



# Awards Committee

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March 17, 2006

TO: **MEMBER RESOURCE NEWS**  
SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT  
10030 W 27<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Wheat Ridge, CO 80215-6601

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Bruce S. Healy'.

FROM: BRUCE S. HEALY, CHAIR  
SRM AWARDS COMMITTEE

RE: SRM HONOR AWARDS NOMINATIONS ARTICLE FOR **MEMBER RESOURCE NEWS**

After a number of people catching me in the hallway in Vancouver, and a number of emails received since then, I will attempt to answer your questions regarding SRM Honor Awards and, in specific, the Fellow Award.

There seems to be some confusion about the first tiebreaker used by the committee – *“In the event of a tie, the first tiebreaker is previous receipt of section awards.”* This rule was put into place after it was felt that too many nominations were received from sections wanting the SRM Awards Committee to recognize section work, thus using section awards as a tiebreaker would encourage sections to recognize their own, and the SRM Awards Committee would then, correctly, only be considering nominations based upon Society level work and contributions.

The committee does recognize that not all sections have an active awards program to recognize their members; however it is not the SRM Awards Committee role to recognize section work. Thus, this category is only used IF there is a tie vote (actually, a tie vote doesn't happen very often). Since this tiebreaker was put in place, there seems to be a misunderstanding upon the part of sections – not having received a section award **does not** mean you cannot nominate someone for an SRM award. Remember, it is only a tiebreaker not a disqualifier. There are a number of SRM members who are very active at the Society level, but may not be as active at the section level. *If this is your situation, I encourage you to submit a nomination packet for this person.*

There has been some concern that no Fellow award has been given for two years. *“The title of Fellow is conferred upon members of the Society for Range Management in recognition of exceptional service to the Society and its programs in advancing the science and art of range-related resource management. This high honor is granted in the belief that special recognition should be given for exceptional and dedicated service to the Society.”* The Fellow Award is limited to a maximum of 0.1% of the membership annually.

If you will recall the SRM Awards Program, it was indicated that no “suitable” applications were received (it is also indicated in the Awards Citation Booklet). It is not that applications were not received, they were just submitted for the wrong category, and were thus disqualified from consideration for the Fellow Award. Remember, it is service to the Society, **not contributions to the profession** (which is Outstanding Achievement).

The situation on the Fellow Award was reviewed with the SRM Board of Directors, through our Board contact Kris Havstad. We even asked for advice if we should reopen the nominations process last year to try and get some suitable nominations. The decision was to stick to the original time frame, and if no awards were presented in a given category, so be it.

The Awards Committee works to contact Sections each spring – the Section President and Awards Committee Chair (if known), right after the SRM Annual Meeting, to remind them of the Honor Awards Process and the deadline of April 30<sup>th</sup>. However, it is ultimately up to the Sections to nominate folks for SRM Awards. (If you are not aware of it, by committee rule, members of the SRM Awards committee cannot nominate folks for an award, nor shall they be eligible for an award while they are a committee member.)

If you have any questions on the Awards Committee process, please don't hesitate to ask.

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