



## 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.

### *F. Stephen Hartmann*

F. Stephen Hartmann of Midland, Texas, is the 2007 recipient of the Society for Range Management's W.R. Chapline Land Stewardship Award. As the Executive Director of University Lands – West Texas Operations, Steve is recognized for his distinguished service and exemplary success in managing the 2.1 million acres of Permanent University Fund lands of the State of Texas. Most of these lands are semi-arid or arid rangelands in western Texas. Revenue from this land is deposited into the Permanent University Fund, which has a current value of over \$9 billion. Investment income from this Fund and income generated from the surface estate are used to finance construction, facility renovations, major library acquisitions, significant educational and research equipment, and academic excellence programs in The University of Texas System and the Texas A&M University System.



Hartmann's mission is "To maximize the revenue from University Lands by applying intensive management, accounting, conservation, and environmental programs which will improve and sustain productivity of the lands in a manner which will both protect the interest of The University of Texas System and promote awareness and sensitivity to the environment." In addition to oil and gas revenues, the surface estate generates income (\$9.1 million in 2005) from grazing, hunting, recreation, business site, and farming leases; pipeline, power line and utility line easements; and permits for oil field-related operations. Steve's flexible lease policy yields maximum income from 116 grazing leases while assuring sustainable production from rangeland resources and stability for grazing lessees. Under his policies, a leaseholder pays rent on the hunting value, recreational value, and the actual number and types of livestock grazed. The fees vary yearly based on actual steer calf prices at a major regional market. Stocking rates are based upon Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recommendations. Aerial surveys are used to verify the livestock numbers present are appropriate. Grazing lessees are required to develop and implement sound conservation, range and wildlife improvement plans with the NRCS. Revenue from surface damages for oil and gas development is used to improve grazing management and wildlife habitat on University Lands. Steve values sound research for improving rangeland health and sustaining its productivity. His agency funds about \$300,000 annually for range research. Over 1 billion gallons of water are sold annually to several Texas cities from wells on University Lands. About 100 wind turbines, with a total generating capacity of 65 megawatts, have been erected on University Land and are currently producing electricity for Texans. Steve's proactive management assures that significant archaeological sites or rare and endangered plants or animals are not disturbed by any type of development activities.

Steve Hartmann has been an active member of the Society for Range Management for 40 years. He has served as a Director, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, and President of the Texas Section – SRM and was named a Fellow of the Texas Section in 1999. He also participates with his clientele in nine other societies and associations. He is held in the highest esteem among all rangeland resource managers, educators, scientists, ranchers, and agency personnel who know him. His stewardship of the 2.1 million acres of Permanent University Fund lands has been diligent and exemplary. **Steve Hartmann is most highly deserving of the honor bestowed by the W. R. Chapline Land Stewardship Award.**

