

Strategic Grazing Symposium to be held Dec 2-4 in Ft. Collins, CO

Greetings from the Colorado Section! I want to invite you all to the 2008 annual meeting for the Colorado Section, which will be a comprehensive grazing management symposium entitled: “Strategy vs. System: Grazing for Desired Outcomes.” We have tried (and I think succeeded) to get a world class slate of scientists and practitioners to discuss how different aspects of grazing management affect ecological processes and characteristics on different spatial and time scales. They come from throughout the western United States and represent natives or residents of 3 different continents.

The meeting will begin on December 2 at 12:30 pm, with presentations until 5:00 pm and the section awards banquet that evening. Wednesday’s presentations begin at 8:30 am and end at 5 pm, but will be followed by a cash bar and provided pizza buffet so that everyone can participate in a panel discussion with all the presenters from the previous two days. Thursday is a joint session with the 9th Annual Nick Petry workshop and will feature rancher practitioners giving their experiences in implementing planned grazing management to meet vegetation, wildlife, livestock production, economic and risk management goals. Besides the oral presentations, we invite posters for the meeting regarding grazing management or research regarding grazing management. Abstracts should be submitted by Oct 20, and can cover topics such as Historical grazing management or vegetation, grazing management research, managing for wildlife habitat needs through grazing, managing poisonous/noxious plants through grazing, watershed management with grazing, or other topics relating to goal oriented grazing management strategies.

Thanks to the generosity of a number of cosponsors, including The National Western Stock Show and their Scholarship Trust Fund, The Colorado State Land Board, The Colorado Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, The Nature Conservancy, The Quivira Coalition, Colorado State Conservation Board, Ridley Block Operations, Holistic Management International, Colorado Holistic Management we are able to provide world known speakers like Fred Provenza, Brien Norton, and many others for an affordable registration fee of \$100. For more information on the meeting, including a full agenda, speaker profiles, and to register, check the “Tours and Meetings” section of the CSSRM website at <http://www.cssrm.org/toursmeetings.html> . Or if you have questions, please feel free to call me at (719)523-6251 x3 or email at timothy.steffens@co.usda.gov .

The Marriott in Ft. Collins is a wonderful facility with some of the most comfortable rooms in the area. They have agreed to provide accommodations for the government approved rate of \$85 per night if reserved by October 20, 2008. Your stay at the Marriott will help defray the travel costs of our speakers. PLEASE make reservations now – you can always cancel if something comes up, or if you don’t get approved for travel. The rate is as low as any in Ft. Collins and you won’t find nicer accommodations. You can make your room reservations on line at <http://cwp.marriott.com/ftcco/cosocietyrangemanagement/> or call 1-800-342-4398 and mention the Colorado Section of Society for Range Management for the special rate.

Hope to see you all there.