



Society for Range Management

Wichita, KS

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Wichita, KS 67205*

Washington, DC

*611 Pennsylvania Ave SE, #355
Washington, DC 20003*

Dear Stakeholder of United States Rangelands and Grasslands:

We seek your organization's support for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP), proposed for 2026 by the Government of Mongolia for approval by the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) during the second half of calendar 2021. The IYRP will promote a wide variety of activities focused on rangelands and grasslands, including awareness raising on key issues, assistance in targeting research assessments of critical knowledge gaps, and facilitation of partnerships that combine resources to promote sustainable resource use and improved livelihoods. **A one-page "Call for Support of the IYRP" is provided here as an attached file.** Please consult this document as well as the comprehensive IYRP website for background information (<https://www.iyrp.info>). More than 50 nations and 164 non-governmental organizations have endorsed the IYRP so far.

You might logically ask, "What can an IYRP achieve?" There have been International Years since 1959 covering a wide variety of topics (<https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-years>). One example relevant to the IYRP is the International Year for Soils (IYS) in 2015. The many positive impacts achieved by the IYS are reviewed by the Soil Science Society of America here: (<https://access.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2134/csa2016-61-2-8>).

As a stakeholder of the vast American rangelands and grasslands, your organization is aware that promoting the health and well-being of these systems is vital for the future of the United States and beyond. The Society for Range Management (SRM) fully supports the IYRP and is coordinating stakeholder involvement for the United States. One important aspect of American stakeholder activity is to demonstrate to US federal decision-makers that the IYRP indeed matters to a wide variety of professional organizations and civil society at-large. The United States Government will be voting on this initiative at UNGA this September.

If your organization would like to support the IYRP, please reply to this message. In addition, sharing your organization's official logo to be posted at the IYRP website (<https://iyrp.info/>) is another means to demonstrate support in addition to joining the group letter. Additionally, your organization may wish to submit an individual letter of support.

We plan to submit the group letters to US federal decision-makers no later than 22 May, 2021. Thus, it is important to receive your endorsement as soon as possible. **Text of the group letter is provided for your review as a second attached file. We look forward to hearing from your organization within two weeks of receiving this letter. Please send your response to Lia Biondo at policy@rangelands.org.** Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Poncho Ortega".

Dr. Poncho Ortega, Ph.D.
President, Society for Range Management