

## **TIM FORD, INTERNATIONAL SRM BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEE**

My name is Tim Ford and I was nominated to be on the upcoming ballot to serve as a director for the Society for Range Management. I am currently in the Utah Section of the SRM and live in Hyde Park, Utah, north of Logan, Utah. I started my education at Southern Utah University as a botany and zoology major on an academic and athletic scholarship. I finished my B.S. and M.S. at Utah State University in range science, with minors in wildlife science, botany and biology. My M.S. data was used as the basis for the release of the first commercially available native legume in the Intermountain West, 'Timp' northern sweetvetch. I was the Utah State University chapter president and president of the SRM Student Conclave in 1981-82. I initiated the idea to start the URME exam while president of the SRM student conclave. I also competed in the SRM plant identification contest for two years and was the top scorer from USU. During college, I worked for USDA Forest Service Research at the Forestry Sciences Laboratory in Logan as a range technician dealing with surface mine land reclamation. I also worked at the Great Basin Experiment Station in Ephraim, Utah with seed production and varietal releases, and spent three field seasons with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources working on an array of projects.

I am currently the President and Director of Plant Breeding Research of the 501.c.3 non-profit organization Improving Perennial Plants for Food and Bioenergy, Inc. (IPPFBE, [www.ippfbe.org](http://www.ippfbe.org)) which was established in 2005 to further scientific selection and improvement of underutilized perennial plants for the production of food, timber, and energy as well as the preservation and enhancement of soil and increased global carbon harvest. IPPFBE has eight research locations in northern Utah and southern Idaho

During my career I have released of over 30 plant varieties and have over 30 publications. I have been a strong supporter of sound rangeland science and management, and as a life member, a strong advocate of the SRM. I have served on several committees in the SRM. I currently co-own and help operate a cow/calf operation east of Huntsville, Utah. I also operated a sheep operation in Huntsville for 20 years prior to taking my current position. I was director of research for a large global seed and fertilizer company, working in Utah and the Pacific Northwest for the 18 years prior to taking my job with IPPFBE. During the 1980's, I worked at Deseret Land and Livestock, starting as a range wildlife biologist and finishing as the seed division manager. I have also served on numerous public and private boards of directors, including several non-profits. I have had the opportunity to travel throughout the world and currently have collaborative projects in Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, France, Holland, Denmark, Italy and Canada.

There are several issues I would like to address if I am elected to the board. First is member retention, from students at universities, to young professionals, as well as seasoned professionals.

Membership has declined from a high of around 5,500 to about 2,900 today. I like the idea of more mentoring and young professionals gaining more notoriety from their employers for their involvement in SRM. Secondly, with somewhere between 50 to 60% of the earth's terrestrial surface comprised of rangelands, much of which is in poor or fair condition, the opportunity exists for the SRM to take the global lead in dealing with climate change and the impending future food shortages. These are global issues and will require global solutions. These solutions will have to come in the face of increasing demands being placed on our rangelands from oil and natural gas development, grazing, and recreation, to name a few. This leads to another important issue, the need to expand our diversity as a Society as well as our international reach and influence to address these global issues. We must do a better job getting our message out

to the influential people in Washington DC and around the world to provide funding for long-term projects worldwide.

I feel the SRM has much to offer in terms of solutions to urgent global problems. My hope is that these problems can be solved and we can have much peace and prosperity worldwide. I have worked in both the private and public sectors and also as an independent native seed collector. I have owned a small seed business and worked for both large and small production agriculture and large agribusiness. I feel I have a great deal to offer the SRM. My depth and breadth of experience in plant and animal science, breeding and genetics, makes me a unique candidate for this position.

On the personal side, I am an avid hunter and fisherman. I have kept my share of calves and lambs alive on cold late winter nights. I love working in both plant and animal science. I am also blessed with a wonderful, understanding wife and arguably the best ten-year-old daughter a father could have.

If elected I will always have an open ear and be easy to reach and visit with. I would be happy to discuss any issues anyone might have and would sincerely appreciate your support and vote for director. Thanks for your time and consideration.

Tim Ford, 400 North 1000 East, Hyde Park, UT 84318, 435-770-8800, [tford@jppfbe.org](mailto:tford@jppfbe.org)