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Santa Rita Experimental Range: 100 Years (1903 to 2003) of Accomplishments and Contributions

Conference Proceedings
October 30–November 1, 2003
Tucson, AZ

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Abstract

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The purpose of this conference was to celebrate the 100 years of accomplishments and contributions of the Santa Rita Experimental Range, the longest continuously operating research area dedicated to the sustainable management of North American rangelands. The conference consisted of one-and-a-half days of invited synthesis papers and contributed poster presentations and a 1-day field trip to research sites at the Santa Rita Experimental Range. A forecast of the future contributions of this historical site were also considered. This conference provided a forum for people to share their knowledge, experiences, and opinions about the contributions that the Santa Rita Experimental Range has made to rangeland management.

Keywords: long-term research, livestock grazing, vegetation, soils, erosion, cultural resources

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Cover photographs: Top pair are looking east into Box Canyon from photo station PS 222, June 1902 and May 2003. Bottom pair are looking west at Huerfano Butte from photo station 233, 1902 (month unknown) and May 2003.

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Preface

These peer-reviewed proceedings represent a permanent record of this conference, celebrating the accomplishments and contributions of the Santa Rita Experimental Range, the longest continuously operating research area dedicated to the sustainable management of North American rangelands, and forecasts the future contributions of this historical site. The conference consisted of the presentation of a series of synthesis papers by invited speakers who reviewed significant research findings on the Santa Rita Experimental Range and, where appropriate, forecast future research opportunities. Contributed poster papers supplemented and expanded on the synthesis papers by reporting on recently completed or ongoing research on the Santa Rita. The conference concluded with a 1-day field trip to research sites on the Santa Rita Experimental Range.

This conference provided a forum for researchers, managers and practitioners, decisionmakers, and other interested people to share their knowledge, experiences, and opinions about the contributions that the Santa Rita Experimental Range has made to rangeland management in the Southwestern United States. The conference and these proceedings also represent a starting point for planning and implementing research activities, leading to improved, ecosystem-based, multiple-use rangeland management in the future.

The technical coordinators of these proceedings acknowledge the collective efforts of the technical reviewers of these papers. We also acknowledge Louise Kingsbury, Group Leader, and the Publishing Services staff, Rocky Mountain Research Station, USDA Forest Service, Ogden, UT, for their invaluable editorial assistance. Major funding for the preparation of these proceedings was provided by the Southwestern Borderlands Project (FS-RMRS-4651), Rocky Mountain Research Station, USDA Forest Service, Flagstaff, AZ. Additional support was furnished by the other sponsors of the conference.

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