

## FREDERIC G. RENNER AWARD

**William (Bill) Hurst** is truly an amazing individual! At age 87, a Charter Member and past president, Bill is still an active and involved SRM member. He is respected by all who know him! A true giant of the range management profession. The first annual ASRM meeting was held here in Salt Lake. Bill Hurst was here! This is also the state in which he was born and raised.

As a charter member of the Society, Bill's contributions to the art and science of range management have spanned more than six decades. Bill was born the son of an old-time Utah forest ranger and is the grandson of an original Gifford Pinchot era ranger and forest supervisor. He worked continuously for the USDA Forest Service from 1937 until 1976 except for two years of military service during World War II. Bill retired as regional forester of the Southwestern Region of the Forest Service.

After over a century of social unrest, the Spanish-American community of Northern New Mexico erupted into open revolt against the Forest Service in the mid 1960's. Bill Hurst guided the Forest Service through this sensitive situation and commissioned the "Northern New Mexico Policy" which resulted in the vast improvement in range conditions and administrative policy when implemented. In 2000, then regional forester Ellie Townsend commissioned Bill to do a follow-up review of the progress to date regarding implementation of that policy. In 2001 Bill presented his findings to the Southwestern Region forest officers. He is still the leading authority on forest and range management in the national forests in Northern New Mexico.

A primary criterion for the Renner Award is "sustained outstanding accomplishment(s) in, or contributions to any aspect of range science & range management by a member of SRM during the past 10 years. The word "sustained" is totally inadequate to describe Bill's staying power in contributing to both the Society and implementing practical and ethical land management on the ground. At 87, Bill is still going strong, attending and actively participating in annual as well as section meetings, and currently assisting the Denver office by keeping track and in contact with SRM's charter members.

Bill's 2000 publication, *A Life Recalled, Memoirs of William Daly Hurst*, almost epic at more than 800 pages, is a priceless documentation of over 80 years of history and events surrounding not only significant range management issues and policies, but in a greater sense, is an invaluable text on the philosophy, values and ethics by which all future generations of land managers should be guided.

For his lifetime of commitment to the Society, and to the multiple use and proper use of America's public rangelands, the Society is proud to present to **William Hurst** its most prestigious award – the **Frederic G. Renner Award**.