



W R Chapline Land Stewardship Award

The W R Chapline Land Stewardship Award gives special recognition to members of the Society for exceptional accomplishments and contributions in the application of the art and science of range contributions in the application of the art and science of range management to specific to rangeland entities and to wildlife and domestic livestock on such lands.

Deseret Land and Livestock

The Deseret Land and Livestock Ranch located in northeastern Utah is widely recognized as one of the best managed ranches in the United States. Established in 1891 for sheep grazing, the Deseret is a 200,000 acre, privately-owned ranch, dedicated to the proper management of land, water, and animals. Owned and operated by the Farm Management Company, a tax paying entity of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the ranch mission is to “make a profit while maintaining or enhancing the resource.” The 200,000 acres of rangelands on this property uniformly meet the criteria for being in a high state of ecosystem health. These rangelands allows the ranch to graze approximately 5,000 mother cows, 3,000 yearlings cattle, and one of the healthiest mixes of wildlife in the region (including an estimated 3,500 mule deer, 2,300 elk, 175 moose, 700 antelope, 2,000 sage grouse and 275 different species of birds).

This recognition is for a team of the employees and volunteers that have contributed to the success of the Deseret Land and Livestock during the past 25 years—including those that have provided management and labor to the property and the LDS Church which owns the ranch. This team has made major changes in the ranch that has improved its economic viability and ecological health. To achieve what they have on the ranch, they have been innovators in land, livestock, and wildlife management, and the management techniques and ideas developed on the Deseret are being applied by other ranchers throughout the western United States. The ranch has been actively involved in outreach to inform other ranchers and the public about the opportunities for and benefits of improved rangeland management. They have hosted numerous tours—including many SRM tours—to share their philosophies, experience, and knowledge with many diverse groups. They have been recognized by many organizations for the outstanding job they do in managing the land, water, and animal resources of the Desert Land and Livestock Ranch.

The Society for Range Management is proud to join these other groups by presenting to the ranch the W. R. Chapline Land Stewardship Award—the highest award presented by the Society for those involved in resource management. Three individual—all active SRM members—will accept the award on behalf of the ranch employees, volunteers, and owner. These individuals are: **Gregg Simonds** who managed the Deseret from 1981 to 1994; **Rick Danvir** who joined the ranch as a wildlife biologist in 1983 and has been responsible for the wildlife management program on the ranch since 1990; and **Bill Hopkin** who was responsible for livestock operations from 1983 to 1994 when he succeeded Gregg as manager.