



creating knowledge and fostering understanding of the stewardship and management of rangelands

## University of Idaho

### Rangeland Center

#### iconic lands.

Rangelands are vast natural landscapes that cover nearly half of Idaho: they are symbols of the wide-open West. These iconic western landscapes influence those who live, work, and recreate amidst or near rangelands. Rangelands have a complicated cultural and ecological history, and have been the subject of debate among citizens, land managers, scientists, and policy-makers. Complex issues surround rangelands today in an era of ecological, societal, economic, and climatic change. Diverse publics agree that rangelands hold great intrinsic value for many reasons, including generations of family ranching, open landscape beauty, fish and wildlife, rich history and culture, public land, hunting and fishing, conservation, and recreation. Rangeland stewardship is vital to all interests, and it will ensure the ecological and economic health of these lands that are integral to Idaho's past, present, and future.

#### the power of partnerships.

Today's West is experiencing growing pains as citizens seek landscapes for a host of resources, including habitat for livestock and wildlife, sunlight and wind for energy, trails for recreation, and quiet scenic places to live. These competing interests exist alongside unprecedented challenges posed by: 1. Wildland fire, fuels, invasive plants, restoration; 2. Rangeland use (grazing, recreation, energy); 3. Fish and wildlife needs; 4. Watershed function; and 5. Climate variability. The Idaho Legislature established the **Rangeland Center** in 2012 to address these challenges. The **Rangeland Center** was established at Idaho's land-grant university, the University of Idaho, to lead unbiased research and education, and to convene active partnerships with individuals, organizations, and communities to collaborate on rangeland stewardship. No entity alone can address these issues. Collaborative work is critical now - and into the future. The **Rangeland Center** is an interdisciplinary team of researchers and educators, from seven UI departments, three colleges and University of Idaho Extension, that conducts research and outreach. The **Rangeland Center** Partners Advisory Council provides insight and guidance to faculty, staff, and partners to implement activities in focus areas identified in the Strategic Plan (2017-2021). It also helps develop partnerships, secure resources, and enhance communication to build greater capacity and stronger outcomes on this vast landscape.

#### science and solutions.

**Rangeland Center** members collaborate with diverse partners to develop long-term, science-based solutions for managing rangelands and various other uses that impact the ecological, economic, and social fabric of Idaho. Strategic vision, resources, and expertise connect academic research with local knowledge from those who live and manage the land. **Rangeland Center** goals include: 1. Engage partners and stakeholders to jointly provide leadership for discovery of new knowledge and create science-based solutions; 2. Provide objective and relevant information for individuals, organizations, land managers, communities, policy-makers, other interested parties; and 3. Offer learning opportunities for rangeland stewardship.

#### an eye on the future.

The **Rangeland Center** is at the forefront of scientific research and education, educating the next generation of rangeland managers, owners, and conservationists. Our students learn by doing through powerful connections with partners, faculty, and alumni, which prepares them to work with others to develop better ways to live, work, and recreate on Idaho's iconic rangelands for many generations into the future.

[www.rangelandcenter.org](http://www.rangelandcenter.org)

*Rock Creek photos courtesy The Nature Conservancy, Idaho Chapter, John Finnell*



**active partnerships with individuals, organizations, and communities**

## University of Idaho Rangeland Center

### a network of people and partners.

- College of Natural Resources
- College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
- University of Idaho Extension
- The Rangeland Partnership
- Great Basin Fire Science Exchange
- The Nature Conservancy, Idaho Chapter (TNC Idaho)
- Sagebrush Steppe Treatment Evaluation Project (SageSTEP)
- Students (Rangeland Ecology & Management undergrad, grad)
- Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission (IRRC)
- Owyhee Initiative
- Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC)
- Central Idaho Rangelands Network (CIRN)
- Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation (OSC)
- Wood River Land Trust (WRLT)
- Local, state, and federal agencies

\* Our people have expertise in grazing, rangeland ecology, entomology, soil science, economics, rural sociology, fish and wildlife, invasive plants, restoration, forage production, animal science, wildland fire, and spatial technology to understand rangelands.

### partners advisory council: statewide expertise and guidance.

**Past Members 2014 - 2015:** Karen Hixon, Seth McFarland; **Emeritus Member - 2017:** Senator Bert Brackett

**Current Members 2017:** Brett Dumas (Chair), Idaho Power Co; Lou Lunte (Past Chair), The Nature Conservancy; Gretchen Hyde (Vice Chair), Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission (IRRC); Mike Guerry, Rancher and Wool Growers Past President; Jeff Foss, BLM (retired); Wendy Pratt, Rancher; Toni Ruth, Salmon Valley Stewardship; Merrill Beyeler, Former legislator, Rancher, Central Idaho Rangelands Network; Pete Wittman (Rancher); Tom Dyer, BLM (retired); Carl Crabtree, State Senator; Laurie Lickley, Former Idaho Cattle Association Director, Rancher; Jason Pyron, US Fish & Wildlife Service; Rob Mickelsen, US Forest Service; Patricia Salant, UI McClure Center for Public Policy (retired); Tom Page (Central Idaho Rangelands Network, Rancher).

\* The Partners Advisory Council (PAC) was established by the Idaho Legislature to set strategic goals, assess accomplishments for strategic goals, find resources and opportunities, encourage and facilitate applied research to address specific rangeland issues and management challenges.

### unique projects: a sampling of collaborative work - for more, go to [www.rangelandcenter.org](http://www.rangelandcenter.org)

- **Rock Creek Ranch** - A research, outreach, and management collaboration among UI, The Nature Conservancy, and Wood River Land Trust on 10, 400 acres near Bellevue, Idaho. <http://www.uidaho.edu/cnr/rangeland-center/projects/rock-creek>
- **Effects of Spring Grazing on Sage-grouse Populations** - Research will examine the effects of spring grazing on demographic traits of greater sage-grouse and sage-grouse habitat characteristics, fuel loads, and wildfire behavior. <http://idahogrousegrazing.wordpress.com>
- **Journal of Rangeland Applications (JRA)** - An open-access, peer-reviewed journal that provides rangeland decision-makers and managers free access to high-quality research summaries of published research on biophysical, ecological, social and economic aspects of rangeland management. More than 2000 entries can be found at: <http://TheJRA.info>
- **Assessing Management Options for Juniper Encroachment** - UI doctoral students are enrolled in NSF-funded Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) project, partnered with BLM on the Bruneau-Owyhee Sage-grouse Habitat Project (BOSH) to assess juniper encroachment across a 1.75 million-acre landscape.
- **Reducing Wildfire Spread with Targeted Grazing** - "Targeted grazing" uses livestock to reduce herbaceous fuel available for burning. Targeted grazing studies occur in Reynolds Creek (Owyhee Co), a area that has experienced more 300-acre fires than nearly anywhere else in the nation. This rangeland management tool looks to reduce frequency and expanse of wildfire.