

**The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) Program
University of Wyoming, Cooperative Extension Service, FY 2008**

Wyoming consists of natural resource environments ranging from wilderness and forests to intensively managed grazinglands, producing livestock, wildlife, water, and recreation. Rangelands comprise more than 80 percent of the state land base. Permanent loss of forests and rangelands is occurring at an unprecedented rate as a result of land conversion to uses that eliminate natural ecosystems. RREA-supported programs at the University of Wyoming (UW) focus on rangeland stewardship and health, and land conversion, fragmentation, and parcelization. In public educational programs conducted by the University of Wyoming, each dollar allocated through the RREA program is typically leveraged with \$10 of state, private, and/or local funds. Examples of successful 2008 program efforts are presented below.

- ▶ “Exploring the Nature of Wyoming,” a series of seventy-second TV spots airing twice weekly on statewide commercial television reached an estimated 9,000 homes. The Sustainable Management of Rangeland Resources team has developed and filmed spots on more than 175 topics. The segments have been compiled on a DVD, made available through UW CES offices. Viewers gain a better understanding and awareness of natural resource issues and how they impact the total state. This effort has sponsorship from the Wyoming Petroleum Association.
- ▶ Rangeland monitoring workshops were developed and conducted, including four Range College 101, 301, and other workshops with curricula which includes general range education, assessment and monitoring, range grazing management, range manipulation, water quality and hydrology, and irrigated pasture topics. The workshop objective is to expand cooperative monitoring programs between public land management agencies and livestock grazing permittees. In 2008, 894 producers and agency personnel participated.
- ▶ Twenty-four small acreage workshops were held throughout Wyoming reaching 1,012 landowners. More than 43 percent of participants reported increased knowledge of land management. Sixty percent of participants indicated they planned to change practices as a result of these programs.

Range Monitoring Workshops across Wyoming have taught agriculture producers sustainable rangeland management principles.



Evaluations from twenty participants in an eight day High Plains Ranch Practicum class reported “before the practicum 83 percent seldom or about half the time monitored native range land. After attending the practicum, 100 percent reported they would monitor their native range resources.”

One small acreage workshop participant stated, “Living on 35 acres is new to our family. This class provided much needed information on how to manage our land.”

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