



Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

March 7, 2022

Ms. Lia Biondo
Director of Government Relations and Federal Affairs
Society for Range Management
8918 West 21st Street North
Suite 200, #286
Wichita, Kansas 67205

Dear Ms. Biondo:

Thank you for your letter of June 15, 2021, discussing the upcoming International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP), currently planned for 2026. I apologize for my delay in responding.

I greatly appreciate the importance of rangelands and pastoralists to the global economy and the global ecosystem and believe IYRP will provide a much-needed focus on the key role rangelands play in agriculture and natural resource management. As you know, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) advances and supports rangeland production, protection, and improvement programs around the world, and our work on rangeland production and ecosystems encompasses research, education, trade, and assistance. I will carefully consider how USDA can support IYRP goals to highlight the unique and valuable role of rangelands and the importance of protecting and preserving these irreplaceable ecosystems.

Please feel free to share this response with your colleagues.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary