

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Of the
WYOMING SECTION
SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT

PURPOSE

1. Provide timely and accurate information to agencies, organizations, institutions, industry and interest groups concerning management and utilization of rangeland resources.
2. Provide information and guidance to the Section President and Council concerning issues and problems within the state that indicates the need for action by the Section.
3. Make the SRM a known and respected professional society with expertise on matters related to management of rangeland ecosystems.
4. Correlate public affairs activities with activities of other committees of the Section and with the Society Public Affairs Committee.

STRUCTURE

The Section President will appoint the Chair of the committee. The Chair and the President will jointly select the additional members of the committees, including a Vice Chair, needed to contribute to the Section's expertise on specific issues. The committee should be small enough to provide for a close working relationship and effective communications among members. A diversity of occupations among members should be provided in order to represent broad interest of Section membership.

Sub-committees may be formed, as needed, to deal with specific issues or to expedite work.

COMMITTEE FUNCTION

1. Keep up-to-date and alert to issues and activities within the state, which relate to concerns of the Section. If such issues or activities appear to have national significance, they should be brought to the attention of the Society Public Affairs Committee. The Section membership will be encouraged to be alert to issues throughout the state and bring them to the attention of the Section Public Affairs Chair, if felt necessary.
2. Monitor or keep informed on new or proposed state legislation that deals with or has effect on rangelands or range resources. Advise the Section President of foreseeable conflicts and opportunities for input of needed facts or information concerning rangelands.

3. As deemed necessary, prepare statements of position of the Section on matters of interest within the state. Review and prepare comments on environmental reports and statements published by agencies or other organizations.
4. The Chair will maintain liaison with the Wyoming Stock growers and Wyoming Woolgrowers Associations, professional organizations concerned primarily with natural resources and other groups and organizations involved in natural resource activities.
5. The Chair will serve as the leader or coordinator. However, this should not deter the initiative of selected committee members to initiate ideas or suggestions to better carry out the duties and objectives of the committee.
6. Due to the nature of some public issues, reaction by the committee must be prompt to be most effective. In such instances, telephone communications between the committee chair, committee members, the Section President or council members assigned to work with the committee, or Section members will be used. In most cases, business will be conducted by mail with distribution of copies as appropriate. The annual costs of doing committee business will be budgeted and approved by the Section Council.
7. The committee will make every effort to properly represent the feelings of the overall Section membership in preparation of statements and comments. Maintaining contact with a broad representation of members and encouraging member input will do this.
8. The Committee Chair will maintain a file of all position statements prepared as well as a record of those to whom the statements are sent.

REPORTS

The Committee Chair will prepare a progress report for the Summer Meeting, an accomplishment report for the annual Meeting, and such other reports as the Section President may request.