

Al Steninger receives 50 Year Award

Al Steninger is the president of Western Range Service in Elko, NV, a life member of SRM, he has been a member for 55 years. Al grew up working on the big ranches in NE Nevada (like the IL - Allied Land and Livestock, Ellison Ranching, and Marbel Ranches) before going off to college at Colorado State University where he earned a bachelor of science in Agriculture in 1959, the same year he started his membership with SRM. He then went on to complete extensive studies during his master's of science degree with Colorado State University. After finishing his master's degree, Al did post-graduate research with Oregon State University and then between 1962-1968 he served several years as a BLM rangeland conservationist and Area Manager in Lakeview Oregon. When he worked for the BLM, it was during re-adjudication and there were only 25 people in the field office. Back then, they would do thousands of acres of treatments each year and were determining livestock numbers for each of the allotments. It was an exciting time to work for the Bureau.

After six years with BLM in Oregon, Al moved back to Elko to begin his career in rangeland consulting in 1968. Al took over Fred Harris's Nevada Ranch Service grazing clients starting Al's current consulting firm, Western Range Service. He then bought out Nevada Ranch Service in 1985 and has been involved in ranch real estate appraising, sales, leases, and ranch management as well since that time. Al is also an accomplished pilot holding a commercial pilot's license for close to 40 years and logging more than 7,000 hours flight time.

Some of Al's accomplishments include using cattle to successfully establish crested wheatgrass in areas that had been seeded, burned and seeded, sprayed and seeded all unsuccessfully until the cattle were used to establish the seeding through grazing, feeding, and seeding. Al has had considerable experience with rangelands from California to South Dakota and has worked with many ranchers and agency personnel throughout the years. He has seen responsible management lead to very prosperous rangelands and good management decisions have made amazing improvements on the land, while poor management has led to very drastic differences. Al has established a business and career that is built upon the very principles of the range management profession. He has received great job satisfaction over the years by being his own boss and staying true to his own principles and those of SRM.