Social Media Task Force Notes

Members: Amber Dalke (Arizona), Sarah Noelle (Arizona), Chris Bernau (Arizona), Nancy Marshall (South Dakota), Sheila Merrigan (Arizona), John Harper (California), Laura (New Mexico, going to Oklahoma)

* International Year of Range (2017)
  + Target audience: general public, aimed at kids (middle school/high school)
  + Work with international partners
    - Global perspective
    - Show images of rangelands around the world to show rangeland distribution
  + Aim for younger students
    - Deliver hands on range experiences (Ex. Ranch Explorers Day at the V bar B)
    - Speakers, food, activities, animals, soils, plants, roping – remind people that rangelands are important because influence water quality, green space, recreational opportunities, wildlife
    - Possible activity: Have a table with a display of a bunch of random items and ask what is found on rangelands. Displayed items include minerals, artifacts, something bird related, renewable product, wildlife skeletons
    - Target agriculture or biology teachers (identify teacher trainings and make teachers aware of range – use HEC resources)
  + Marketing ideas
    - Inspirational video release coincides with International Year of Range
    - Have a presence at state fairs/county fairs/rodeos
    - Non-traditional range venues (Ex. John Harper may have access to promote inspiration video at movie theaters and it could be played as PBS style introduction)
    - Investigate marketing organization or getting a marketing student involved with the project
    - Community of libraries to distribute information
    - Tours and extension activities advertise (maybe 1-2 activities per state)
    - Career days and job fairs
* Social Media
  + Making social media more visible
    - More support from members
  + Social media campaign ideas
    - “We are rangelands”
      * Each state creates an image with something from their state and embeds the words We are rangelands at the top
    - MEME
      * Each state creates at least one of their own meme with something funny, timely, or unique about rangelands in their areas
      * Aim to roll out one per week
    - Vintage pictures with funny text overlaid
      * Generally funny, same idea as above
    - Goals of this campaign: tell funny stories, gain interest, quick
      * Meme or We are rangelands can link to video or text
      * Avoid copyrighted material (possible to give credit to the author/artist, but best to develop origination content)
  + Hash tags
    - Come up with a constant hash tag that can be used on all social media platforms in order to have a single united conversation related to the rangelands partnership (avoid a large number of smaller conversations)
    - SRM uses #respecttherange; V bar V sometimes uses the popular #Farm365 (brings agriculture community together)
    - Ideas for the Rangelands Partnership: #rangeland, #rangelands, #rangechat
  + Join up with #AgChat
    - AgChat is a twitter based group where a moderator posts a question every five minutes (or so) and many people respond, after five minutes another question is asked (5-8 questions in total). The conversation becomes a very fast paced growing dialog between interested parties.
    - Perhaps the Rangelands Partnership can reach out to this venue and ask them to host a range related AgChat
    - Could also do an Australia version – maintain the global perspective of the partnership
  + Instagram
    - No business related instagram account. Best to make a new account using a general email and share username and password with people willing to contribute to the account
    - Aim to always use the to be determined Rangelands Partnership hash tag and other hash tags to bring help spread posts
    - Email account: [rangelandspartnership@gmail.com](mailto:rangelandspartnership@gmail.com)
    - Password: RangelandsWest

Action Items

* Use same hash tag – create this hash tag (8-12 characters) – Maybe #Rangelands
* Create Instagram and explore the possibility of creating LinkedIn as a company rather than a group (Amber Dalke – by late April)
* Make state memes (Chris Bernau and Amber Dalke will brainstorm and create a few to present to the Arizona group – aiming for late April)
* All members need to share/like things posted on social media (all members should do this, perhaps send a reminder email at some point in the future)
* Brainstorm logistics and work on ideas for the International Year of Range (coming 2017! – Discuss with Arizona team and brainstorm if this is possible)