

Outstanding Achievement Award Recipients

Research/Academia

Dr. Samuel D. Fuhlendorf

The goal of Dr. Fuhlendorf's teaching and research program is to produce knowledge and technologies that contribute to the general understanding of nature, and to maintain ecosystem services and continued economic development of rangelands. His research philosophy is focused on developing testable hypotheses that are relevant to science and ecology from a broad perspective and then applying the scientific method with experimental and observational designs.

For instance, Dr. Fuhlendorf's main research emphasis is on the impact of scale and pattern on natural resource management. He has developed a hypothesis about patch burning in natural landscapes that controls grazing animal distribution and heterogeneity (and hence, diversity). Through his patch burning research, Sam has attracted collaborators in entomology, wildlife, animal science, and vegetation ecology making this a truly integrated program. The concept of patch burning is now being applied throughout the Great Plains, and in South Africa.

Sam is a prolific author and has won 3 publication awards from 2 different professional societies. Dr. Fuhlendorf is an enthusiastic and inspired faculty member who encourages graduate students to meet the challenge of becoming experts in their specific disciplines and areas of study while developing a broader perspective that will allow them to remain engaged with the general scientific community. He has a world-wide reputation and has developed new, innovative theories about natural resource management that build upon earlier theories but advance our understanding of natural systems. Dr. Fuhlendorf clearly deserves to be recognized with this Outstanding Achievement Award.

