

## Meet Vivian M. Jennings Washington Representative The Society for Range Management

The Society for Range Management (SRM) is a highly respected professional society dedicated to the proper care of rangeland resources according to Vivian M. Jennings, Washington Representative of the Society for Range Management. Improving the scientific knowledge base of range ecosystem production and management and helping to create an improved public appreciation of desired societal outcomes obtained from a well managed range environment are important objectives of the society, Jennings states.

The position of Washington Representative serves as an extension of the Executive Vice President of SRM, says Jennings. Since SRM is a nonprofit association, it is recognized as a scientific and educational organization under the provisions of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. This provides a framework for how SRM works and is important in how the Society performs its functions. The Washington Representative is an information provider and does not engage in any type of lobbying functions, Jennings says.

Most SRM members are familiar with the Washington Representative by way of the bi-monthly article, "Grazing the Hill" published in *Rangelands*. The article is a news article addressing changes taking place in the federal government that may impact the conservation and management of rangeland resources, the Society and the profession of range management. According to Jennings, the article conveys both sides of emerging and current issues on the public agenda.

Since the Washington Representative represents the Society in Washington D.C., another key function of the position is to liaison and attend meetings of other conservation and professional organizations, industrial and commodity organizations and societies, congressional hearings and meetings sponsored by cooperating agencies in the Departments of Agriculture and Interior. These would include the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Forest Service, Agricultural Research Service and the Bureau of Land Management, Department of Indian Affairs and other agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency. Jennings says, SRM needs to be kept abreast of agency and organizational activities so that courses of action on policy can be brought to the attention of the Board of Directors. Among other responsibilities the Washington Representative has is to represent SRM on the Board of Directors of the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation (RNRFF) and to represent the Society with the Natural Resources Council of America (NRCA). Recently, Jennings served on the RNRFF committee to plan the 1996 Leadership Summit for professional society leaders in the natural resources professions. The topic of the summit to be held June 13-14 will be "Working Towards a Sustainable Future" and will link to the "Report on the President's Council on Sustainable Development."

At the recent SRM meetings in Wichita, Jennings present-

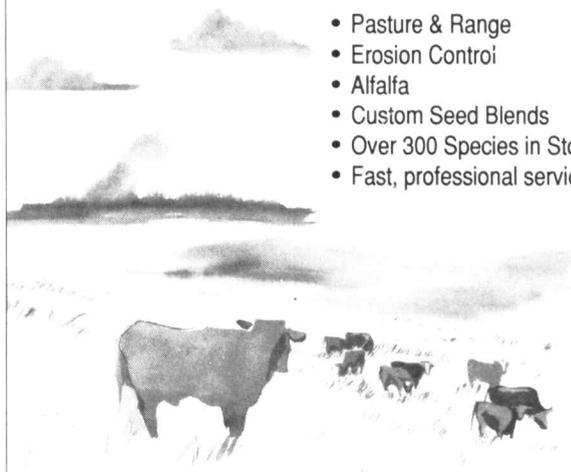
ed a concept paper at the request of then SRM President, Fred Bryant, on a certification program to potentially certify grazing land ecosystem practitioners. This would be a similar program focused on grazing land to one now being offered to Certified Crop Advisors (CCA). Presently, about 15,000 individuals have taken the exam to be CCA certified. Certified individuals, would be knowledgeable across broad based standards needed to fulfill the objectives of the program, Jennings stated.

The Washington Representative, is a part time responsibility for Jennings who has other business responsibilities in addition to SRM. It represents less than 20% of a full time position and requires flexibility in scheduling to accommodate the demands. Sometimes my schedule will be full time for three or four days a week and at other times it will be only one day, Jennings says. I always enjoy hearing from SRM members and related contacts. I try to schedule in priority events and activities where I can, stated Jennings.

"Meet Vivian Jennings" was submitted by Bertha C. Gillam, Director of Range Management, Washington, D.C. She is a member of the Professional Affairs Committee.

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