

Award Criteria

The awards emphasize rangeland conditions. Therefore, the nominees will be judged on:

A. Condition of public rangelands

Conditions must be exceptional and noteworthy, or recently improved through changes in management. Factors evaluated include:

1. Plant communities (including invasive species management);
2. Wildlife habitat (including threatened or endangered species habitat);
3. Watershed and riparian conditions (including water quality issues); and
4. A rangeland health standards evaluation is not required to be considered for this award. If those standards were evaluated however, the lands involved would need to:
 - a. meet the rangeland health standards, or
 - b. have documentation of progress toward meeting those standards, or
 - c. have documentation that the reasons for not meeting the standards are unrelated to the activities of the nominated group or individual

B. Use of beneficial management practices

1. Grazing management or other rangeland uses;
2. Vegetation treatments;
3. Flexibility in management during drought or other emergencies; and
4. Efforts to use new or innovative practices to address resource issues.

C. Collaboration or cooperation

1. Willingness and ability to work within a diverse group;
2. Multiple use benefits (e.g., schedule grazing to reduce conflicts with recreation or other uses); and
3. Efforts to participate in regional or national committees such as the sage-grouse working groups or riparian initiatives.

D. Communication

1. Efforts to communicate successful management practices to others (i.e., workshops, tours, publicity, etc.)

Nomination Process

The BLM Field Office Managers are to submit their nominations to their respective State Office between the dates of January 5 through January 31, 2010. One nomination in each category, 1) grazing permittee/lessee and 2) collaborative team, should be forwarded by each State Office to the Washington Office Division of Rangeland Resources by February 10, 2010.

Each nomination should include the following:

Coversheet containing:

- The nominating Field Office Manager's name and telephone number

- Name, telephone number and address of the nominated party or the nominated group's representative
- Category of the nomination: 1) grazing permittee/lessee, or 2) collaborative planning team

Narrative description (limited to 1-3 pages) including:

- Description of the specific criteria noting leadership, creativity, problems, solutions, approximate costs, partnering, land ownership and unusual circumstances
- Short- and long-term benefits to rangeland health
- Effectiveness of the individual's or group's work, quantified where possible
- A list of references, with telephone numbers of individuals who can validate the successful application of the criteria
- Statement summarizing why the individual or group deserves the award

Photographs (Recommended): Photographs are highly encouraged if they help to document the success of the nominated individual or group. Not all rangeland management activities can be photographed, but pictures should be included whenever possible. Photographs should be 8" by 10" or smaller and include a description explaining what is illustrated and the date the photograph was taken. Photographs are to be submitted on a CD as jpg files, along with a signed statement that the photographs are released for public use. Please attach summaries concerning the status and/or results of rangeland health assessments. Copies of supporting monitoring data or summaries of monitoring information can also be provided, but photographs of conditions are preferred.

Supporting documentation, such as letters of recognition, is not required, but may be submitted with the nomination.

How will the award winners be selected?

External partners will be invited to assist with the selection process. The Washington Office Division of Rangeland Resources will select a committee to review nominations and recommend individuals or groups for the awards. Nominations from Field Offices that have nominated award winners in the past will not be eliminated from consideration for the 2010 rangeland stewardship awards; however, those nominations will be identified for the selection committee during the nomination review process. The selection committee may include, but is not necessarily limited, to BLM staff and external partners such as, the livestock industry (e.g., National Cattlemen's Beef Association, and American Sheep Industry Association), Public Lands Foundation, Society for Range Management, sportsmen and/or recreation groups, environmental groups, The Wildlife Society, and the National Association of Conservation Districts.