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Annual Report

The Life on the Range web site has a new look and new content!

LifeontheRange.org has been steadily gaining popularity since we launched the site in 2010. The stories we've produced have been very well-received – and garnered multiple awards from the Idaho Press Club. We really liked the original “look and feel” of our site.

But as we all know, in the digital age, technology changes quickly, and to stay current, you must change with the times. Our original web site was not mobile-friendly, and some of its features were built with “Flash” technology, which doesn't work on mobile phones and Apple Mac computers.

The IRRC board agreed that it was time to update the web site so that it is mobile-friendly, while also eliminating the Flash programming from the site. More than 60 percent of the people engaged in the Internet marketplace are doing so from their mobile phones today. And that number is growing steadily.

The new site has the same web address, and it also combines the content from the IRRC web site (idrange.org) into the Life on the Range web site, meaning that all the educational materials for K-12 schools in Idaho will be on the same site as our Life on the Range videos (40+ stories and counting). All this synergy will help drive traffic to both web sites, and we hope this will be more convenient for our followers and users.

The latest stories on LifeontheRange.org showcase an education event at Sagehen Reservoir for about

100 Emmett 5th graders from Emmett Middle School, the Davis family raising Akaushi cattle in Cascade, a collaborative partnership at Rock Creek Ranch near Hailey, and we have another story coming up soon titled “What are Rangelands?” We also are working on an educational series about wolves and their impact on ranchers in Idaho.

The new web site will make it easier for our readers to find stories related to particular subject areas such as cattle, sheep, land management, conservation, wildfires and rehabilitation and invasive species. And the web site also organizes stories by geographic region in Idaho. Both of these sorting or searching functions are new, and we believe they will help people find the stories they want to watch.

Like the first web site, each story has its own landing page, and people can watch a video, read the story in print form and look through pictures related to the story. We also provide web links to related stories for reference.

Next time you have a moment, take a look at lifeontherange.org, and check out the new web site for yourself. These videos and stories are for you to use. Share with local groups, school teachers, or other outreach opportunities. Please spread the word!

If you have a story idea for Life on the Range, please contact Gretchen Hyde, ghyde@idrange.org.

FFA Students Convene in Marsing for Range Judging Event

IRRC, the University of Idaho Rangeland Center, and Owyhee County Extension hosted the 2017 Western National Rangeland Career Development Event (CDE) in Marsing November 6th.

The Western National CDE is a premier range judging event that attracted 58 participants from 14 FFA chapters in 4 western states. Individuals and teams earned the right to compete at Western Nationals by finishing among the top qualifiers at their state range judging events in Idaho, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming earlier this year.

The day began with an hour-long written exam in which the students were presented with a

range management scenario and had to solve a stocking rate problem. After lunch, they bused to a range site south of Marsing to test their range knowledge and assessment skills in four areas: plant identification and ecological site description; rangeland management; habitat for wildlife; and habitat for domestic grazers. Clipboards in hand, the students worked quietly and studiously from plot to plot and plant to plant. This is an individual competition, and they are not allowed to assist or talk to each other during the evaluation. Idaho kids did extremely well, taking all five individual awards and four of the top five spots in the cumulative team scores.

2017 Western National Rangeland CDE Contest Winners

Top 5 Individuals:

1. Danny Howard, Bliss, ID
2. Cassie Woodland, Gooding, ID
3. Jared McKenna, Rigby, ID
4. Allison Ward, Gooding, ID
5. Tell Williams, Kimberly, ID

Top 5 Teams:

1. Gooding, ID
2. Rigby, ID
3. Rockland, ID
4. Southeast, WY
5. Kimberly, ID



Care/Share Outreach at Public Trailheads

The Rangeland Commission received grants from both the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service in FY 2017 to continue our Care/Share initiative. Under this program, the Commission produces educational signage for key trailheads to alert recreation users that livestock may be in the area and provide tips on what to do if they encounter sheep or cattle on the trail.

We emphasize caring for the resource and sharing it with others in the sign language. "If we all care for the resource, and respect other users, we can share the land for generations to come," is our basic, overarching message.

As the Care/Share program continues to build momentum, we've had more requests from Forest Service ranger districts and BLM districts than ever before. This year, we set a record for outreach and sign production, leading to the printing of 100 Care/Share cattle and sheep signs that have been sent into the field for posting.

We did a photo shoot involving cattle and sheep at several trailheads in

the Palisades District of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest in late June, and we did a photo shoot at a trailhead on the west side of the Payette National Forest in late July. The photo shoots are valuable because they produce fresh, candid photos that fit with the local setting, and we use those photos in the signs for the local districts.

We'd like to thank the Palisades district staff and the Council, New Meadows and McCall district staff for helping us with models, horses and ATVs for the photo shoots. We'd also like to thank ranchers Steve Sutton, Justin Mink and Todd Mickelson for assisting with photo shoots.

To give you an idea of where the new trailhead signs will be posted, here's a rundown of the signs we produced for the BLM and USFS this year:

- Ketchum Ranger District, Sawtooth National Forest - Produced 20 sheep signs, "Sheep and Recreation – Tips for Getting Along" for various trailheads.
- Lost River Ranger District, Salmon-Challis National Forest – Produced

15 cattle and sheep signs for various trailheads.

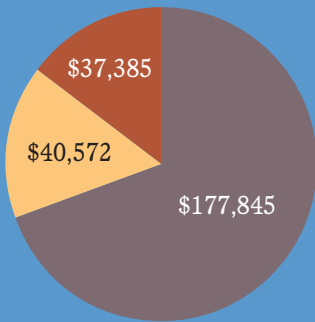
- Challis area BLM and Salmon-Challis National Forest - Produced 10 cattle signs for various trailheads.
- Payette National Forest – Produced 16 sheep signs and 17 cattle signs or 33 signs total for various trailheads in the McCall, Council, New Meadows and Weiser trailheads.
- Palisades Ranger District, Caribou-Targhee National Forest – Produced four cattle signs and eight sheep signs for the district or 12 signs total for various trailheads.
- Idaho City District, Boise National Forest – Produced 10 sheep signs for various trailheads.

If you are a sheep or cattle producer, and you know of an area where you feel that Care/Share signage would be helpful, please contact Gretchen Hyde, executive director of the Rangeland Commission, ghyde@idrange.org or 208-398-7002.

Steve Stuebner



IRRC Revenue



- Assessments
- Grants/Other
- License Plate



The IRRC has been successful in developing partnerships and grants to help fund many of these programs. But without the support of the livestock producers, these programs would not exist. The assessment rates for state, federal and private land are the same as was set in 1997. The total assessment for 2017 was \$177,845 with requests for refund of less than 1%. The graph left, represents the past year's revenue for IRRC.

The expenses vary year-to-year, but are focused on the education, public relations and research opportunities that take priority every year. The board works hard to get the most out of every dollar received.

IRRC board and advisory members:

A volunteer board of five voting members, appointed by the Governor, governs the IRRC. They each serve a five-year term.

IRRC Board Members

Chris Black, Chairman
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*SS Cattle Company
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*Goddard Cattle Company
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*Flat Top Sheep Company
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