



During the Arizona Senate floor session on June 1, 2026, Senator Priya Sundareshan presented a legislative proclamation recognizing 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists. Senator Sundareshan, who represents Legislative District 18 in Pima County, serves as the Senate Minority Leader and is a member of the Senate Federalism Committee and Natural Resources Committee. Prior to reading the proclamation, she acknowledged several individuals seated in the Senate gallery: Leatta McLaughlin, representing ACGA; Dr. Flavie Audoin, University of Arizona Range Extension Specialist; Dennis Moroney, a cattle and sheep rancher from Cochise County; and Elena Dosamantes, Program Coordinator for the Altar Valley Conservation Alliance. These individuals were invited to attend the session in recognition of their contributions to the stewardship, management, and conservation of Arizona's rangelands and natural ecosystems.

Arizona State Senate



LEGISLATIVE PROCLAMATION
RECOGNIZING 2026 AS THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
RANGELANDS AND PASTORALISTS

Whereas, rangelands are natural ecosystems and cover nearly 75% of Arizona's terrestrial land surface and up to 54% globally and

Whereas, rangelands are largely comprised of grasslands, shrublands, deserts and savannas (grasslands with scattered trees and shrubs); and

Whereas, Arizona rangelands are economically, socially and culturally vital to human communities through an array of ecological services, including food and fiber production (livestock, forage, etc.), water resources, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, and carbon sequestration and storage, provide renewable and nonrenewable energy resources, and aesthetic and recreational opportunities; and

Whereas, Arizona pastoralists are people who raise livestock or semi-domesticated animals on rangelands, such as ranchers, including indigenous peoples and transhumant herders; and

Whereas, Indigenous Arizona pastoral peoples have stewarded rangelands for millennia through deep knowledge and connections with the land; and

Whereas, pastoralism exists in one form or another across six continents and a multitude of cultures; and

Whereas, shared experiences of land, livestock and stewardship connect pastoralists around the world through historical knowledge and integration of new technologies toward sustainable rangelands; and

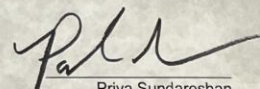
Whereas, the United Nations, in recognition of the vital nature of rangelands and the significance of pastoralism to the stewardship and societal benefits of rangelands, designated 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists; and

Whereas, national, regional, provincial, and local governments around the world will celebrate the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists in 2026 through education, advertisements, film (documentaries, festivals, etc.) and adoption of national and local policies that are supportive of rangelands and pastoralists.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, I, Senator Sundareshan, do hereby proclaim 2026 as the Year of Rangeland and Pastoralists throughout Arizona in solidarity with the United Nations International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026.

Dated this 1st day of June 2026




Priya Sundareshan
Arizona State Senator LD 18