

# The Grasslands

In the concern for what would happen to the 2000+ City-owned acres west of the Base if the City annexed it, a major player was overlooked.

While the original purpose for the land leased from the City long ago was sometimes revealed in media stories, it was also implied that all of that purpose had been abandoned and the United States Department of Agriculture was just holding the land and doing nothing with it.

That, it appears, is not the case.

Two scientists from the USDA-ARS High Plains Grasslands Research Station (HPGRS) in Cheyenne have recently been recognized for their work.

At an awards ceremony at USDA headquarters in Washington D.C. on March 6, 2007, Justin D. Derner (pictured) was honored for outstanding work in 2006.



He is a rangeland scientist at HPGRS in Cheyenne and his award came for "recognizing the importance of shifts in plant communities and precipitation thresholds for carbon sequestration on rangelands. His research has "explored the impact of grazing on rangeland carbon storage." Recipients receive a plaque, cash award and additional funding for research.

At the Society for Range Management's (SRM) 60th Annual Meeting in Reno, Nevada in mid-February, Dr. D. Terrance (Terry) Booth of Cheyenne received

the Outstanding Achievement Award for Academia/Research. This Award recognizes outstanding achievement by SRM members and other qualified individuals and groups working with rangelands.

A SRM press release sent to the Cheyenne Herald said that Dr. Booth's work had "made several substantive advances that have affected or changed industry standards in the processing of seeds, in the reclamation of disturbed lands, and in the development of a new cultivar (a horticulturally or agriculturally derived variety of a plant, as distinguished from a natural variety).

Terry Booth "has developed an aerial monitoring survey systems ..." that will "detect ecologically important vegetation changes with acceptable error rates." Many groups see this system as "a solution to the problem in monitoring vast acreages of rangelands."

He is described as "a dedicated and accomplished rangeland scientist who has used his scientific skills and knowledge to develop critical tools that rangeland managers desperately need. His program today is a leading range science program, and his contributions will be a standard upon which future advances in aerial monitoring will be based."

It seems that, largely unknown to Cheyenne and Laramie County residents, scientific advancements in several areas have been achieved at the High Plains Grasslands Research Station west of the Base.

Wyoming is a state with vast rangeland and while this work and terms of the achievements are unfamiliar to most of us, great accomplishments have come from the work out there and is another reason to question the need or wisdom of the City reclaiming the land by

termination of the lease with USDA. We should leave well enough alone and let them continue their research and award-winning work.



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### About that new Wal-Mart

Within minutes of the last Herald hitting the market, calls were coming to ask just where the new Wal-Mart Supercenter would be built. Inadvertently, the story had said "south of I-25" when it should have read "south of I-80, in the area of LCCC." Yes, Virginia, we do occasionally goof. Sorry for the confusion.

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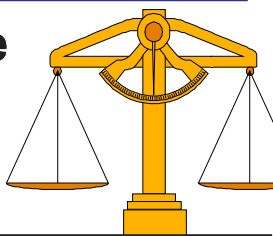
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