

Dear ESA Rangeland Ecology Section member,

Please reply to this message (RangeBiz@cabnr.unr.edu) with your vote for one of the following candidates for Chair-elect and for Secretary of the Rangeland Ecology Section by **July 20, 2004**. A brief biography for Chair-elect candidate is below.

Chair-Elect

Justin Derner

Other

Secretary

Bob Nowak

Other

The successful candidate for chair-elect will serve as chair elect from August 2004-05 and as chair from August 2005-06. The secretary will serve a two year term.

Your vote is confidential. The votes will be tallied by an anonymous administrative assistant at the University of Nevada, Reno and your e-mail deleted.

Thank you,
Bob Nowak
Secretary, ESA Rangeland Ecology Section

Brief Biography for Justin Derner

I was born and raised on a cattle ranch located on the eastern edge of the Nebraska Sand Hills that was homesteaded by my great-great-grandfather in 1872. I received a B.S. in Agricultural Sciences (Range Management) from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, a M.S. in Agronomy (Range Science) from Oklahoma State University, and a Ph.D. in Rangeland Ecology and Management from Texas A&M University. I have been a Rangeland Scientist with the USDA-Agricultural Research Service in Temple, TX (1998-2002), and now currently in Cheyenne, WY. I conduct independent and team research directed at understanding the effects of grazing management practices and global change on ecosystem processes that control productivity, biodiversity and sustainability of rangeland vegetation. Currently, I am evaluating the influences of grazing management practices on vegetation, livestock and soil properties in shortgrass steppe and northern mixed-grass rangeland ecosystems, using state-and-transition models as a conceptual underpinning to address ecosystem dynamics and associated monitoring efforts. Global change research is targeting the quantification of effects resulting from predicted shifts in seasonality and amount of precipitation, and increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) concentrations and weed invasions on rangeland ecosystem structure and function. These research efforts are collaborative with scientists from the Shortgrass Steppe LTER, the University of Wyoming, Fort Hays State University and other ARS scientists. I am a member of the Rangeland Assessment and Monitoring, and Student Activities committees of the Society for Range Management; as well as serving as a member of the Steering Committee for the recently renamed flagship scientific journal of the Society, Rangeland Ecology and Management.