

## **BOOK REVIEW**

### **Rangeland Ecology, Management and Conservation Benefits**

**Editor:** Victor R. Squires (Gansu Agricultural University, Lanzhou, China)

An electric compilation of fascinating papers, as cross-disciplinary as editor Squires calls for in addressing the severe problems of rangeland management worldwide. Rangelands are threatened by poorly managed livestock, increasing temperatures, and bad policy. Rangelands cover nearly half the earth's surface and provide crucial ecosystem services locally and globally, supporting unique cultures, carbon storage, wildlife, and grassland-based food production that requires little in the way of chemical or energy inputs. A comprehensive review by Squires is then complemented by papers from other countries and disciplines. Squires approaches rangelands with a wide breadth of experience and deep knowledge, and brings to print scholars who offer insight into different dimensions of rangeland conservation problems. For example, there is a quantitative study of feral camel decomposition in Australia, a report on efforts to work with Mongolians to fight desertification, and an analysis of programs for restoration and conservation of rangelands in China. Back-to-back chapters address first the problems, and then the opportunities of working with small livestock producers in China. The book provides sound policy recommendations, the most central of which recognize the social and institutional origins of the ecological impacts on rangelands today, respecting the need for social equity, and identifying ways to drive positive change in a coupled social and ecological system. In Spain, the sustainability of differing silvo-pastoral systems is assessed, offering insight into the long-term issues facing rangeland use in highly developed nations. In general, the book argues for more local involvement in the development of policy and practice for rangeland areas, and, when the goal is to support communities, for secure collective tenure when mobility is critical and possible. Tajikistan, the Tibetan Plateau, Xinjiang, and Spain also receive attention. The ecological rationale for recommendations in the book is cogently and clearly explained. This book is an excellent resource for those who want a state of the art overview of rangeland conservation and management.

### **Lynn Huntsinger**

Professor of Rangeland Ecology and Management  
University of California, Berkeley