



The International Affairs Committee of the Society for Range Management is pleased to host a symposium in 2022 on the proposed International Year of Rangelands & Pastoralists in 2026.

The International Affairs Committee (IAC) of the Society for Range Management (SRM) has received special funding to host a symposium supporting the Mongolian Government’s proposal to the United Nations for an International Year of Rangelands & Pastoralists (IYRP) in 2026.

The title of the symposium is: **“Global Rangelands & the IYRP (International Year of Rangelands & Pastoralists): Global Framework, Action Plans and Knowledge Gaps”**.

The SRM has provided the IAC with US \$50,000 in support for the IYRP symposium. This support is mostly in the form of complementary, virtual meeting registrations for about 350 stakeholders of the IYRP. Other funds will be used for language translation and other support services.

The SRM will be holding its [75th Annual Conference](#) in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in early 2022. This conference will have virtual components during the weeks of 31 Jan–4 Feb and 14–28 Feb. The main in-person gathering will be held on 6–10 Feb.

The IYRP symposium will have two main components: virtual workshop sessions in the week of 31 Jan–4 Feb and a hybrid virtual/in-person seminar on Tuesday 8 Feb.

The workshops will allow the IYRP global stakeholder network to make progress in planning activities and raising awareness as a follow-up to the virtual [Joint International Grassland & Rangeland Congress](#) held in Kenya in October 2021.

The seminar on 8 Feb will showcase talks from 12 international scholars, who will collectively address the question as to how the “marginalization narrative” for global rangelands can be changed to a “global value narrative” to help arrest problems of poverty and natural resource degradation. Rangelands are the dominant land-cover type for the world’s land area. Vast resources are managed on these lands—resources that could be better used to deliver ecosystem services and mitigate climate change.

Participants securing a complementary virtual registration are free to browse any and all virtual or hybrid sites supported by the Albuquerque conference. Access of IYRP stakeholders to complementary registrations will be determined on the basis of an allocation distributed across the eleven global regions for the IYRP.



Symposium objectives include:

- 1) To provide a platform at SRM 2022 that strengthens the IYRP process at this critical juncture. We envision that this event will lead to a series of similar gatherings leading up to 2026 and beyond, and SRM can provide the glue to better unite a wide array of actors in a common purpose of enhancing global stewardship of rangelands and grasslands;
- 2) To introduce SRM to a large global network of IYRP actors having interest in rangelands, but who are as yet unfamiliar with SRM;
- 3) To increase the international leadership profile of SRM;
- 4) To enhance the institutional capacity of SRM to conduct global virtual and hybrid meetings, including those needing multiple-language translational formats; and
- 5) To facilitate engagement of SRM members with the IYRP global network and international donors, thereby offering potential for new opportunities in project-based collaboration for outreach, education, policy formulation and research.

Questions concerning the symposium can be addressed to Dr Layne Coppock, Professor Emeritus (Utah State University), Chair SRM IAC, and co-Chair (USA) North American Support Group for the IYRP at Layne.Coppock@usu.edu