



2015 Outstanding Young Range Professional Award Recipient Kason Haby and TSSRM President Cody Scott

Texas Section Society for Rangeland Management
Outstanding Young Range Professional Award
Kason Haby

Education:

- B.S., Rangeland Ecology and Management, Texas A&M University 2006 -
Graduated summa cum laude

Work Experience:

- USDA-NRCS (United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service)
 - o TXGLC Grazing Management Specialist
Hondo Field Office – 2013-present
 - o District Conservationist -George West Field Office
10/23/2011 – 2013
 - o Rangeland Management Specialist, Bandera Field Office
08/17/2008 – 2011
 - o Rangeland Management Specialist, Sonora Field Office
01/07/2007 - 08/16/2008
 - o Student Trainee, Uvalde Field Office
05/28/2006 - 08/20/2006

- Student Trainee, Caldwell Field Office
05/29/2005 - 08/21/2005
- Student Trainee, Uvalde Field Office
05/16/2004 - 08/13/2004

Other work experience:

- Grazingland Animal Nutrition Lab – Rangeland Ecology and Management
Texas A&M University College Station, TX 77840
Student Worker
01/2005 - 12/2006 during college semesters
- Mejor Que Nada Ranches
Carrizo Springs, TX 78834 and Concan, TX 78838
Title: Ranch Hand and Hunting Guide

NRCS Professional Certifications and Authorities

- Certified Conservation Planner Level II – since November 2007
- Prescribed Burn Authority Level III – since August 2008
- Engineering Design Authority on Pipelines, Water Wells, and Watering Facilities, Level I – revised November 2011
- SCIMS certification – May 2007
- GPS/Toolkit certification – May 2007
- ATV Riders Certification – September 2009

Community Involvement:

- Active in community of Hondo, Texas and First United Methodist Church.
- Organized and lead a 4-H plant identification and range evaluation team with Bandera County 4-H Club in 2011 and the Live Oak County 4-H Club in 2013.
- Member of First United Methodist Church of Three Rivers and serving on the finance committee.
- Working as an Election Judge for our community polling booth in Live Oak County in 2012.
- Volunteering with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in the fall of 2006 to participate in a deer capture and survey on the King Ranch.

Society for Range Management Activities

- *Texas Section Society for Range Management:*
 - Member since October 2003.
 - Serving on the Activities and Education Committee in 2011.
 - Developing new banner stand for display at SRM functions.

- Serving on the College Activities Committee and the Endowment Fund Committee in 2013.
- Served as Director, Youth Range Workshop 2015
- *Society for Range Management*
 - o Certified Professional in Range Management

Awards and Recognition:

- NRCS 2007 Certificate of Merit for quality assistance in planning and application of EQIP practices in the Sonora FO.
- NRCS 2008 Certificate of Merit for assistance and leadership to the San Angelo Zone in implementing the 2008 Rangeland NRI and for EQIP assistance to the Big Lake FO.
- NRCS 2009 Certificate of Merit for efforts assisting with completion of the 2009 Rangeland NRI in Zone 2.
- NRCS 2010 Certificate of Merit for extra efforts serving as a team leader to complete Zone 2 Range NRI in FY-10.
- NRCS 2012 Certificate of Merit In recognition of commendable performance in directing operations for the George West Field Office resulting in the field achieving excellence in its accomplishments and implementing EQIP in a timely manner.

Justification for Outstanding Young Professional:

Kason Haby hit the ground running upon graduating from college and has been on an upward trajectory from the very start of his career with USDA-NRCS. He has quickly become a recognized leader in range management. Kason is passionate about sound stewardship of Texas rangelands and does all he can to hone his skill set so he may more effectively assist landowners.

As a Grazing Land Coalition Grazing Specialist, Kason organizes programs that exceed expectations both in quality of programming and enthusiasm from producers attending. His recent program in Sonora attracted over 100 producers and has them looking forward to the next one. His enthusiasm and professionalism has earned the respect of not only his co-workers, but most importantly, the landowners he works with.

At the TSSRM Youth Range Workshop earlier this year, his passion for educating others about rangeland stewardship was evident to both the youth and adults. He genuinely enjoyed working with the youth and helping them through the demanding program. His enthusiasm is infectious.

Kason has a bright future in rangeland management in Texas and wherever he chooses to practice his skills. He has shown leadership in difficult situations and will undoubtedly be a leader of the future for both TSSRM and rangelands in Texas.