



Western National Rangeland Career Development Event

Elko, NV | Nov. 10-11, 2014

2014 Highlights

Congratulations to all the 2014 Western National Rangeland CDE participants! We had a great turnout this year with 15 chapters from across Idaho, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming. Learning from the pros during the skills training session on Monday afternoon gave teams a chance to sharpen their field skills in preparation for contest day. Monday evening events included the stocking rate problem, an outstanding home-made dinner, and the Rangeland Career and College Activity Session, held at The Basque House in Elko. A special thanks to the agency volunteers who made both the skills building session and the activity session such a huge success! A hearty thank-you to Ruby Mountain FFA advisor, John Kohntopp, and his FFA chapter for preparing and hosting Monday's evening meal and Tuesday's luncheon. The morning of the event started out slightly breezy but, ended as a warm and sunny November Tuesday! We had four field rotations set up out in the hills northwest of Elko on BLM public land. We rounded out the morning events back at The Basque House in Elko where students participated in the Rangeland Quiz Bowl. Awards were presented during the luncheon. Our sincere thanks to all the volunteers and sponsors who helped make the 2014 event a tremendous success! Without your time and help, none of this would be possible.

—The Event Organizers: Lovina Roselle, Allison Davenport, Mindy Pratt, and John Tanaka.



Top High Individual
Wyatt Gibbs, Wells FFA



2nd High Individual
Deseret Johnson
Wells FFA



3rd High Individual
Brianna Reed
Gooding FFA



4th High Individual
DeMar Gale
Wells FFA



5th High Individual
Daniel Lauritzen
Hagerman FFA



First Place Team
Wells FFA,
Nevada
Team Members

DeMar Gale
 Wyatt Gibbs
 Chelsea James
 Deseret Johnson
 Justin Sorensen

Advisor
 Don Noorda



Second Place Team—Rigby FFA, Idaho

Team Members: Matilda Bowman, Colton Campbell, MaKayla Graham, Dustin Hollist, Spencer Willkie, and Margaret Mackin Advisors: Billie Jo Blackson, Robert Hale



Third Place Team—Bliss FFA, Idaho

Team Members: Oscar Altimirano, Alex Freeman, Danny Howard, and Jordan Tremeling Advisor: Sarah Butler

Congratulations to all other 2014 chapter teams!

Carbon FFA, Utah
 Gooding FFA, Idaho
 Hagerman FFA, Idaho
 Lincoln County FFA, Nevada
 Long Valley FFA, Utah
 Mountain Crest FFA, Utah

Ruby Mountain FFA, Nevada
 Sierra Nevada FFA, Nevada
 South Seiver FFA, Utah
 Southeast FFA, Wyoming
 Wendell FFA, Idaho
 Wind River FFA, Wyoming

Thank-you to our volunteers! John Tanaka and Bree Lind (University of Wyoming); Mindy Pratt (Utah State University); Allison Flora, Heather Hoskovec, and Molly Kaweck (University of Idaho); Erin Hourihan and Brien Park (Natural Resources Conservation Service); Daniel Zvirzdin (Bureau of Land Management); Birk Roseman and Amelia Hirsch (US Forest Service); Barry Pate (College of Southern Idaho); Amber Symer (Nevada Department of Agriculture); Jason Wurtz and Lewis Mendive (Nevada State FFA)

Thank You Sponsors!

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of Ecosystem Science and
Management**

**Natural Resources Conservation
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**Idaho Rangeland Resource
Commission**

University of Idaho Rangeland Center

Agri Beef

Elko County Cattlemen

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About this Event

The Western National Rangeland CDE is a premier range judging event that is uniquely designed to be relevant to issues faced by land managers on western rangelands. Rangeland landscapes dominate Western North America and yet most people who live near, or even on rangelands know little about the resources they provide or the principles of their management.

This hands-on event has a contemporary field component with five categories: 1) plant identification and ecological site description, 2) rangeland management, 3) habitat evaluation for domestic grazers, 4) habitat evaluation for wildlife, and 5) stocking rate and management recommendations. Students also participate in a rangeland career and college activity session involving direct interaction with professionals from several natural resource management agencies and organizations.

The goal of this event is to raise awareness about rangelands and introduce career opportunities to high school students. Connecting youth with rangeland professionals is a solid pathway to attracting students to career opportunities on the range and one approach to increasing the number of rangeland professionals ready to enter the workforce. Participants can also apply the knowledge they have gained to the areas in which they live, work, and recreate.



Rangeland Career and College Activity Session & Quiz Bowl

This year, the Rangeland Career Expo was changed into the Rangeland Career and College Activity Session and was tremendously successful. The Session was attended by 6 volunteers from academic institutions and the Nevada FFA Association. This event is designed to help students understand the importance of going on to higher education and opportunities available to them in a rangeland resource career. Students were split into teams with other students not from their chapter and rotated between a College Presentation, a Career Exploratory Activity, a plant identification practice station, and a “Get To Know Your Neighbor” activity. The room was

buzzing with over sixty participants with each team preparing for the next day’s Rangeland Quiz Bowl, which would have questions related to the things they learned that night. A special thanks to Jason Wurtz and Lewis Mendive for emceeing the Quiz Bowl and to all the representatives listed below. These events are a fun, educational, and memorable way to educate these youth who will be the future managers of western rangelands.



Career and College Activity Session Volunteers

John Tanaka and Bree Lind
University of Wyoming

Molly Kaweck
University of Idaho

Barry Pate
College of Southern Idaho

Jason Wurtz and Lewis Mendive
Nevada State FFA



More Info:

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Western National Rangeland
Career Development Event



<http://wnrcde.wordpress.com>