

**The Society for Range Management
2005 W. R. Chapline
Land Stewardship Award
is presented to
Dennis T. Becenti**

Dennis Becenti's resume begins with the objective: "To provide leadership in a cooperative environment to help people improve, manage, and maintain rangeland resources for use by this and future generations." Dennis has committed himself to this objective by helping landowners and Tribal governments on the Navajo and Hopi Indian Reservations improve the management and condition of their rangelands. He has worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Soil Conservation Service (now Natural Resources Conservation Service), and both the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribes. Additionally, Dennis has collaborated closely with universities in Arizona and Utah to further the goals of improved range management and advanced education.

During his career, Dennis has led planning and implementing of grazing management, range improvement, and watershed projects on Tribal lands. He has helped Navajo and Hopi ranchers plan and implement grazing management, brush and weed management, erosion control, tree plantings, water storage structures, and wildlife habitat improvements. He assisted the Navajo Nation in developing their first Soil and Water Conservation District and holds the distinction of being the first native-born Navajo District Conservationist on the Reservation.

Dennis has always stressed education as part of his work, for his clients as well as his family. He has conducted range tours for members of the Tribal grazing advisory committees, land users, and interagency range staff. Throughout his career he has voluntarily taught range ecology and management classes for students at Navajo high schools. Additionally, he saw to it that his children received university educations.

He considers one of his most important accomplishments his work helping the Paiute Tribe to develop a range management plan for their reservation. He also assisted with a film project entitled "*A Distant Thunder*" which gave a historical perspective on the Navajo use of land and promoted proper range management.

Because of his work, rangelands on the Navajo and Hopi reservations which cover large parts of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah are better managed. Navajo and Hopi ranchers and leaders of the Tribal Governments are better informed about and committed to the importance of rangelands and methods of modern range management.

For his many accomplishments in and continuing commitment to rangeland management, the Society for Range Management is pleased to present Dennis Becenti with the W. R. Chapline Land Stewardship Award.