



Society for Range Management

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Secretariat of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) of the
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy
Email: fao-hq@fao.org

Dear Sirs/Madams:

**Re: Support for the request from the Government of the Mongolia for an
International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP)**

The Society for Range Management (SRM) presents its sincere greetings to you and your office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. SRM writes to express its continued support of the request by the Government of Mongolia for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP).

Paraphrasing the Mongolian IYRP Proposal, “More than half of the Earth’s land surface is classified as rangeland, those lands on which the indigenous vegetation is predominantly grasses, forbs or shrubs that are or can be grazed, and which are used in this natural state for grazing livestock and wildlife conservation. The health, productivity and environmental sustainability of these lands are directly critical to the livelihoods and cultures of more than 500 million pastoralists, including agro-pastoralists, rangers, and animal keepers around the world.”

For more than 70 years, SRM as an international professional Society has promoted the wise use, management, and conservation of rangelands through the application of professional knowledge and experience based on sound scientific principles. SRM has been a perennial leader in providing science-based education across the globe for managers, pastoralists, ranchers, and the general public about

the importance of sound use and stewardship of rangelands. SRM believes that the designation of IYRP would provide an opportunity to raise the profile and support for rangelands and pastoral issues globally and nationally, improve understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by the rangeland ecosystem and pastoralists, and direct increased attention and resources to rangelands and those who manage them.

SRM stands ready to assist our international partners in the designation of an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP). SRM has designated a specific Task Force, comprised of SRM members, who will assist the Society in navigating and coordinating efforts in North America. The Task Force will assist in promoting the IYRP's broader goals and objectives, associated events, outreach, and education across the globe. Moreover, SRM has several active standing committees (e.g., International Affairs, Policy and Public Affairs, Outreach Communication and Website committees, and others) who are well equipped with institutional skills and knowledge necessary to help promote and execute the IYRP designation. In addition to working with our international partners, SRM would focus on North American land management agencies and private stakeholders to bring the message of the year's designation to both the general public and those within the industry. As stated above and in the designation's proposal, every citizen of the world is impacted by rangelands. SRM stands ready to lead in ensuring the designation reaches the maximum audience possible.

Specifically, SRM, as the oldest professional international society in the world explicitly dedicated to the proper management of rangelands, will perform and carry out the following roles and responsibilities:

- Serve as the main point of contact for all IYRP activities in North America, and act as a liaison and partner with other international rangeland organizations throughout the world.
- Coordinate and communicate with government and other applicable rangeland management agencies to facilitate all IYRP efforts in North America.
- Coordinate industry-wide coalition of stakeholders who will assist in carrying out all IYRP activities in North America.
- Execute successful social media and outreach communications through two IYRP symposia -- the first symposium would occur one year before the IYRP official designation and serve to inspire and announce IYRP goals and objectives; a second symposium would occur immediately after the

conclusion of the IYRP that would celebrate IYRP accomplishments worldwide.

With this in mind, please accept SRM's full support for the request of the Government of Mongolia for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles R Hart", is centered on a light blue horizontal-lined background.

Charles R Hart, PhD
President, The Society for Range Management