Range Management Curriculum Accreditation

Phillip L. Sims

The Society for Range Management established the Range Management Accreditation Program on February 6, 1978, at the annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas. The Board of Directors appointed Floyd Kinsinger (Chairman), Jim Bob Grumbles, and Phillip L. Sims to this committee. When Floyd Kinsinger was appointed Executive Secretary to SRM, Phillip Sims replaced him as Committee Chairman and Charles Poulton was appointed to the committee. Sims, Grumbles, and Poulton served on this committee through the February, 1982, meetings in Calgary, Canada. At that time Dr. Poulton assumed Chairmanship and Don Hyder and S. Clark Martin replaced Grumbles and Sims.

In addition to the Accreditation Committee members, the SRM Executive Secretary and more than 20 educators, ranchers, and agency personnel serving on visitation teams have worked diligently toward quality range management training through SRM's accreditation program. Appreciation is also extended to the academic administrators and educators who requested reviews, prepared the necessary documents and hosted the visitation teams. Their interest in quality range management education is commendable.

Readers are referred to Dr. Grant Harris' article on Range Curriculum Accreditation in Rangelands (June 1981) for a discussion of the history and development of the SRM's accreditation program. The primary purpose of this program is to review and assess the standards of range management education at the B.S. level at the request of the University. Although the accreditation committee and the visitation teams concentrate on evaluating the undergraduate program, the graduate, research and extension programs are reviewed for balance and complementarity.

Since the establishment of the accreditation program, five universities have completed the accreditation process. The purpose of this article is to provide a highlight of the history of these programs and a brief description of their faculty, curriculum, and students. The five programs accredited to date represent an enrollment of well over 500 undergraduate students with more than 120 BS graduates annually. Students graduating from these schools meet or exceed SRM's standards for range management education.

The accreditation program is well established and functioning according to the design of the SRM Board of Directors. Should anyone desire further information concerning the accreditation program or copies of the Standards and Qualifications and Procedures for Accreditation, contact the Executive Secretary, Society for Range Management, Denver, Colo.

Department of Range Science
College of Forestry and Natural Resources
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, Colorado 80523

Historical Development

The range management program at Colorado State University originated from within the Botany and Forestry programs. The Department of Range and Pasture Management was established on April 1, 1936, through funding from the Bankhead-Jones Act. Presently the Department of Range Science is administered through the College of Forestry and Natural Resources at Colorado State University. The Department of Range Science has 4 sister departments within the college: Earth Resources, Fishery and Wildlife Biology, Forest and Wood Sciences, and Recreation Resources. Colorado State University is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. CSU was the first range management program to receive accreditation by the Society for Range Management. Accreditation was awarded in February, 1980.

Range Science Faculty

The department includes a faculty of 11 full-time members plus several cooperating and affiliate faculty. Approximately one-half of each faculty's time is devoted to the undergraduate and graduate teaching program. The departmental faculty cover expertise in ecology, rangeland resource, range economics, rangeland soils, range animal biology, range animal nutrition, eco-physiology, and quantitative ecology. Faculty Ph.D.'s were obtained from Texas A&M Utah State University, University of Arizona, University of Utah, University of Nebraska, University of Minnesota, and Colorado State University.

Range Management Curriculum

The Range Science Department offers a 4-year program leading to a Bachelor of Science degree in range science with majors in Range-Forest Management and Range Ecology. The curriculum emphasizes the ecosystem approach to range management. The Range-Forest Management curriculum is a double major with limited electives. The Range Ecology curriculum has greater flexibility because of a larger number of elective courses available to the students. With the Range Ecology Curriculum the students can select additional concentrations or elective courses to emphasize rangeland rehabilitation, animal science, watershed management, wildlife, soils or business management.
The Department requires 128 semester credits for a B.S. degree. This includes credits in communication skills, physical education, mathematics and an array of courses from the humanities and social sciences that are university-wide requirements.

**Range Management Students**

Typical undergraduate enrollment is approximately 175 students. About 30 students received B.S. degrees from the department annually. Typical graduate student enrollment is 65 students. Colorado State University is under state imposed enrollment restrictions and only about one-third of the applicants are admitted to the university.

Colorado State University admits only freshman students who present a record of intellectual development and exhibit a potential for satisfactory performance in the academic programs at CSU. Criteria evaluated include secondary school grades, class rank, pattern of high school academic units taken, aptitude test scores, and principal-counselor recommendations. The most significant criterion is secondary school grades. A student must maintain a grade point average of 2.0 or above to continue coursework at Colorado State University.

The student/fulltime equivalent teaching faculty ratio is approximately 20 to 1. Student advisee/faculty ratio approaches 30 to 1. The student body in the Range Science Department at the Colorado State University is rather cosmopolitan in nature with an increasing number of women, international students and students with urban background.

**Department of Range Science**

**College of Natural Resources**

**Utah State University**

Logan, Utah 84322

**Historical Development**

Limited coursework in range management was started at Utah State University in 1910, 22 years after the founding of Utah Agricultural College in 1888. The first full-time range management professor was appointed to the Botany Department in 1918. The Department of Range and Forestry was established in the School of Agriculture in 1928. Range Science and Forestry were separated into unique departments in 1933, and became a part of the School of Forestry, Range and Wildlife in 1938. The first MS degree was granted in 1938 and the first PhD in 1956. Today Range Science is one of three departments of the College of Natural Resources along with Forest Resources and Fisheries and Wildlife Science.

Utah State University is accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges and is a member of the American Council on Education and listed among the Association of American Universities. Utah State University's Range Science Department was accredited by the Society for Range Management in February, 1980.

**Range Faculty**

The Department of Range Science has 14 faculty members, all of which have PhD degrees from one of the following seven institutions: Texas A&M, Oregon State University, Utah State University, Duke University, University of Arizona, University of Alberta, and the University of New England (Australia). The Range Science faculty have specialization in range management, range livestock production and nutrition, plant physiological ecology, rangeland hydrology, rangeland ecology, rangeland-wildlife relations, and range economics. Certain non-university personnel are affiliated with the range science program, including business executives, state and federal agency research personnel, and ranchers. At present there are 5 full-time equivalent teaching, 2 extension, and the equivalent of 7 research faculty spread among the 14 faculty members, all of whom are involved in the teaching program.

**Range Management Curriculum**

The Range Science Department provides education and training for a variety of careers in range resource management. The curriculum consists of a basic curriculum in range management with 7 options of course emphasis available to students. These options are: Range Management, Forest-Range Management, Range-Watershed, Range Economics, Range Livestock Production, Range-Wildlife Relations, and International Range Management. All students take the basic range management curriculum and have the option to pursue one of the specialized areas of study.

The University requires a minimum of 186 quarter credits for a BS degree. This includes 6 credits in communication skills and 40 credit hours in general education courses from the arts and humanities, social science, biological science, and physical science disciplines.

**Range Management Students**

Utah State University has an "open" admission policy to all prospective students with American College Testing (ACT) scores of 2.0 or higher. Students with scores less than 2.0 may be admitted under a probationary status and can continue in school by maintaining a grade point average of 2.0 or higher.

During the last 5 years the range science program has had an enrollment of 80 to 120 students with about 22 BS graduates per year. Student/advisor and fulltime students/fulltime teaching faculty ratios are approximately 20 to 1. There are 35 MS and 18 PhD candidates pursuing degrees.

**Range Resources Division**

**School of Renewable Natural Resources**

**University of Arizona**

Tucson, Arizona

**Historical Development**

The University of Arizona was established by the Territorial Legislature in 1885. The Range Management program began at the University of Arizona in 1932 in the Botany and Range Ecology Department, later renamed the Botany and Range Management Department, within the College of Liberal Arts. During 1954-55 school year the Range Management program was transferred to the College of Agriculture and combined with the Department of Agronomy. In 1974, the Department of Watershed Management was reorganized into the School of Renewable Natural Resources and the Range Management program became one of seven programs within the School. These programs were consolidated into four and upgraded to Division status in 1980. The present Divisions are Range Resources, Landscape Resources, Watershed-Forest Resources and Wildlife, Fisheries and Recreation Resources.

The University of Arizona is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. This was the third university to receive accreditation for its range management program by the Society for Range Management. The accreditation was awarded in February, 1981.
Range Faculty
The range faculty at the University of Arizona consists of seven full-time faculty members and two adjunct professors. The range faculty have terminal degrees from the University of Nebraska, University of California, Oregon State University, Colorado State University, Texas Tech University, Iowa State University, Texas A&M University and the University of Arizona. A diversity of specializations is covered by the staff such as range management, range wildlife management, wildlife ecology, plant physiology, range-forest soils and rangeland improvements. There are 3.8 full-time teaching faculty. The ratio of undergraduate advisees/faculty and the enrollment of full-time students per full-time faculty is about 15 to 1.

Range Management Curriculum
The Range Management curriculum has a strong foundation in the basic sciences plus a full complement of range ecology, range analysis, evaluation and management courses. The curriculum is broad, yet flexible enough to prepare students for a wide range of range management careers.

The University requires a minimum of 130 semester credits for the Bachelor of Science degree. The curriculum, in addition to basic and professional course work, has strong emphasis in social sciences. Courses required and/or recommended include: psychology, sociology, personnel management, economics, political science, technical writing and public speaking.

Range Management Students
The University of Arizona has an open admission policy. Students are required to maintain a 1.75 grade point average for the first 24 units, 1.9 for 20-55 units and 2.0 for more than 55 units. Recent figures indicate approximately 50 students enrolled in the Range Management program with approximately 12 receiving BS degrees each year.

Range Management Program
Range and Wildlife Management Department
College of Agriculture Sciences
Texas Tech University
Lubbock, Texas 79409

Historical Development
Texas Tech University was established in 1925 with the first graduating class in 1927. In the early 1930’s range management education began as a joint program between the Animal Science and Agronomy Departments. By 1955 the Agronomy Department had established a Range Management option within its curriculum. In 1964 the departmental name was changed to the Department of Agronomy and Range Management. Between 1962 and 1968 a wildlife component was added to the curriculum. In 1968 the Range and Wildlife Management Department was established in the School of Agriculture. Today the Range and Wildlife Management Department is one of eight departments within the College of Agriculture at Texas Tech University.

Texas Tech University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Universities. Texas Tech University was the fourth university to receive accreditation by the Society for Range Management for their range management program. Accreditation was awarded in February, 1982.

Range Faculty
Seven of the eleven faculty within the Department of Range and Wildlife Management are assigned to the Range Management Program. These faculty have Ph.D. degrees from one of the following universities: Utah State University, University of Idaho, Oregon State University, or Texas A&M University. The Range Management faculty have a variety of specializations including rangeland ecology, rangeland management and improvement, plant physiology, range wildlife, soil-plant relations, and range resource analysis. There are about 5.5 fulltime equivalent faculty paid from the resident instruction funds and assigned to the Range Management program.

Range Management Curriculum
The educational philosophy of the Range and Wildlife Management Department is to provide a variety of courses and experiences to prepare students for meaningful roles as professional managers of rangeland resources in private industry as well as with public resource management agencies. The range management program consists of 1 basic curriculum with options in Range Science and Range Wildlife Habitat.

The University requires 135 semester credits for graduation. Within the Range Management curriculum there are from 12 to 16 hrs of elective credits available for students to explore other disciplines and for making career decisions. The University also requires courses in communication skills as well as general education courses from the humanities and social sciences area.

Range Management Students
Although Texas Tech University has a responsibility to provide educational opportunities to all who desire higher education, prospective students are screened on the basis of high school class rank, and Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and American College Test (ACT) scores. Beginning freshman must have completed the course work at an accredited high school and make acceptable scores on the SAT or ACT tests. Students must maintain a grade point average of 2.0 or higher in at least 12 credit hours each semester.

Undergraduate enrollment of range management has increased from 35 to 40 students in 1975-76 to 55-65 students in recent years. Increased enrollment is reflected in more urban and women students. In 1980 16% of the students were women and 85% of all students had primarily urban backgrounds. There are approximately 25 graduates from the program on an annual basis. The student/advisor and student/fulltime equivalent faculty ratio is approximately 20 to 1.

Range Management Program
Department of Animal and Range Sciences
College of Agriculture
New Mexico State University
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001

Historical Development
New Mexico State University was founded as the Land-Grant Institution for New Mexico in 1888. The first courses in Range Management were taught in the Department of Animal Husbandry in 1925. Additional staff in range management were added over the years and the first B.S. degree was offered in 1942. A wildlife component was added to the Department of Animal and Range Science in 1959. In 1974 the wildlife component was separated into the Fishery and Wildlife Sciences Department.

New Mexico State University is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. New Mexico State University was the fifth University to
receive accreditation by the Society for Range Management for the range management program. Accreditation was awarded in February 1982.

**Range Faculty**

The Range Management program has approximately 12 faculty members involved in range management education, research and extension. In addition, there are a number of federal agencies collaborators and emeritus faculty that enhance the program. The faculty have terminal degrees from Utah State University, Texas A&M University, Colorado State University, University of California, University of Arizona and Oregon State University. Their major fields of specialization include range animal nutrition, range taxonomy, rangeland ecology, range management, plant physiology, range biology, remote sensing, brush control and range watershed analysis.

**Range Management Curriculum**

The Range Management program at New Mexico State University has as its primary objective to provide education and background necessary for graduates to successfully participate in multiple-use management of rangelands. By its association with the Animal Science program the emphasis has been on the domestic animal production phase with a strong emphasis in ecology and biology. Each student is required to take the basic core of range courses that meet SRM standards and Civil Service Commission requirements plus an array of other electives. The elective courses allow a student opportunity to study particular areas of interest.

The university requires a minimum of 128 semester credits for a B.S. degree. Students must maintain a grade point average of 2.0 to successfully complete an academic career at New Mexico State University.

**Range Management Students**

New Mexico State University admits students who have successfully completed their high school studies at an accredited high school. Students must have had an appropriate array of courses in English, social studies, science and mathematics from their high school. Results of their ACT tests must also be available.

Historically, most range management students at NMSU came from farms and ranches in New Mexico. Today, many range students come from urban environments and an increasing number from outside of the state. As in other universities, there is an increase in women students. New Mexico State University also has many international students in the range management program, particularly students from Mexico and West Africa. In recent years the range management program had a typical enrollment of about 85 undergraduate students with about 20 B.S. graduates each year. Student/advisor and student/fulltime teaching faculty ratio is approximately 20 to 1.

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