



# David Little Livestock Range Management Endowment

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

## **2017 Project Progress Report:**

### ***Range Outreach Activities Manual for 4-H, Classroom Curriculum, and 2016 and 2017 Idaho Rangeland Skill-a-thon Educational Program and Competition***

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#### **PERSONNEL:**

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Gretchen Hyde (*Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission, Executive Director*)

Jackie Ingram (*Retired Science Teacher, and Contracted Educator*)

April Hulet (*Extension Rangeland Specialist, Assistant Professor*)

Josh Uriarte (*Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation, Terrestrial Species Manager and Policy Advisor*)

Carmen Wilmore (*UI Extension, Lincoln County, Assistant Extension Professor*)

Nikola Dalton (*UI Extension, Bannock County, Assistant Extension Professor*)

Sarah Baker (*UI Extension, Custer County, Associate Extension Professor*)

#### **PRELIMINARY RESULTS FOR 2017:**

#### **BACKGROUND:**

University of Idaho Extension and the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission have been collaborating for a number of years. Out of this partnership, the Idaho 4-H Rangeland Skill-a-thon Educational Program and Competition was piloted in 2015. The first Skill-a-thon was a one-day event in Cambridge, Idaho, 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 had a considerable collection of lesson plans that also needed to be developed and formatted into classroom-ready curriculum following current common core standards. These lesson plans have been used as supplemental options in the 4-H curriculum as most of them are experiential.

#### **HYPOTHESIS or OBJECTIVES:**

The objective was to 1) create interactive rangeland lessons to be integrated into all facets of the 4-H program, and 2) disseminate rangeland lessons through UI Extension 4-H programs, public school, private school, and homeschools groups, and other youth development programs. The projected outcome was 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 number of youths receiving rangeland education through 4-H programs and in the classroom has increased. In addition, a competition (skill-a-thon) accompanies the curriculum each year to boost knowledge transfer and hands-on skills in the field.

#### **PROCEDURES:**

January-June 2016: planned the 2016 Idaho 4-H Rangeland Skill-a-thon in McCall, Idaho.

June 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, 2016: Idaho 4-H Rangeland Skill-a-thon in McCall and Cascade, Idaho.

June-August 2016: rough draft of 4-H Rangeland Skill-a-thon study guide written using University of Idaho extension interns, IRRC staff, and UI extension educators.

August 2016: met with the Western Region 4-H Program Leaders to present a draft of the curriculum and the Skill-a-thon to create interest in and support from western states.

December 2016: the 4-H Rangeland Skill-a-thon study guide underwent peer review.

January 2017: made changes suggested by peer reviewers of the 4-H Curriculum; presented the 4-H Rangeland Skill-a-thon at the Society Range Management poster session, sought out partners to utilize as a steering committee for future rangeland Skill-a-thon development.

January-June 2017: created planning committee, planned 2017 Rangeland Skill-a-thon.

June 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 2017: Idaho 4-H Rangeland Skill-a-thon, near Challis, Idaho.

July-November 2017: split curriculum into two separate pieces of literature, a youth study guide and adult coaches' guide, as per peer review comments.

October 2017: presented the Rangeland Skill-a-thon at a poster session at the National Association of County Agriculture Agents (NACAA) Western Region Meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

November 2017: submitted the youth 4-H study guide and adult 4-H coaches guide to the University of Idaho FastTrack system for a second peer review; trained and previewed the curriculum at the Idaho 4-H Volunteer Forum to thirty-five volunteers. Received feedback concerning Rangeland Skill-a-thon timeline.

December 2017- December 2018: distribute a survey to measure knowledge, skill, and behavior changes to all participants, both youth, and adults that attended the Skill-a-thon over the past three years. Data will be used for future professional papers and impact statements.

January 2018: presenting at the Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) Conference in Orlando, Florida, poster session presentation.

January-September 2018: plan the 2018 Idaho 4-H Rangeland Skill-a-thon.

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS or RESULTS:**

The second annual Idaho 4-H Rangeland Skill-a-thon took place at the University of Idaho, McCall Outdoor Science School (MOSS) on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Nine teams and two individual youth competed with approximately seventy participants attending the two-day event. All participants, chaperones, and guests stayed the night at the MOSS campus.

All 4-H youth and their parents were invited to listen to guest speakers. Speakers included representatives from 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.

Activities included: nature walks to find specific rangeland plants; a visit to the Davis Ranch in Cascade; witnessing the release of a kestrel back into the wild; and, guest speakers addressing the challenges of livestock-wolf interaction in Idaho.

Gretchen Hyde and Tyanne Roland 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.

The third annual Idaho 4-H Rangeland Skill-a-thon took place near Challis, Idaho, and in the Pahsimeroi Valley on June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Ten youth teams participated in the competition and approximately seventy were in attendance for the educational presentations. All participants, chaperones, and guests stayed the night at the Living Waters Ranch.

Speakers included representatives from The Governor's Office of Species Conservation, Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission, University of Idaho Extension, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Custer Soil and Water Conservation District, Bureau of Land Management, and local rancher Ted O'Neal with O'Neal Ranches in May, Idaho.

Activities included nature walks to find specific rangeland plants, a visit to the O'Neal Ranch in the Pahsimeroi Valley, and guest speakers that spoke of the challenges ranching and using water that is shared with three different endangered fish species.

Support and funding for both the 2016 and 2017 4-H Rangeland Skill-a-thons were 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 Livestock Range Management Endowment.

### **PUBLICATIONS or OUTPUTS:**

#### Publications:

Rangeland Outreach Activities Manual: Idaho 4-H Skill-a-thon Youth Study Guide (in review)

Rangeland Outreach Activities Manual: Idaho 4-H Skill-a-thon Coaches' Guide (in review)

#### Presentations:

Idaho 4-H Rangeland Skill-a-thon Poster, Society of Rangeland Management, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017, in St. George, Utah.

Idaho 4-H Rangeland Skill-a-thon Poster, National Association of County Agriculture Agents (NACAA) Western Region Meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

ROAM in Idaho's Rangelands Interactive Presentation, 2017 Idaho 4-H Volunteer Forum, Pocatello, Idaho, on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

Idaho 4-H Rangeland Skill-a-thon Poster, Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida, in February of 2018.

#### In Progress:

Pilot 4-H study guide/coach guide using 2018 4-H Rangeland Skill-a-thon teams.

Publish rangeland curriculum developed by the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission with the state 4-H office.