



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.

Kirk C McDaniel

Dr. Kirk McDaniel joined the New Mexico State University faculty in 1978 and is a Professor in the Department of Animal and Range Sciences with a joint appointment in research and extension as the Range Brush and Weed Control Specialist. He is recognized nationally and internationally as a leader in the development of vegetation management strategies in natural ecosystems.

Dr. McDaniel has pioneered innovative approaches for managing shrub and weed species on New Mexico's rangelands. We now have a better understanding of the ecology and preferred control strategies for invasive species including broom snakeweed, locoweed, sagebrush, creosote, salt cedar, mesquite, and other problem species thanks to Dr.



McDaniel's research and extension programs. His brush control research is unique in that it documents the long-term ecological consequences from managing plants for land restoration purposes.

Millions of dollars have been spent to control salt cedar along the riverways of the West, and more will be spent. These control programs are based on years of research (both successes and failures) conducted cooperatively between Dr. McDaniel and John Taylor and others at the Bosque del Apache near Socorro, NM. The Bosque is now held up as "the example and proof" that salt cedar can be managed and controlled.

Kirk's work has always emphasized collaboration with others, including ranchers, land agency personnel, private industry, students and other university scientists. Dr. McDaniel's research provides one of the few long-term databases documenting benefits from managing plants for land restoration purposes. Kirk is also widely recognized for his expertise in rangeland ecology, rangeland monitoring, and public land policy. Over his career, Kirk has assisted in resolving public land management conflicts and encouraged sound management practices on both public and private lands.

Dr. McDaniel has written over 200 peer reviewed papers and given many invited presentations that recognition his expertise in the management of numerous brush species that are problematic on southwestern rangelands. He has served for 15 years as research leader for USDA research grants to NMSU on rangeland ecosystems and locoweed research. Combined funding for research directed by Dr. McDaniel has been over half a million dollars per year in the last 10 years. He has been active in SRM, serving on various national committees and as section president, and serving on the New Mexico section Board of Directors.

Kirk is a careful, thorough and exacting researcher. His numerous former students acknowledge the hard work and attention to detail expected of them. The Society for Range Management and the Weed Science Society have benefited from his leadership, research contributions, and professional activities. It is a pleasure for me to participate in awarding Dr. McDaniel the W R Chapline Research Award.

It is with great honor that we hereby present Dr. Kirk C. McDaniel with the 2007 W R Chapline Research Award.

