

Outstanding Young Range Professional Award Citations

Bill S. L. Houston

Bill has contributed to the profession of range management by being both involved in field level range condition assessments, range management planning for federally operated community pastures (PFRA) and also by conducting research at the Masters level.

During his Masters work, Bill added to the body of knowledge concerning range condition assessment of sand hills range sites. The title of his thesis was "Landscape Classification and Impact of Cattle Grazing on Vegetation and Range Condition in the Dundurn Sandhills, Saskatchewan." At that time, this area of research represented a gap area in knowledge; yet, there are significant areas of sandhill range sites in Saskatchewan, and PFRA manages a number of community pastures with this range site.

His most significant contribution is perhaps in working to apply existing range management research in a way that is practical. One large project that he was involved in was in working with Dr. Jeff Thorpe to develop a range health assessment/stocking rate protocol for the grasslands of Inner Mongolia, China.

Another significant contribution that Bill has made to the profession of range management is his ability to get people to work together effectively so that new achievements can be realized by all. He is able to work effectively with many different personality types. At this point, Bill supervises over 16 staff, who each work with a wide diversity of external Partners.

