



# Rangelands West



Minutes  
WDC1 Annual Meeting  
March 13-14, 2006  
Tucson, Arizona  
[rangelandswest.org]

Members and other Participants Present (See below)

## Annual Meeting Overview

The Rangelands West Partnership held their 5<sup>th</sup> annual meeting on March 13-14, 2006 in Tucson, Arizona. The meeting was organized by the University of Arizona Steering Committee and it was attended by 34 rangeland scientists and agricultural librarians from the 19 participating Western land-grant universities. During the meeting, members demonstrated newly developed state rangelands websites, reported on new content developments, broke into working groups to discuss governance issues, developed an Action Plan, and attended metadata and website training workshops. There were special presentations given by Jeff Schalaus (Extension Agent, Yavapai County) and Mr. David Cook (DC Cattle Company) who spoke about the information needs of Cooperative Extension agents and ranchers. Also presenting at the annual banquet were Dr. Nancy Laney, Director of the Tucson Botanical Gardens, and Dr. Peter Warren (The Nature Conservancy) and Mr. Reese Woodling (rancher) who provided an overview of the work of the Malpai Borderlands Group.

## Meeting Reports

Following a five year summary of the Rangelands West initiative by Dr. George Ruyle and Dr. Barbara Hutchinson; Vice-Dean and Director of the University of Arizona Agricultural Experiment Station, Dr. Colin Kaltenbach, presented information about WDC status and answered questions from the participants. Issues about governance and reporting obligations were discussed as was the use of travel funds for library participants. A report on the eXtension initiative also was given by Dr. Jim Christenson, Director of Cooperative Extension in Arizona. This was followed by a facilitated discussion on the eXtension Call for Engagement led by Sheila Merrigan (UA Cooperative Extension). Based on the results of the discussion, a self-selected task force of four participants was organized to determine the viability of re-applying to eXtension as a Community of Practice.

New state website demonstrations were given by Dr. Karen Hickman from Oklahoma State University and by Dr. Roger Gates from South Dakota State University.

Also reporting on related SARE grant activities was Principal Investigator, Dr. Karen Launchbaugh from the University of Idaho. She outlined the activities since the 2005

annual meeting that took the results of the 2005 content development group discussions and essentially built a new topical structure for the Rangelands West web site. This involved a small group of rangelands specialists who met in Salt Lake City where a new subject hierarchy for rangeland management was drafted for review by the membership. After several revisions, this new hierarchical structure was demonstrated at a sustainable rangeland management SARE-sponsored workshop held in November 2005 at the University of Idaho. The input received from the participants, including agency and private land managers as well as Extension agents, provided the information needed to again revise the topical structure. At this point, the new structure was sent out for a final review by the membership and discussions were held with programmers at the University of Arizona for establishing a timeframe to implement the new technical architecture for the Rangelands West portal.

A demonstration of the new home page design and browse structure was provided to the membership by Anne Thwaites, University of Arizona.

Also presenting new developments at the state-level were (1) Norma Kobzina, University of California, Berkeley, who spoke about a new teaching and library collaboration that has resulted from the Rangelands West initiative; (2) Dr. Mel George, University of California, Davis, who described new methods he is using to deliver Extension information; and (3) Jeanne Pfander, University of Arizona Libraries, who described the nearly completed project to digitize the first 20 volumes of the journal Rangelands (v.1-20, 1979-1998). This online content is now accessible on the Web at the Rangelands Archives site - <http://rangelands.library.arizona.edu/rangelands/> and provides browsing and searching capability, with metadata for each article downloaded from the AGRICOLA database and/or created on-site.

#### Business Meeting and Governance Discussion

Doug Jones, University of Arizona Libraries, provided an overview of governance issues in the categories of mission, membership, leadership, and operational structure. These topics were discussed in detail in breakout sessions facilitated by Chestalene Pintozzi, Marianne Stowell Bracke, Carla Casler, and Sheila Merrigan – all of the University of Arizona. Each discussion group made suggestions for how the Rangelands West partnership might operate in the key organizational areas. These suggestions were then discussed by the entire membership and an Action Plan was developed based on the results. The first step will be to send out a ballot to all members through the Rangelands West listserv so that all members (including those who were unable to attend the meeting) will be able to vote on each governance issue. The results will be posted on the listserv and website, and it is expected that a vote for Chair, Chair-elect, and Secretary will follow soon after.

#### Demonstration of the New Rangelands West Home Page and Database

The meeting concluded with a hands-on workshop to introduce members to the new design and structure, to demonstrate how the resources in the previous database will have

to be reassigned to the new database, and to show how to add new resources. This was also a means for gaining additional input into refinements that need to be made before the new site can go live. Following the meeting, another session was held with the programmers to review the suggested refinements and to prioritize enhancements and set deadlines. It is expected the new site will be completed by the end of August 2006.

#### Rangelands West Participants List

##### University of Alaska, Fairbanks

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John Kawula, Elmer E. Rasmuson Library – ffjdk@uaf.edu

##### University of California

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##### University of Hawaii at Manoa

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##### University of Idaho

Karen Launchbaugh, Rangeland Ecology & Management – klaunchb@uidaho.edu

##### Kansas State University

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##### Montana State University

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North Dakota State University

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Karen R. Hickman, Plant and Soil Sciences – karen.hickman@okstate.edu

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University of Wyoming

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University of Arizona Workshop Planning Committee

Marianne Stowell Bracke, Science-Engineering Library

Carla Long Casler, Arid Lands Information Center

Barbara Hutchinson, Arid Lands Information Center

Doug Jones, Science-Engineering Library

Sheila Merrigan, Cooperative Extension

Jeanne Pfander, Science-Engineering Library

George Ruyle, Rangeland and Forest Resources Program

Anne Thwaites, Arid Lands Information Center

Other University of Arizona Participants:

Jim Christensen, Associate Dean, CALS, Ag Extension

Wolfgang Grunberg, Arizona Remote Sensing Center

Yan Han, Digital Library Information Systems  
Larry Howery, Rangeland and Forest Resources Program  
Colin Kaltenbach, Associate Dean, CALS  
Min-Seong Kang, Arizona Remote Sensing Center  
Chestalene Pintozzi, Facilitator, University Library  
Pat Reid, School of Natural Resources  
Gene Sander, Vice Provost and Dean, CALS  
Jeff Schalau, Cooperative Extension  
Carla Stoffle, Dean of Libraries

*Special Guests*

David Cook, DC Cattle Company  
Nancy Laney, Tucson Botanical Gardens  
Peter Warren, The Nature Conservancy  
Reese Woodling, Malpai Borderlands Group