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RN E R - News from the SD Section of the Society for Range Management
2023 Annual Meeting Recognitions by Sandy Smart

Last month the parent society of SRM held it's 76th Annual Meeting in Boise, ID. The meeting was attended by over 1,500 people ranging from students, agency personnel, and industry professionals. This year there were nearly 70 technical sessions and 140 posters on range topics like targeted grazing, prescribed fire, and virtual fencing among others. The student contests were well attended with near pre-pandemic attendance levels. South Dakota State University Range Club had 11 students participate in the Undergraduate Range Management Exam (URME) and placed 2nd.



Left to right, front row: Annie Feden, Sierra Sattler, Elise Anderson, Dr. Lora Perkins (URME coach); Tyler Geltmacher, Kaitlyn Preszler. Left to right, back row: Alexandra Medvec, Sarah Hayden, Kaitlin Schieuer, John Sump, Landon Wolter, Rachel Savage. Not pictured Dr. Maribeth Latvis (Plant ID Coach). Competitions were held at the 76th Annual Society for Range Management meetings in Boise, ID on Feb 12-16th. The URME Team placed 2nd out of 21 teams.



Jonathan Neuharth, presenting at the HSYF in Boise, ID. (Photo courtesy of Crystal Neuharth).

The High School Youth Forum (HSYF) representative for South Dakota was Jonathan Neuharth, Ft. Pierre, SD. Jonathan placed 4th with his talk entitled “Our Broken Grasslands”.

South Dakota was well represented at the meeting. Nearly 35 section members were in attendance. Tate Lantz and Dave and Holly Ollila were presenters at the opening plenary session. Tate’s presentation was entitled “Value of Working Landscapes” and the Ollila’s presented on their livestock operation near Newell, SD entitled “Our Piece of the Puzzle”.

The meetings concluded with the awards ceremony with Sandy Smart being recognized with the Fellow Award. We are very proud of our student competitors and members of our section who’s passion for rangeland management shows in everything they do!

To view more information on the SD Section of SRM visit our website at <https://www.sdrangelands.com/>.



Ollila’s (Tate, Holly, and Dave) presenting at the Plenary Session at the SRM Meeting in Boise, ID. (Photo courtesy of Nicole Strong).