



## W R Chapline Research Award

The W.R. Chapline Research Award gives special recognition to members of the Society for exceptional and sustained research accomplishments in range science and associated disciplines, including biology, morphology, physiology, and the ecology of specific range species, ecosystems, relating plant environments, wildlife and domestic livestock on such lands.

### **Gerald E. Schuman**

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Dr. Gerald (Jerry) E. Schuman is recognized as the leading international authority on mined land reclamation and carbon sequestration in rangelands. His research contributions assessing soil responses to land management practices in semi-arid and arid rangeland ecosystems that have addressed customer-relevant problems are unparalleled.

Jerry's professional contributions to the field of range management include mentoring 34 graduate students, over 175 scientific publications and numerous leadership positions.

He has continually provided high quality, practical research for the land manager that addressed contemporary issues, while concurrently advancing the state of knowledge in soil carbon and nitrogen cycling. Jerry's research addressed key customer issues at regional, national and international levels while having significant impact on public policy. This focus on customer issues is self-evident as the vast majority of his research has been productive cooperative projects with the private sector (e.g., coal mining companies, individual land owners), such that his research is often used for demonstration purposes by organizations and local, state, regional and national agencies.

Dr. Schuman's research in the area of land rehabilitation has led to the development and acceptance of technology that is used by the mining industry throughout the United States and in numerous other countries.

Dr. Schuman's cutting-edge research on the development of soil quality and rangeland health parameters/indicators, and evaluation of land management practices that enhance carbon sequestration in rangeland ecosystems represents a major breakthrough in the transfer of technology to land management and natural resource agencies. Because this area of research is recognized as experimentally difficult and complex, and does not readily submit to conventional research analyses approaches, Jerry's contributions to improving understanding of rangeland soil ecosystem responses to land management practices, and the development of new technologies to assess these responses, also represent significant advances to the scientific community. These contributions have extended conceptual theory used in developing sustainable management strategies for these complex ecosystems, and have practical implications for policy development regarding possible carbon credit and greenhouse gas trading programs.

His scientific reputation is clearly illustrated by his numerous invitations to international and national meetings, and his selection as a Fellow in 4 major professional societies: Soil Science Society of America, American Society of Agronomy, Society for Range Management and Soil and Water Conservation Society.

His career epitomizes what the rest of us strive for: sustained excellence, impact, implementation of recommended strategies and practices by land managers, an illustrious publication record and consummate respect among peers.

**Thus, it is with great honor that we hereby present Dr. Gerald E. (Jerry) Schuman with the 2006 W R Chapline Research Award.**