



## *Frederic G Renner Award*

The **Frederic G. Renner Award** is the most prestigious award bestowed by the Society. It was made possible by a generous contribution from Frederic G. Renner, a Charter and Life member, and SRM's second President (1949). The award is presented with the belief that **such recognition will foster better use of rangeland resources and a broader understanding of the contributions that these resources make to the welfare of all people.**

*Dr. E. Lamar Smith*

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Lamar Smith has been a researcher, teacher, extension educator, Fulbright Scholar, international development specialist, rancher, consultant, real estate appraiser, and department head. He has served the Society for Range Management in every way conceivable from member to committee member, committee chair, board member and officer. He has served outside of SRM in promoting the cause of range management through activity on Advisory Councils, as an invited speaker, and as an international consultant.



What one often forgets about Lamar is his activity as an educator. Lamar has taught every course considered mandatory for one to be formally trained in range management, as well as several other natural resources courses, and has been active in extension work. He started the CPRM process by asking the Professional Affairs Committee to develop a proposal and served as co-chair of the Certification Committee to get the process going. It is now a model certification program.

The paper, *A Critical Evaluation of the Range Condition Concept*, which Lamar presented at the First International Rangeland Congress in 1978, has been credited as being the first paper to critique the range condition concept after a long period of relatively little attention to the concept. Two papers, which Lamar published in 1988 and 1989, discuss the range condition concept as it relates to ecological theory and fully outlined the problems with the application of successional concepts to range condition assessment. SRM established the RISC Group in 1978, with Lamar acting as Chair in 1981. They recommended a change from “range site” to “ecological site”, and created the “resource value rating” concept. This group became the *Task Group on Unity in Concepts and Terminology* in 1988, with Lamar as Chairman. Their final report to the Board of Directors was in 1991, published in the *Journal of Range Management* in 1995. The Task Group worked contemporaneously with the National Academy of Sciences. Unity emphasized the use of ecological sites and introduced the concept of “site conservation thresholds.” More than thirty years since Lamar began his involvement with rangeland assessment and monitoring he is still active with the concept. He is co-author of a “handbook” published by the University of Arizona which encourages utilization to be used in a way that is supported by the profession and good science. It is being evaluated for use throughout the United States.

After 51 years as a member of SRM he has lost none of his involvement and activity. He continues to play an active role by expressing his opinion openly and often. He steps in to assist in those activities and issues with which he is extremely well versed and keenly interested.

**It is with great honor that we hereby present Dr. E. Lamar Smith with the Society for Range Management's most esteemed Frederic G. Renner Award.**

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