

Rangelands Partnership: Sustainability Survey

Welcome and thank you for your input in this important process. This survey is a requirement for our current NIFA grant, but it is also very timely as second-generation members come on board. Your input will help us chart our future and provide guidance and direction going forward.

Your information

Tell us about yourself.

1. Your name

First Last

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2. Your institution

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3. Your role

Mark only one oval.

☐ Rangeland specialist / outreach professional

☐ Library affiliate

☐ Other:

Description, Mission, and Vision

Please review these statements. Consider if they are still valid or should be changed.

Description

The Rangelands Partnership (RP) is a collaboration of 19 western and mid-western land-grant universities in cooperation with national and international partners. Members include a unique interaction among rangeland specialists, librarians, and technology experts to bring comprehensive and specialized collections and resources to rangelands stakeholders everywhere. The product of the RP is a suite of websites including Global Rangelands, Rangelands West, and state-specific rangeland sites. In these websites you can search and find links to more than 20,000 peer-reviewed journal articles, websites, images, videos, maps, reports, and educational tools. These resources are useful in research, teaching, and practical applications for the sustainable management of rangelands. Rangelands West focuses on information pertinent to North American rangelands. Global Rangelands includes all of the documents and resources found in Rangelands West plus resources from around the globe. State sites focus on providing resources to serve specific local clientele needs.

4. Is this description accurate? If not, what should be changed?

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5. How can this description be more compelling and informative?

Vision

The Rangelands Partnership is a worldwide, multidisciplinary collaboration that provides resources needed to inform public debate and decision-making regarding today's grand challenges of food security, climate adaptation, public health, environmental impacts, and economic development as they relate to rangelands around the world.

6. Is this vision still valid? If not, what should be changed?

Mission

The Rangelands West and Global Rangelands portals and database provide public and private land managers, researchers, Extension professionals, educators, students, and the public in the U.S. and worldwide with the information and tools they need for sustainable management of rangelands, informed decision-making, professional enhancement, and educational activities.

7. Is this mission still valid? If not, what should be changed?

Stakeholders, Collections, and Services

This information helps us determine our audience and value of what we provide.

Stakeholders

Who should the Rangelands Partnership serve?

8. **Primary Audiences - Who are your top 3?**

Please rank your top 3

Mark only one oval per row.

	1 - highest priority	2	3
Students	☐	☐	☐
Extension and outreach specialists	☐	☐	☐
Ranchers and landowners	☐	☐	☐
Agency resource professionals	☐	☐	☐
Local (state/regional) citizens	☐	☐	☐
Global citizens	☐	☐	☐
Educators	☐	☐	☐
Decision-makers	☐	☐	☐

9. **Are there other audiences not listed above?**

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Collections

Here is a bit of history to put the collections into context:

Collections prior to GR website redesign:

- SRM journal backfiles
- Rangelands West resources from member sites
- Abstracts from RSIS
- Australian Rangelands Society conference proceedings
- FAO rangelands documents
- SRM conference abstracts (1-year)

Newly Added Collections:

- Journal articles and abstracts from Grasslands Society of Southern Africa
- Articles from Australian Rangelands Society Journal
- additional FAO documents
- additional SRM conference abstracts (2-year)
- Iranian Rangelands Journal articles (complete set)

The new GR design allows for other datasets to be more easily harvested, increasing our potential to add more database resources. Future possibilities include:

- Member university digital repositories (Extension and Agricultural Exp. Station resources; theses and dissertations)
- CGIAR (Global Agricultural Research Partnership)
- other international organizations

10. **How important do you think these collections are to the services offered by the RP?**

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
not important	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	extremely important

11. **What collections are your top 3?**

Please rank the top 3 collections you feel are most relevant to your needs.
Mark only one oval per row.

	1 - most relevant	2	3
SRM journal backfiles	☐	☐	☐
Rangelands West resources from member sites	☐	☐	☐
Abstracts from RSIS	☐	☐	☐
Australian Rangelands Society conference proceedings	☐	☐	☐
FAO rangelands documents	☐	☐	☐
SRM conference abstracts	☐	☐	☐
Journal articles from Grasslands Society of Southern Africa	☐	☐	☐
Articles from Australian Rangelands Society Journal	☐	☐	☐
Iranian Rangelands Journal articles	☐	☐	☐
Member university digital repositories (Extension and Agricultural Experiment Station resources; theses and dissertations)	☐	☐	☐
CGIAR (Global Agricultural Research Partnership)	☐	☐	☐
other international organizations	☐	☐	☐

12. **Other collections to consider adding**

Are we missing any collections you think should be added? If so, please list below.

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13. **Member institution digital repositories: Do you have holdings related to rangelands?**

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes, and I am willing to make necessary contacts to get the metadata into RW
- ☐ Yes, but I am uncertain if I have the necessary contacts
- ☐ No, I don't know of any digital holdings related to rangelands

14. **State site resources: Are they included in the database?**

Have you entered metadata records (DLIOs) for the resources on your state site?
Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes, I have entered records for ALL or MOST of the resources included on my state site.
- ☐ Yes, I have entered records for SOME of the resources included on my state site.
- ☐ No, I have not entered records into the database.

15. **State site resources: What are your challenges to entering records into the database?**

What keeps you from adding your state resources to the database?

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16. **State site resources: Assistance is available to you. How have you used it?**
 Kelly Arizmendi at the University of Arizona is available to assist in adding DLIOs.
Mark only one oval.

- ☐ I didn't know assistance was available
- ☐ I have used Kelly's assistance in the past and do not require assistance in the future
- ☐ I have used Kelly's assistance in the past and would like additional help in the future
- ☐ I knew assistance was available, but chose not to request help
- ☐ I knew assistance was available, and would like help in the future

17. **State site resources: What would be most helpful in future?**

Are there specific things that you feel Kelly Arizmendi could help you with? If so, enter below.

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Services

What The RP provides to users

18. **Services - Which do you consider most important?**

What do you think are the most valuable services offered through GR/RW? For instance, where should we put most of our limited time and resources in the development of The RP services? Rank in order, 1 - highest and 7 - lowest priority.

Mark only one oval per row.

	1 - highest	2	3	4	5	6	7 - lowest
Database of rangeland management resources	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Key topics (formerly hot topics)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
YouTube channel	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
WRANGLE – world rangelands ecosystem exploration	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Rotating features	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Facebook page	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Twitter feed	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

19. **Services - What other services we should consider, if any?**

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Rangelands Partnership Organization

This section helps us examine our organizational structure

Annual Meetings

The questions below relate to the face-to-face meetings held annually by The RP

20. How valuable is the annual meeting to your engagement in The Ranglands Partnership?

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
not valuable	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	highly valuable

21. How could the annual meeting be improved?

Please make suggestions below.

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22. Do you think The RP could exist without holding an annual meeting?

Please provide comment below.

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Communications

The questions below relate to internal communication

23. Currently, most of The RP organizational communications is through The RP listserv. Is this the best means for communicating with you?

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

24. If the RP listserve isn't the best means of communication with you, please suggest feasible alternative(s).

Email can be overwhelming. Is there an alternative form of communication you can suggest?

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25. Newsletter - Sent monthly to RP listserve. What would you like to see included?

Newsletters currently include state updates, introduce new members, highlight grant project work, etc. Make suggestions for what you would like to see included below.

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Marketing and Public Relations

The questions below relate to getting the word out about The RP

26. **Select items that you feel would be most useful to call attention to services provided by The RP**

Select all that apply.

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Brochure
- ☐ Swag
- ☐ PowerPoint Presentation
- ☐ Video Introduction
- ☐ Poster
- ☐ Other:

27. **Do you think a professionally designed brochure with color images of the website redesign will help you market The RP websites?**

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

28. **If a brochure was made available as a PDF, could you print them at your institution?**

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

29. **What other ways could we market The RP services?**

For example, letters to deans and/or department heads

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30. **What could you do to market The RP websites more effectively at your institutions and at the state level?**

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The Work of the Partnership Members

What we can accomplish

31. **Goals for 2016 - What should we focus our collective energies on to accomplish this year? Rank top 3.**

Rank your top 3 preferences

Mark only one oval per row.

	1 - most preferred	2	3
Add more resources to the database	☐	☐	☐
Add more collections / expand existing ones	☐	☐	☐
Develop TOPICS sections	☐	☐	☐
Ramp up social media	☐	☐	☐
Develop more video / Identify multimedia resources to add	☐	☐	☐
Proposal development	☐	☐	☐
Partner Recruitment	☐	☐	☐
International Year of Rangelands planning	☐	☐	☐

32. **Goals for 2016 - Which tasks would you like to be involved in and have the capacity to contribute to?**

Select all that apply.

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Add more resources to the database
- ☐ Add more collections / expand existing ones
- ☐ Develop TOPICS sections
- ☐ Ramp up social media
- ☐ Develop more video / Identify multimedia resources to add
- ☐ Proposal development
- ☐ Partner Recruitment
- ☐ International Year of Rangelands planning
- ☐ Other:

33. **What other ways do you envision you could be involved?**

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State Member Sites

The original intent of The RP was to team up rangelands professionals with librarians and technologists, combining expertise that would lead to the development of a variety of quality web-based services for research, teaching, and outreach. These services would be greater than any single person or institution could likely provide on their own.

34. **Who maintains your state site?**

Select most appropriate answer.

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Rangeland specialist
- ☐ Librarian
- ☐ No one
- ☐ Other:

35. **Do you have assistance available to you through your institution?**

For example, an intern, assistant, student or other person that could help maintain your site.

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

36. **Do you have a plan for maintaining your state site following vacancies and retirements?**

Please describe below

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Sustainability

Staying relevant into the future

Organizational value

37. **What values do you consider most important for what our organization provides? Check all that apply.**

For perspective, think about what The RP provides you that would otherwise not exist.

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Synergy/energy of collaboration
- ☐ Limits duplication
- ☐ Idea sharing
- ☐ Place to go for SRM archive
- ☐ Gains in expertise, i.e. IT and multimedia
- ☐ Competitiveness for grants
- ☐ International collaboration
- ☐ Administrative buy-in through collaboration
- ☐ Subject-matter expertise
- ☐ Cost effectiveness
- ☐ More visibility of rangelands issues
- ☐ Give voice to others around world
- ☐ Other:

38. Do you agree with this statement: "Citizens place high value on having a centralized location for global, regional, and local resources related to rangelands"

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Strongly agree

Funding

CURRENT SITUATION: The current funding model for The RP is based on a number of support staff with the University of Arizona team. Much of the support for The RP web services and functions are paid through a variety of grant and RREA funds.

THE CHALLENGE: Funds will likely be available for another two years, after which we need to be ready to adopt a new business model.

BUDGET NEEDED:

Technical support and operations = \$15,000

Coordinator (training/content development) = \$50,000

39. What are your preferred and/or most viable options for long-term financial support?

Check all that apply

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Dues (member institution)
- ☐ Grants
- ☐ Service fees
- ☐ Sponsorship
- ☐ Departmental support
- ☐ Development/philanthropic activities at each institution
- ☐ RREA funds
- ☐ Other:

40. If dues, what level of support do you feel should be provided by each member institution?

Currently, no institutional dues are paid. Travel support may or not be currently provided by the institution's Ag Experiment Station Directors.

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41. If dues, where would you expect to gain funds for paying dues?

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42. If dues, what would you need to gain support for paying dues?

For example, what would gain attention of deans and department heads?

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43. **If competitive grants, are you willing to participate on a team to submit grant proposals?**

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Possibly

44. **If competitive grants, what types of grant programs do you feel would be best options?**

i.e. Hatch, WSARE, W committee (through Exp Stations) etc.?

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45. **If services, what services should be provided for a fee?**

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Charging organizations to host their materials
- ☐ Hosting other materials for a fee
- ☐ Promoting activities for a fee
- ☐ Advertising
- ☐ Offering webinars for a fee
- ☐ Other:

46. **What fee amount would be reasonable?**

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47. **If corporate sponsorship, who should The RP solicit funds from?**

Note that sponsors would need to be listed on the websites and should be selected with some level of neutrality based on previous discussions among the Partners

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48. **If NGO sponsorship, who should The RP solicit funds from?**

Note that sponsors would need to be listed on the websites and should be selected with some level of neutrality based on previous discussions among the Partners

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49. If philanthropic fundraising (working with institutional development officers), would you be able to:

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Make contacts with development officers
- ☐ Lead efforts to solicit donations
- ☐ Lobby in political arenas
- ☐ Other:

50. Other ideas for funding

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Parting thoughts

51. Please share other comments or ideas you have related to any section of this survey.

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