Date: April 4, 2025

To: *SRM Section Presidents*

From: Layne Coppock (IYRP North America Co-Chair USA; Layne.Coppock@usu.edu) and Bree Burton (SRM Advisory Council Chair; Bree@y2consultants.com)

**PLEASE JOIN US IN A WORLD-WIDE CELEBRATION OF RANGELANDS DURING 2026!**

Across the globe, rangelands, pasturelands, and grasslands—collectively called rangelands—make up more than half of the Earth’s land surface. They supply vast areas of open space supporting wildlife and native plants and provide environmental benefits to humanity including clean air and fresh water. Many people live in the rangelands and derive income, food, and unique cultures founded on livestock grazing. Rangelands also offer places for increasing numbers of visitors to recreate and enjoy nature. Despite these positive attributes, however, rangelands have many challenges that threaten their future existence. Unsustainable land uses, harsh weather, and economic burdens for livestock producers are just a few of these issues.

**To recognize the value of global rangelands and the challenges they face, people across six continents have come together to build public awareness in support of an *“International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP).”*** This process began in 2008 and has assembled endorsements from 102 nations and 365 organizations. This grassroots momentum convinced the United Nations to designate the year 2026 in honor of the IYRP. Many rangeland activities are planned to be undertaken during 2026 at local, national, and regional levels. These are voluntary and diverse. Background concerning the IYRP 2026 can be found at <https://iyrp.info>.

**You and your SRM section colleagues are hereby invited to collaborate with us in this effort.** We are asking large numbers of stakeholders—such as yourselves—to assist in publicizing the IYRP 2026. We need your help to identify influential officials at various levels of government in your home state and persuade them to deliver timely, impactful, and enthusiastic public proclamations or resolutions in support of rangelands. The initial window to launch the process worldwide would be set for early 2026. **Getting started soon helps us meet the 2026 deadline.**

We have attached three files that accompany this cover letter. One provides guidance as to how to engage public officials, another provides a worksheet to collect your thoughts, and the third provides two templates—one for proclamations and one for resolutions. The templates are drafts that can be edited by you, your team, or your government partners to fit any situation. Even this cover letter can be edited and used when contacting public officials. **We realize that this request lies a bit outside of the “comfort zone” for most range professionals. However, learning how to educate and engage public officials matters for SRM and beyond.**

Confirmation of your interest in participating in this initiative can be directed to Layne or Bree at the email contacts above; this helps us keep track of respondents. We are also happy to receive comments, questions, or concerns.

**Thank you very much for your time and consideration of this request!**