

2021 Nomination Process for the Rangeland and Sagebrush-Steppe Stewardship Awards

Award Criteria

The 2021 awards for outstanding examples of rangeland stewardship will be presented to one (1) grazing permittee/lessee AND one (1) collaborative team, in two categories. The awards will recognize a grazing permittee/lessee and a collaborative team for outstanding rangeland stewardship and/or innovative resource stewardship in sagebrush-steppe habitats.

Rangeland Stewardship Award

Nominations should address at least one criterion under each of the main categories (A-D) listed below. The lists below are examples to be considered for inclusion in your nomination.

A. The Condition of Public Rangelands

Examples of factors that would be indicative of healthy rangeland conditions could include one or more of the following:

1. Provide for healthy functioning plant communities that are consistent with or trending toward ecological site description potentials (including invasive species management).
2. Provide for wildlife habitat.
3. Provide for healthy functioning watershed, riparian, and water quality conditions.
4. Provide for meeting rangeland health standards. Rangeland health standards and/or habitat assessment framework evaluations are not required to be considered for the awards; however, information should include:
 - a. Verification of meeting rangeland health standards, or
 - b. Documentation of progress toward meeting those standards, or
 - c. Documentation that the reasons for not meeting standards are unrelated to the activities of the nominated group or individual.

B. The Use of Beneficial Management Practices to Restore, Protect, or Enhance Rangeland Resources, such as:

1. Grazing management or other rangeland management.
2. Vegetation treatments.
3. Flexibility in management during drought or other emergencies.
4. Efforts to use new or innovative practices to address resource issues.

C. Provide Collaboration or Cooperation via:

1. Willingness and ability to work within a diverse group.
2. Commitment to multiple use benefits and sustained yield (e.g., schedule grazing to reduce conflicts with other users).
3. Efforts to participate in regional or national committees such as riparian initiatives, weed management areas, joint ventures, or partnerships.

D. Demonstrates Communication through:

1. Efforts to communicate successful management practices to others (i.e., workshops, tours, publicity, educational outreach, etc.).

Sagebrush-Steppe Stewardship Award

In addition to the above criteria, nominations for the two Sagebrush-Steppe Stewardship Awards should include the following or similar characteristics that would benefit sage-grouse or sagebrush-steppe habitat.

1. Provide for or demonstrate meeting greater sage-grouse or other sagebrush-steppe dependent species habitat objectives and/or provide an outstanding example of enhancement, restoration, or reclamation of sagebrush habitats.
2. Provide emphasis on greater sage-grouse or sagebrush-steppe habitat coordination efforts, such as sage-grouse working groups, Natural Resources Conservation Service's Working Lands for Wildlife projects, or demonstrate collaboration with sagebrush-steppe conservation, restoration, or protection groups.

Nomination Instructions

Basic information that must be included in your nomination documents:

1. Field Office Name and State
2. Field Manager Name, Phone Number, and Email Address
3. Nominated Party or Group's Representative Name, Phone Number, Email Address (if available), and Mailing Address
4. Which category and individual or group award for consideration

The narrative description should be limited to three pages or less. Additional photographs, letters of recognition or support and other supporting documents (e.g., rangeland health assessment summaries or habitat assessment framework summaries) are encouraged, but not required.

Field Managers are encouraged to submit nominations that meet criteria in one or more award categories to their respective State Office by **June 15, 2021**. State Offices are encouraged to submit nominations to Jessica Phillips (jmphilips@blm.gov) in the Division of Forest, Range, and Vegetation Resources (HQ-220) by **July 1, 2021**.

How will the award winners be selected?

The Division of Forest, Range, and Vegetation Resources will select a committee to review nominations and recommend individuals or groups as awards recipients. The selection committee may include but is not necessarily limited to BLM staff and external partners such as the livestock industry (e.g., Public Lands Council, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, and American Sheep Industry Association), Public Lands Foundation, Society for Range Management, sportsmen and/or recreation groups, environmental groups, The Wildlife Society, and the National Association of Conservation Districts.