

# Society for Range Management



## Session Description

Submit to: [specialsessions@rangelands.org](mailto:specialsessions@rangelands.org)

### 1. Session Title (Maximum 20 words)

Stakeholder Engagement for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) 2026: Action Planning Workshop for the North American Region

### 2. Corresponding contacts

Layne Coppock ([Layne.Coppock@usu.edu](mailto:Layne.Coppock@usu.edu)), Lauren Svejcar ([laurensvejcar@gmail.com](mailto:laurensvejcar@gmail.com)), Jim O'Rourke ([jorourke@csc.edu](mailto:jorourke@csc.edu)), Barry Irving ([birving@ualberta.ca](mailto:birving@ualberta.ca)), and David Borré ([dborre@pronaturane.org](mailto:dborre@pronaturane.org)). These five people are the co-organizers of the workshop.

### 3. Session Sponsors (if applicable). Sponsors can provide financial aide for attending speakers, dissemination of session material, or become a general sponsor for the general meeting.

The session is sponsored by the International Affairs Committee (IAC) of the Society for Range Management. The IAC will cover some of the meeting registration costs for SRM members and non-members who participate as speakers, facilitators, tech support staff, content developers, as well as those who represent a global IYRP stakeholder audience. Costs for preparation of selected IYRP publicity materials may also be incurred. Some support for selected verbal language translation (English/Spanish/French) may occur depending on budget resources.

### 4. Description (this may be included in the meeting program) Maximum 100 words:

The IYRP 2026 has been approved by the UN and endorsed by SRM (<https://iyrp.info/>). The IYRP promotes sustainable rangeland systems across 11 geographical regions worldwide. Global planning has started. This workshop will initiate a planning process for the North American Region—including the USA, Mexico, and Canada—where representatives of up to 21 SRM sections will be introduced to the goals and

themes of the IYRP, and begin to chart a collective path forward. Representatives of key GOs and NGOs will also be invited to participate. The workshop will be conducted in-person and live-streamed to an international audience.

**5. Session Type (Symposium, Workshop, Ignite, Campfire, Practicum, etc.)**

This will largely be an in-person workshop. It will cover about three hours overall. **We would prefer the workshop be either Mon or Tue with morning and post lunch time slots.** This event needs to be live-streamed and recorded for future reference.

**6. List of Speakers (if applicable) and proposed titles for individual presentations.**

There are no formal talks with abstracts for this workshop. Rather, three of the co-organizers listed above (O'Rourke, Svejcar, and Coppock) will make brief introductory remarks to familiarize the participants with the IYRP and outline goals for the workshop.

**7. The virtual format of the 2023 Boise meeting will require 2 moderators per session; one is the traditional style of moderator (has to present in person, introduces speakers, controls timing, takes questions from the live audience, etc.). The additional moderator will manage the online delivery (start recording, manage online questions via the chat, be the liaison with the meeting technical director for any virtual challenges). Please indicate who the traditional moderator will be for your session and whether you can provide a dedicated virtual moderator as well. The virtual moderator will be required to participate in pre-session training.**

The traditional moderator will be Jim O'Rourke. He will monitor the three talks and manage the transition to the discussion. O'Rourke will also be assisted by Lauren Svejcar, who will help manage the discussion to produce a synthesized outcome. Both will attend the Boise meeting in-person.

The additional (virtual) moderators will be Alejandra Martínez Blancas and Diego García Meza.

**8. Justification. Please provide any additional information you deem important (use the review criteria in the Call for Proposals as a guide). Maximum 300 words.**

The main elements of justification are already evident in the event description above, namely that the IYRP represents a tremendous opportunity, and that SRM has pledged support for the IYRP process. See: <https://rangelands.org/committees/entry/102/?gvid=5561#gallery-3-24-102-1>

The IYRP is unprecedented. There is an excellent opportunity for SRM to embrace a regional leadership role in the IYRP, and there may be no better way to do this than by providing opportunities for rangeland enthusiasts and advocates to gather, reflect, and plan for coordinated actions for North America. This may

create important synergistic activities that promote wise stewardship of global rangelands. It is anticipated that such actions need not generate new issues per se, but rather focus on re-packaging, raising awareness, and improving communications across the plethora of efforts already at hand.

When was the last time that SRM was compelled to coordinate stakeholder efforts at national or regional scales? The benefits of this workshop will be profound for SRM. Finally, other outcomes of this event would contribute to building capacity of the participants in terms of the development of practical, leadership, and communication skills, bridging science, management, and policy, and creating avenues for more professional diversity and inclusion. We anticipate that the proceedings of this workshop can be published in *Rangelands* to further promote SRM involvement in the IYRP.