Dr. David D. Briske Honored by National Society

Dr. David Briske, professor in the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management, received the *Sustained Lifetime Achievement Award* during the 63rd Society for Range Management Meeting in Denver, Colorado. Dr. Briske has contributed to the Society for over 30 years in the capacity of researcher, mentor, and educator to promote knowledge of rangeland plants and ecosystems. His accomplishments include teaching hundreds of undergraduate students, mentoring numerous graduate and postdoctoral students, and conducting research on multiple topics.

Dr. Briske’s early work emphasized population dynamics of grasses and their responses to defoliation while his more recent research focus on resilience-based management and the influence of global change on savanna ecosystems. This work has provided an important link between science and management that has identified principles and applications to promote sustainable ecosystem management. Dr. Briske has strengthened the academic foundation of the Society by contributing to its major ecological publications and technical programs, serving as Associate Editor for the Society journal *Rangeland Ecology and Management* 2005-2007, and as the Editor-in-Chief since October 2007. He received the Chapline Research Award from this Society in February 2008.

Service to the profession includes short course presentations to 400 members of the Natural Resource Conservation Service to incorporate contemporary science into land management recommendations. More recently Dr. Briske has served as academic coordinator to the USDA Conservation Effects Assessment Program to evaluate the ecological benefits of rangeland conservation programs and to inform policy makers of alternative conservation planning and assessment procedures. Collectively, these accomplishments represent a lifetime of commitment and dedication to rangeland stewardship.
The Department of Ecosystem Science and Management (ESSM) was formed in March 2007 by a merger of the Departments of Rangeland Ecology and Management and Forest Science. This new academic Department reflects an expanded emphasis on ecosystem science and natural resource management in its education, research, and extension programs. The Department is in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and it is comprised of 50 faculty, 57 staff, and 100 graduate and 230 undergraduate students. The primary mission of the Department is to ‘solve real world problems with research-based solutions’.