

**Rangeland Ecology Section
Annual Report
August 2, 2003**

Interest in the section continued to grow during 2002-2003. We anticipate continued membership growth as more individuals (including those not currently members of ESA) become aware of our activities, and increased collaboration with other societies.

2002 SYMPOSIUM: The section sponsored a symposium at the 2002 annual meetings (*Ecology of Fire and Invasive Plants: Integrated Management for Ecosystem Restoration*). Co-sponsors included the US Geological Survey and Bureau of Land Management, the Rangeland Ecology and Applied Ecology sections of the ESA, the Northwest Chapter of the SER, and the US Interagency Joint Fire Sciences Program. This is the third consecutive symposium sponsored by the section. The symposium stimulated extensive discussion and an article was submitted to the Bulletin. The 2001 symposium (*Thresholds and Non-linear Responses in Ecosystems: Understanding, Sustaining, and Restoring Complex Rangelands*) continued to generate discussion with the publication of a letter in the Bulletin questioning the assumptions of many of the speakers.

2003 SYMPOSIUM: The Rangeland Ecology section is sponsoring the symposium, "Biogeochemistry of Grassland and Shrubland Ecosystems: Local to Regional Linkages and Impacts of Land Use" this year.

2003 SOCIAL: Our social again will be held jointly with the Applied Ecology and Soil Ecology sections to promote interactions.

2003 WORKSHOP: "Strategies for Increasing the Relevance of Rangeland Ecological Research" is the topic of a Wednesday evening workshop to be held following the Section social. The workshop has three objectives:

- (1) Explore opportunities for increasing the relevance of ecology to the management of grassland, shrubland and savanna ecosystems.
- (2) Define strategies for increasing the ability of managers to apply the results of both basic and applied research in these ecosystems, and
- (3) Consider options for collaboratively addressing each of the first two options together with (and independently from) the Society for Range Management.

ESA 2002-03 long-range planning funding was used to partially support the attendance of the Society for Range Management president at the 2003 meetings and his participation in this workshop.

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT: Bob Nowak created a Section website on the UNR (University of Nevada, Reno). This will be transferred to ESA's server. A second website is being developed in association with the listserv (see below). Eventually, this will probably become part of the section's website. This should be available for viewing this week; it will be ready to accept datasets by the end of the year. This is being developed with support from ESA's planning grant.

LISTSERVERS: We continued the “business” listserve (“RangeBIZ”) for section business. ESA 2002-03 long-range planning funding is being used to develop a second listserver (“RangeTALK”) that will promote discussion of unpublished datasets and other observations. Short communications from scientists and land managers will be posted on the website and the listserver will be used to announce and discuss the conclusions. Data cannot be submitted anonymously; person submitting must have ownership of data.

SECTION LONG-RANGE PLANNING: The officers met at the end of July, 2002 to develop a long-range plan for the sections. This meeting was supported by ESA funding. Proposed future directions and priorities were presented at the Section meeting at ESA, distributed by e-mail and posted on the website. Many of the proposed initiatives are reflected in the activities listed above.

ELECTIONS: Linda Wallace (lwallace@ou.edu) was elected as the incoming chair for 2004-05.

Jeff Herrick (Chair 2002-03) jherrick@nmsu.edu

Sam Fuhlendorf (Incoming chair 2003-04) fuhlend@mail.pss.okstate.edu

Bob Nowak (Secretary 2003-05) nowak@cabnr.unr.edu