

Derner, Justin D

Dr. Justin D Derner has made outstanding contributions to the Society for Range Management both through his work with students and through his research. His work with students comes naturally as he was fully involved in the Range Club at the University of Nebraska. He served as the team coach for the Undergraduate Range Management Exam both at Okalahoma State University and Texas A & M University Range Club. He continues to work with students at the University of Wyoming Range Club and assists with coaching and training of students even though he is located 50 miles from the University—he doesn't let 50 miles deter him from his interest and love of working with students. He is currently serving as Chair of the Undergraduate Range Management Exam Committee and is a member of the Student Activities Committee at the International Society level. Justin, is one of those special people that is effective teacher and very well liked by the students because he relates well to them. Dr. Derner has had a significant influence on numerous students to continue their education and training in rangeland science.

Dr. Derner also has developed an outstanding research program in rangeland ecology and the effect of climate change on rangeland ecosystems. Justin has published over 35 refereed scientific journal articles, made over 50 presentations and has been sought out to speak at over 20 regional and national workshops or conferences. He has attended 16 annual meetings of the Society and made 17 presentations at these meetings. These statistics are quite extraordinary considering he has only been in his research career 6 years. Justin's research involves very timely and important rangeland issues: effects of climate change on rangeland ecosystems, rangeland carbon sequestration, and evaluation of the "state and transition" model of plant community change. This theoretical approach to rangeland ecology is being adopted by land management agencies with limited or no research data to support or refute the model. His research includes areas of prime importance to future rangeland management and represent very challenging and difficult areas of research but Justin doesn't let that discourage him—he loves the challenge and the natural resource—rangeland!

Dr. Justin D. Derner is an extraordinary recipient for the Society for Range Management's "Outstanding Achievement Award".

