

Outstanding Achievement Award Citations

Academia/Research

Dr. Neil R. Rimbey

Dr. Neil R. Rimbey is one of the top range economists in the United States. He has published extensively in the controversial area of public land grazing, grazing fees, and grazing permit value. When the Idaho State Land Board struggled to establish a grazing fee formula for endowment lands they called upon Dr. Rimbey to develop the formula. He worked on similar studies for the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service in the early 1990's, and within the past year, for the Utah State Land Board. His public land research has been published in peer reviewed journals and is considered factual and unbiased though it deals with topics where misinformation is common.



Neil was instrumental in the legislation that led to the formation of the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission (IRC) in 1994. He recognized the need for the livestock community to develop a public relations program that spoke to the benefits of grazing and the sustainable use of rangelands. His professional leadership has contributed greatly to the success of the Commission and the visibility of rangelands in Idaho.

For 14 years Neil has managed or co-managed the A to Z Retained Ownership Project that allows participants to place a limited number of calves in the feedlot, while maintaining ownership. Neil evaluated carcass data as well as the benefits, costs and risks associated with retained ownership. His cooperative extension efforts were recently recognized when he was a co-recipient of the 2007 Outstanding Extension Project Award from the Western Agricultural Economics Association.