

## University of Wyoming – Rangelands Partnership Program Update

*Derek Scasta (Extension Range Specialist) and David Kruger (Ag Librarian)*

**Libraries:** David Kruger is on sabbatical and dealing with family issues so will not be able to participate this year (and sends his regrets for missing as this is the first miss since 2008!). However, David has reported that UW Libraries have begun hiring back research and instruction librarian positions lost to retirement. David was able to contribute an article to the Rangelands Partnership newsletter, but anticipates he will have more capacity for agricultural librarianship and RP activities after he returns from his sabbatical.

**Range Extension:** We have lost capacity over the last several years in our Range Extension program which has created difficulties in delivering programs and meeting needs.

- Rachel Mealor – Statewide Extension Range Educator based in Laramie, WY
- Mae Smith – Extension Range Educator in Greybull, WY
- Ashley Garrelts – Extension Range Educator in Douglas, WY
- Dallas Mount – Extension Range Educator in Wheatland, WY
- Glenn Owings – Extension Range Educator in Pinedale, WY (re-filling now)

Current focus areas:

### 1. Feral Horse Management

- a. Completing a 3 year research project with GPS collars on horses in the Red Desert.
- b. Working to host the Wild Horse Summit in Cody, WY in the fall of 2020 (was hosted in Salt Lake City, UT in 2018 and Reno, NV in 2019).
- c. Part of a new multi-state project (W507) with USU and UNR focused on horses

### 2. Public Lands Grazing

- a. Working with partners on several persistent issues including in the following areas:
  - i. Bighorn National Forest – post-grazing measurements and standards
  - ii. Thunder Basin National Grassland – prairie dog management
  - iii. Bridger Teton National Forest/Upper Green – developing long-term trend data
- b. Educators have been hosting permit renewal workshops

### 3. Toxic Plant Management

- a. Working to develop a MT-WY Toxic Plant Management Guide
- b. 2020 starting a cattle-larkspur project in northwest WY with USDA ARS Toxic Plant Lab
- c. 2020 starting a sheep-larkspur project in southwest WY with USDA ARS HPGRS Lab

### 4. Fire

- a. Started a WY – Prescribed Fire Council in 2019
  - i. UW Range Extension is hosting website and serving in leadership
  - ii. Local, state, federal, and NGO partners
- b. Working on fire effects in Thunder Basin National Grassland
- c. Working on human dimensions of prescribed fire at a regional level