

Title: Colorado Rangeland Extension & Research to Address Stakeholder Needs

1. Campus-based staff mentor:

- Kevin Jablonski, Forest & Rangeland Stewardship, WCNR, kevin.jablonski@colostate.edu

2. Extension mentors:

- Annie Overlin, Regional Extension Specialist- Range, Peaks & Plains Region, CSU Extension, annie.overlin@colostate.edu
- Retta Bruegger, Regional Extension Specialist- Range, Western Region, CSU Extension, retta.bruegger@colostate.edu
- Blake Osborn, Water Resources Specialist, CSU Extension, blake.osborn@colostate.edu

3. Regions: Peaks & Plains Region and Western Region

4. Goal: Assist in development and execution of range science research and extension in Colorado.

Scope: The work will encompass the scope of rangeland research and extension in Colorado as reflected in the work of the four mentors.

Objectives: 1) Assist the three rangeland mentors in the development of a revived Range School for landowners and managers. This will involve 2-3 weeks of field time (covid-restrictions-permitting) with each of the Regional Extension Specialists conducting research aimed at identifying stakeholder needs as well as other typical Extension work. 2) Spend 2-3 weeks working with Blake Osborn to address pressing post-fire assessment and management concerns. This may include learning and applying WAVE assessment protocols, providing GIS and other research support, and assisting in identifying appropriate treatments for landowners. 3) Provide additional rangeland extension program support, including social media planning and website content creation.

- ### 5. How project was identified:
- This project extends from existing collaborative work among the group, and was identified within our regular meetings, which the intern will attend and support. The Range School research element, in which the intern will survey landowners and managers to inform the development of a Range School, is a core programmatic goal, and is part of a pending WSARE grant proposal into which the intern will be integrated.
- ### 6. Stakeholder groups:
- Aside from engagement with field Extension staff, the intern will also interact with numerous landowners and managers and gain experience in both information acquisition from and delivery to those groups.
- ### 7. Student learning outcomes:
- The student intern will gain important experience in how rangeland research is translated into actionable extension programming by working directly with effective Regional Specialists. The intern will gain experience interacting with diverse audiences in both research and extension contexts. The student will also learn about the diversity of Colorado rangeland ecosystems and how programming must be tailored to these different systems. This will provide important experience and professional development for a career in Extension or range science.
- ### 8. Mentor style:
- We are a collaborative group and the intern will be a member of our team. The mentors will be continually engaged with the intern.
- ### 9. Travel funds and housing:
- Both travel funds and housing support while in the field will be available.