



David Little Livestock Range Management Endowment

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

2016 Project Progress Report:

Range Outreach Activities Manual for 4-H, Classroom Curriculum, and 2016 Idaho Rangeland Skill-a-thon Competition

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PRELIMINARY RESULTS for 2016:

BACKGROUND: The University of Idaho Extension and the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission has been collaborating for a number of years and because of this partnership the Idaho 4-H Rangeland Skill-a-thon was piloted in 2015. The first skill-a-thon was a one day event in Cambridge at SS Cattle Company. After a successful first year we saw a need to develop a 4-H curriculum and study guide that was more specific to rangeland in the Western United States.

The Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission has a large collection of lesson plans that also needed to be developed and formatted into a classroom ready curriculum following current common core standards. These lesson plans will also be used as supplemental options in the 4-H curriculum as most of them are experiential based.

OBJECTIVES:

The objective is to create interactive rangeland lessons to be integrated into all facets of the 4-H program and to be disseminated through UI Extension 4-H programs, public schools, and other youth development programs. The projected outcomes are to increase knowledge in rangeland subject matter available to those who educate youth in formal and informal settings. Through the use of this curriculum the amount of youth receiving rangeland education through 4-H programs and in the classroom will increase. In addition, a competition (skill-a-thon) will also accompany the curriculum each year to boost knowledge transfer and hands-on skill within the field.

PROCEDURES AND TIMELINE:

January-June 2016: planning of the 2016 Idaho 4-H Rangeland Skill-a-thon in McCall Idaho

June-August 2016: rough draft of 4-H rangeland skill-a-thon study guide written using a University of Idaho extension intern, IRRRC, and UI extension educator

August 2016: a meeting with the Western Region 4-H Program Leaders to present a draft of the curriculum and the skill-a-thon to create interest and support with western states

December 2016: submit the 4-H rangeland skill-a-thon study guide for peer review

January 2017: make changes suggested by reviewers, attend Society Range Management, poster session to present skill-a-thon and progress, and seek out interested partners to utilize as a steering committee as we move forward

February 2017: host a meeting of interested stakeholders and partners to form a steering committee for expansion and review of the competition and curriculum in the Boise area

January-June 2017: work with newly created planning committee to prepare for 2017 rangeland skill-a-thon, teams will pilot test the study guide

July-November 2017: changes will be made to study guide based on pilot testing and second testing scheduled

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The 2nd annual Idaho 4-H Rangeland Skill-a-thon took place at the University of Idaho McCall Outdoor Science School on June 3rd and 4th, 2016. Nine teams and two individual youth competed with approximately seventy attending the two day event. All 4-H youth and their parents were invited to listen to the guest speakers.

Speakers included representing agencies of the Governor's Office of Species Conservation, State Park Service-Ponderosa State Park, Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission, University of Idaho Extension, United States Department of Agriculture- APHIS, and Phil and Yvette Davis of the Davis Ranch in Cascade, Idaho.

All participants, chaperones, and guests stayed the night at the MOSS campus. Activities for this two day event included: nature walks to find specific rangeland plants, a visit to a ranch in Cascade, witnessing the release of a kestrel back into the wild, and guest speakers that spoke of the challenges of livestock and wolves in Idaho.

Support and funding for the 2016 4-H Rangeland Skill-a-thon was provided by the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission, University of Idaho Extension, Adams Soil and Water Conservation District, Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission, U.S. Forest Service and the David Little Rangeland-Livestock Endowment.

Gretchen and Tyanne also presented at the Western Region 4-H Program Leaders Summer Meeting in Denver, Colorado in August 2016. The purpose of this presentation was to present a draft of the proposed 4-H rangeland skill-a-thon study guide curriculum, an overview of the partnership, and the concept and future of the rangeland skill-a-thon.



PUBLICATIONS AND OUTPUTS:

The Rangeland Outreach Activities Manual: Idaho 4-H Skill-a-thon Study Guide is currently being prepared for the peer-review process using the University of Idaho FastTrack system and will be submitted this month. We plan to pilot the study guide using the 2017 4-H rangeland skill-a-thon teams. An abstract for the poster session at the Society of Rangeland Management was also approved and a poster will be presented on January 31, 2017 in St. George, Utah. The state 4-H office is working directly with the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission on the classroom publication of the curriculum already developed.

FUTURE PLANS:

A meeting will be scheduled with those interested in continuing the rangeland curriculum efforts and the skill-a-thon in the early spring of 2017. The location is tentatively set for Eastern Idaho.