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High School Youth Benefit from Rangeland Management Forum in Oklahoma City

By Ben Berlinger, Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management, Youth Activities Chair

The Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management (SRM) was well represented at the 2013 High School Youth Forum (HSYF) held in Oklahoma City on February 3-7, 2013. The HSYF is an integral part of the SRM annual meeting. This year there were 26 delegates representing 12 of the SRM Sections. During the Forum, high school youth from all part of the western United States and Canada are invited to participate and interact among the various professionals and college students attending the meeting. Each of SRM's 21 Sections is allowed to send up to three youth delegates to this program that provides a high quality learning experience.

This year the Colorado Section sponsored two delegates to Oklahoma City. **Todd Arnhold** of Hoehne and **Matthew Crane** of Pritchett were selected to participate in the Forum. Both delegates were chosen based on their exceptional achievements in FFA rangeland judging. Todd is the son of NRCS District Conservationist Tony Arnhold located at Walsenburg.

The goals of the HSYF are to recognize youth for outstanding accomplishments in rangeland activities and to provide young people the opportunity to discuss rangelands, career options, and meet with leaders in the field of range management. One requirement of the HSYF is that each delegate must present an illustrated talk on some aspect of rangeland conservation or management.

Todd's presentation was titled ***Riparian Area Management in Southeast Colorado***. During his presentation Todd discussed the importance of riparian areas found in southeast Colorado and how landowners can overcome areas invaded by tamarisk with state-of-the-art restoration techniques that involve an integrated approach of mechanical, chemical and biological control efforts.

Matthew presented his talk on ***proper management principles for pastures***. He discussed the guidelines for the inventory and evaluation of rangeland conditions and how ranchers can incorporate proper grazing principles in to their management strategies.

The **Colorado Section SRM** congratulates Todd & Matthew for their outstanding achievements in rangeland management and wish them the best of luck as they further pursue their ambitions in the field of natural resource management. Contact Ben Berlinger (719-384-5408) for more information about the SRM High School Youth Forum.



Colorado delegates to the SRM High School Youth Forum in Oklahoma City. (l-r) Todd Arnhold and Matthew Crane. They are displaying their FFA Rangeland Judging awards for high scoring individuals at the 2012 State Contest.



(l-r) Matthew Crane & Todd Arnhold were the Colorado delegates to the 2013 SRM High School Youth Forum held in Oklahoma City on February 3-7, 2013.



Delegates from 13 of the 21 SRM Sections at the High School Youth Forum in Oklahoma City enjoyed an educational field trip on one of the research ranches operated by the Noble Foundation.