

2017 Nomination Process for the Rangeland and Sagebrush Steppe Stewardship Awards

Award Criteria

The 2017 awards for outstanding examples of rangeland stewardship will be awarded to (1) a grazing permittee/lessee and (2) one collaborative team, to recognize outstanding general rangeland stewardship and/or innovative rangeland resource stewardship in sagebrush steppe habitats.

Nomination criteria will include:

A. The Condition of Public Rangelands

Conditions must be exceptional and noteworthy, and/or recently improved through changes in management. Factors for evaluation will include:

1. Provide healthy functioning plant communities that are consistent with or trending toward ecological site description potentials (including invasive species management).
2. Provide wildlife habitat.
3. Provide healthy functioning watershed, riparian and water quality conditions.
4. Provide for meeting rangeland health standards. Rangeland health standards and/or habitat assessment framework evaluations are not required in order to be considered for the awards, however, information should include:
 - a. Verification regarding meeting rangeland health standards (including the seasonal habitat requirements for sage-grouse or other sagebrush steppe-dependent species, if applicable) 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. Sagebrush Steppe Stewardship award: Provide for meeting Greater Sage-Grouse or other sagebrush steppe-dependent species habitat objectives and/or provide an outstanding example of enhancement, restoration or reclamation of sagebrush habitats.

B. The Use of Beneficial Management Practices to Restore, Protect, or Enhance Rangeland Resources such as:

1. Grazing management or other rangeland management.
2. Vegetation treatments.
3. Flexibility in management during drought or other emergencies.
4. Efforts to use new or innovative practices to address resource issues.
5. Sagebrush Steppe Stewardship award: Demonstrate results in sagebrush steppe habitat enhancement, protection and/or restoration.

C. Provide Collaboration or Cooperation via:

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.
4. Sagebrush Steppe Stewardship award: Provide emphasis on Greater sage-grouse or sagebrush steppe habitat coordination efforts such as sage-grouse working groups, Natural Resources Conservation Service's sage-grouse initiative projects, or demonstrate collaboration with sagebrush steppe conservation, restoration or protection groups.

D. Demonstrated Communication through:

1. Efforts to communicate successful management practices to others (i.e., workshops, tours, publicity, educational outreach, etc.).

Nomination Instructions

Field office managers are encouraged to submit nominations to their respective state offices by July 1, 2017. Final state office nominations for awards should be forwarded to the Washington Office (WO) Division of Forest, Rangeland, Riparian, and Plant Conservation by July 15, 2017. Please use the enclosed nomination form for submissions.

Each nomination should include a coversheet containing the following:

- The nominating field manager's name and telephone number.
- Name, telephone number and address of the nominated party or the nominated group's representative.
- The award for which they are being nominated (i.e. Rangeland Stewardship or Sagebrush Steppe Stewardship).
- Category of the nomination: (1) grazing permittee/lessee, or (2) collaborative planning team.

Narrative description (no more than 3 pages) including:

- Description of the specific criteria noting leadership, creativity, problems, solutions, approximate costs, partnering, land ownership, and unusual circumstances.
- Short- and long-term benefits to rangeland health.
- Effectiveness of the individual's or group's work, quantified, where possible.
- A list of references, with telephone numbers of individuals who can validate the successful application of the criteria.
- Summary statement regarding why the individual or group deserves the award.

Photographs (recommended): Photographs are highly encouraged if they help to document the success of the nominated individual or group. Photographs need to include a description

explaining what is being illustrated, the location and the date the photograph was taken. Photographs are to be submitted electronically as .jpg files, along with a signed statement that the photographs are released for public use.

Supporting Documentation (*recommended*): Please attach **summaries** concerning the status and/or results of rangeland health assessments and/or habitat assessment framework evaluations. Copies of supporting monitoring data or summaries of monitoring information can also be provided, but photographs of resource conditions are preferred.

Letters of recognition or other supporting documentation, although not required, may also be submitted with the nomination package.

How will the award winners be selected?

The WO Division of Forest, Rangeland, Riparian, and Plant Conservation will select a committee to review nominations and recommend individuals or groups for the awards. The selection committee may include, but is not necessarily limited to BLM staff and external partners such as the livestock industry (e.g., Public Lands Council, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, and American Sheep Industry Association), Public Lands Foundation, Society for Range Management, sportsmen and/or recreation groups, environmental groups, The Wildlife Society, and the National Association of Conservation Districts.