

2024 Nomination Process for the Rangeland Stewardship and Rangeland Innovations Awards

Rangeland Stewardship Awards

Nominations should address at least one criterion under each of the main groups (A-D) listed below. These criteria are examples to be considered for inclusion in your nomination to help frame the narrative and supporting documentation. They are directly connected to Bureau priorities and long-term program priorities.

A. The Condition of Public Rangelands

Examples of factors that would be indicative of healthy, resilient rangeland conditions could include one or more of the following (select all that apply and provide supporting narrative):

1. Provide for healthy functioning plant communities that are consistent with or trending toward ecological site description potentials (including invasive species management).
2. Provide for wildlife habitat.
3. Provide for healthy functioning watershed, riparian, and water quality conditions.
4. Promote meeting rangeland health standards. Rangeland health standards and/or habitat assessment framework evaluations are not required to be considered for the awards; however, information should include:
 - a. Verification of meeting rangeland health standards, or
 - b. Documentation of progress toward meeting those standards, or
 - c. Documentation that the reasons for not meeting standards are unrelated to the activities of the nominated group or individual.
5. Promote climate resilience.

B. The Use of Beneficial Management Practices to Restore, Protect, or Enhance Rangeland Resources such as (select all that apply and provide supporting narrative):

1. Grazing management or other rangeland management.
2. Vegetation treatments.
3. Flexibility in management during drought or other emergencies.

C. Provide Collaboration or Cooperation via (select all that apply and provide supporting narrative):

1. Willingness and ability to work within a diverse group.
2. Commitment to multiple use benefits and sustained yield (e.g., schedule grazing to reduce conflicts with other users).
3. Efforts to participate in regional or national committees such as riparian initiatives, weed management areas, joint ventures, or partnerships.

D. Demonstrates Communication through (provide supporting narrative):

Efforts to communicate successful management outcomes or lessons learned to others (i.e., workshops, tours, publicity, educational outreach, etc.).

Rangeland Innovations Awards

In addition to groups A-D above, Rangeland Innovations Awards nominations should demonstrate creativity or willingness to embrace change in the way we address complex rangeland stewardship challenges. Innovators should demonstrate a modified perspective or approach to persistent rangeland stewardship issues, not necessarily provide a new practice.

This could include, but is not limited to (select all that apply and provide supporting narrative):

- Implementing grazing flexibilities within allotment management plans, cooperative monitoring agreements, or larger scale landscape restoration projects.
- Using livestock as a resource management tool outside of the traditional grazing program. Test efficacy of applying restorative, prescribed, or targeted grazing practices, typically used on private lands, to a larger mixed ownership landscape. Share lessons, benefits, and limitations with other land stewards in a timely and effective manner.
- Developing new tools for managing livestock, measuring change in rangeland potential and condition, or prioritizing areas for cooperative or coordinated restoration activities.
- Testing new technologies to determine benefits and limitations of these tools for rangeland stewardship at allotment, watershed, and landscape scales. Share lessons with other land stewards in a timely and effective manner.

Nomination Instructions for All Awards

Basic information that must be included in your nomination documents:

1. Field Office Name and State
2. Field Manager Name, Phone Number, and Email Address
3. Nominated Party or Group's Representative Name, Phone Number, Email Address (if available), and Mailing Address
4. Which award for consideration

The narrative should address the criterion met in each group described above and be limited to three pages or less. Additional photographs, letters of recognition or support and other supporting documents (e.g., rangeland health assessment summaries or habitat assessment framework summaries) are encouraged, but not required.

How will the award winners be selected?

The Division of Forestry, Rangeland, and Vegetation Resources HQ-220 will select a committee of BLM Headquarters employees to review nominations and recommend individuals or external teams as awards recipients to the Division Chief and the Assistant Director for Resources and Planning who will approve the final award recipients.