1999, Omaha, NE
(c) "Fire Ecology and Management", 18 February 2002, Kansas City, MO
(d) "Plant and Soil Ecology", 26 January 2004, Salt Lake City, UT
(e) "Fire Ecology", 10 February 2005, Ft. Worth, TX
(f) "Weed Management", 12 February 2009, Albuquerque, NM
Judge, Graduate Student Papers Contest, International Society for Range Management Annual Meetings for 17 years (1987-2003)
Member, Student Affairs Committee, 1987-1990

Texas Section Society for Range Management (TSSRM):

Member, Board of Directors, 2013-2015
Member, Publications Awards Committee, 2012-15
Chair, Publications Awards Committee, 2010-2011
Chair, Publications Awards Committee, 2008-2009

Member, Awards Committee, 2004-2007
Session Moderator, 2003 Annual Meeting, Wichita Falls
Member, Program Committee, 2003 Annual Meeting, Wichita Falls
Chair, Printed Program Committee, 2003 Annual Meeting, Wichita Falls
Member, Annual Meeting Planning Committee, 2003 Annual Meeting, Wichita Falls
Judge, Student Papers Contest, TSSRM Ann. Meeting, Oct. 1999, Stephenville, TX.
Member, Membership Committee, 1997-1999
Chair, Membership Committee, 1999

Awards and other recognition received:

2015. *Regents Fellow Service Award*, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, College Station, TX

2012. *Best Popular Article*, Texas Section Society for Range Management, for Ansley, R.J. and C.R. Hart. 2012. Drivers of vegetation change on Texas rangelands. Texas AgriLife Extension Publication No. L-5534. 6 pp.
2011. *Best Technical Article*, Texas Section Society for Range Management, for: Teague et al., Ansley et al., Pinchak et al., 2010. Integrated grazing and prescribed fire restoration strategies in a mesquite savanna - Parts 1, 2 and 3. Rangeland Ecol. & Mgt. 63: 275-307.
2008. *Outstanding Achievement in Research/Academia*, Society for Range Management, Annual Meeting, Louisville, KY, Feb 2008.
2005. *Member, Faculty Promotion Peer Review Committee*, College Agric.,Texas A&M Univ (term 2005-2007).
2006. *Best Technical Article*, Texas Section Society for Range Management, for: Ansley, R.J., H.T. Wiedemann, M.J. Castellano, J.E. Slosser. 2006. Herbaceous restoration of juniper-dominated grasslands with chaining and fire. Rangeland Ecol. & Mgt. 59: 171-178.
2006. *Best Poster in Soil Biology and Biochemistry*, Soil Science Society of America, Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, IN, for: Hollister, E.B., T.W. Boutton, R.J. Ansley. Land use and land cover changes in temperate savannas: impact of woody encroachment and prescribed burning on soil carbon pools and flux rates.
2002. *Best Poster in Forest and Rangeland Soils*, Soil Science Society of America, Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, IN, for: Boutton, T.W., R.J. Ansley, J.O. Skjemstadt. Biogeochemical responses to fire seasonality and frequency in a temperate mixed-grass savanna: charcoal carbon.
1998. *Best Popular Article*, Texas Section Society for Range Management, for: Teague, R., R. Borchardt, J. Ansley, B. Pinchak, J. Cox, J. Foy, J. McGrann. 1997. Sustainable management strategies for mesquite rangeland: the Waggoner Kite project. Rangelands 19: 4-8.
1992. *Award in Excellence, Off-Campus Research Support*, Texas A&M Univ. Agric. Program.
1983. *John P. Elbogen Graduate Student Teaching Award*, University of Wyoming.

• Major Contribution to Rangeland Management or Section:

Dr. Jim Ansley has been a thought and technology transfer leader in the ecology and management of invasive woody plants in the Southern Great Plains for 32 years. He combines his unique transdisciplinary skill-set of conceptualizing the real world challenges of woody plant encroachment to sustainable use of rangeland ecosystems in a scientifically testable manner that translates to practical economically and environmentally sustainable solutions for contemporary rangeland issues. Dr. Ansley conducts discovery and translational research on honey mesquite's ecology, ecosystem impacts and benefits, water use, seedling recruitment, overstory-understory interactions and biofuel potential.

In the process Dr. Ansley defines his program along four well defines goals:

- Quantify the processes associated with woody plant expansion on SGP rangelands.
- Quantify the competitive interactions between woody plants and grasses and better understand the ecological impact of woody plants on grasses.
- Determine the most effective and sustainable management options for mitigating the negative effects of woody plant invasions.
- Develop potential of rangeland woody plants for bioenergy uses as a means of rangeland restoration.

The first goal focuses on the ecology of woody plant invasion and includes documenting the rates of invasion of key species such as mesquite and juniper, and determining the mechanisms by which they have successfully invaded into grasslands. Studies have been conducted concerning mesquite water use patterns and photosynthesis, seasonal leaf area patterns and leaf area index of mesquite trees and mesquite root growth in response to different soil moisture regimes. A few studies have been conducted on mesquite seedling ecology and the effects of animals as distributers of mesquite seeds and effects of standing grass biomass on mesquite seedling emergence and survival.

The second goal involves measuring herbaceous growth and species composition responses to different densities and growth forms of mesquite and juniper species. Currently is engaged in a long term study to quantify herbaceous responses and mesquite regrowth responses following complete above-ground removal of mesquite canopies.

The third goal includes research into the use of prescribed fire and aerial applied herbicides for reducing woody plant density and/or canopy size, or manipulating canopy shapes of certain species to achieve desired management effects. Some of this research has involved manipulating the shape of mesquite canopies into a more savanna-type growth form. Prescribed fire research has compared effects of summer and winter season fires on mesquite, grasses and soil carbon.

The fourth goal involves quantifying mesquite and juniper standing biomass and distribution on regional scales. This has included development of allometric equations to relate stem diameter and canopy dimensions to whole plant biomass, and the use of remote sensing, through Dr. Mustafa Mirik's expertise, to quantify mesquite and juniper biomass at county level scales. Also included in the bioenergy research are collaborations with Dr. Kalyan Annamalai at Texas A&M University to explore gasification or torrefaction of mesquite and juniper wood chips, Dr. Seong Park to develop economic models using woody plants for bioenergy, and Dr. Srini Ale to quantify impacts of a woody biomass industry on watersheds.

The net result from Dr. Ansley's focused approach has been establishing the most-widely recognized body of work on integrated honey mesquite management in the world. Jim has published over 90 refereed journal articles and a total of 173 full publications in scientific, extension and popular press formats. He has mentored 3 Post-Doctoral Research Associates and 13 graduate students while securing over $ 4 million for himself and his collaborators.

While many scientists have productive and recognized careers, few have concurrently given of their time and talents to peers and stakeholders as Jim has. Dr. Ansley's record of service to the art and science of range management is exemplary. He is valued by his peer range managers locally, nationally and internationally as evidenced by his numerous invited presentations (100). Jim has given freely of himself to the Society for Range Management and the Texas Section by serving along the continuum of membership and chairing student, producer and scientific stakeholder committees at the Section and International level. He is currently a board member of Texas Section and Program Committee Co-Chair for the 2015 annual meeting in Wichita Falls. Jim graciously accepted appointment to Associate Editor for the Rangeland Ecology and Management in 2014 after serving in that capacity from 2003-2006.

Dr. Jim Ansley is a range manager's range scientist. Always focused on the end goal of improving the function and sustainability of rangeland ecosystems for todays and future generations through science based solutions to rangeland issues, Jim has made significant and ongoing relevant contributions to rangeland management in Texas and beyond.