

Sustained Lifetime Achievement Award Recipients

Dr. James E. Bowns

If there ever there existed a position called “Mr. Range Management”, Dr. James E. Bowns would certainly wear the title. He has spent a long and exceptionally productive career teaching and inspiring students, assisting and educating ranchers and professional range managers through his extension work, conducting research on Utah’s rangelands, and providing expert advice and testimony to the U.S. Congress and several national task forces on a variety of vexing rangeland issues. The scope and significance of his contributions to any one of these would be considered a major career accomplishment for most of us. That he has been able to do so much in so many areas continues to amaze and astonish us who know and work with him.



Dr. Bowns has not simply taught range management; he has convinced generations of students that this is the career they were destined to follow. His artful teaching of plant taxonomy has made life-long “plant-freaks” of many of them. Ranchers and managers who have benefited from his judgments and advice - and not always what they wanted to hear - return again and again for his aid. And he unfailingly gives it with honesty, clarity and good humor.

Somehow, Dr. Bowns also finds time and energy to contribute substantially to his civic community through service on local hospital and livestock show boards, nature instruction of grade-schoolers, and Bryce Canyon (NP) Natural History Association. The Society’s honor of Sustained Lifetime Achievement is bestowed upon Dr. Jim Bowns with the deepest possible meaning.