



OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Paul Loeffler

The Texas Section, Society for Range Management would like to recognize Paul Loeffler with the 2008 Outstanding Achievement Award. Paul is a graduate of Texas A&M University and has been around ranching, and the rangeland profession, his entire life. He grew up in a family ranching and farming operation.

Paul currently serves as the lead technical staff person for the Texas General Land Office, in the Alpine location, where he oversees rangeland resources and surface leases on over 616,000 acres. He has assisted various state agencies to sell off small, scattered properties and purchase larger contiguous tracts – successfully navigating high political visibility/reaction situations. Paul has been able to work beyond the traditional livestock grazing lease, and is always willing to consider innovative leasing proposals – one of which is for advanced paramilitary training prior to Afghanistan deployment. He was also instrumental in assisting NRCS with installing wildlife guzzler water collection systems on public land leased acreages. Prior to his time with the GLO, he worked for the Soil Conservation Service (now NRCS) at Memphis and Clarendon. He person is a member of the Texas Bighorn Sheep Society, Texas

Association of School Boards, and the Texas Appraiser Licensing and Certification Board. He is also a state certified General Real Estate Appraiser.

Youth activities and education have always been a passion for Paul. From coaching little league, to FFA and 4-H, to the livestock show association and school board, he has always committed the extra time needed to help youth. He has been instrumental in teaching rangeland management to 4-H members for over 10 years. He has been teaching at the Section's Youth Range Workshop for 20 years (he was recognized in 2008). He finds the time to help out the Section's High School Youth Forum delegates with their paper presentations, whether before – or during – the SRM Annual Meeting. He has been in integral part in the SRM Collegiate Plant Identification Contest for 18 years – currently serving as a vice co-chair of the contest. He has also co-chaired, since its inception in 1990, the SRM Masonic Range Science Scholarship committee.

Paul has been active with the Section and the Society. From Youth Activities Committee chair, to Section Past-President, there have been few committees or jobs this person has not been involved in. Currently Paul serves the Society as Chair of the Advisory Council. In his spare time, he is a Volunteer Fire Fighter, a chuckwagon cook, member of the Texas Bighorn Sheep Advisory Committee, the NRCS State Technical Committee, and works on the various family ranching and farming enterprises across the state.

Paul was recently featured in the May 2008 issues of the *Big Bend Gazette* and *Texas Monthly* as General Land Office Commissioner Patterson toured the Christmas Mountains. Paul served as a tour guide, explaining the history and geology of the area. He was featured in several photos. During this tour, GLO Commissioner Patterson recognized Paul for his 25 years of service to the agency – the first time the presentation was ever made outside of Austin.

The Texas Section, Society for Range Management is proud to recognize Paul Loeffler with the Outstanding Achievement Award.