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***Society for Range Management***

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*www.rangelands.org #respectontherange*

**Society for Range Management Resolution on a United Nations**

**International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, 2020**

*Recognizing* that healthy grassland and rangeland ecosystems are vital for contributing to economic growth, resilient livelihoods and the sustainable development of pastoralism; regulating the flow of water; maintaining soil stability and biodiversity; and supporting carbon sequestration, tourism, and other ecosystem goods and services, as well as distinct lifestyles and cultures,

*Aware* that a significant proportion of the earth's terrestrial surface is classified as rangeland and grassland, that these biomes dominate land cover in dryland countries and those areas affected by desertification, that a significant number of pastoralists in the world inhabit rangelands and grasslands, and that pastoralism is globally practiced in many different forms,

*Also recognizing* that rangelands and pastoralists, having contributed to enhancing and maintaining biodiversity, food security and sustainable management of rangelands, face urgent and different challenges around the world, including: widespread land degradation, loss of biodiversity, increasing vulnerability to climate change; land tenure insecurity; limited access to investment opportunities; inequitable development; inadequate levels of literacy; lack of adequate and relevant technology, infrastructure and access to markets; unsustainable changes in the use of land and natural resources; forced migration from and abandonment of rangelands; limited access to social and outreach education services; and faced with insecurity of both the pastoralists and the communities through which they traverse,

*Noting that* urgent and appropriate legal protection is needed of collective and individual land and natural resources, in order to manage grazing areas, wildlife, water sources and livestock movement, individual and community risk and resilience, and to enable land use planning and ecosystem management by pastoralists and relevant public entities,

*Recognizing the* significant contributions being made by the scientific community, non-governmental organizations, indigenous peoples organizations, pastoralist associations, and other relevant civil society actors; including innovative approaches towards achieving sustainability,

The Society for Range Management supports the declaration of an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists in 2020 so as to raise global awareness of these resources and the challenges to the collective sustainability.

Signed this 6th day of February 2017



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Larry D. Howery, President, Society for Range Management