

## Utah Range Camp 2023

This year Range Camp was held at the SUU Mountain Center near Cedar City, Utah. We had a rocky start when 2 days before camp started, our caterer canceled on us. My mom and sister Layna and Sadie Farnsworth were able to bail us out and cooked for us all week. I still believe it was only because they were able to visit my other sisters 1-year old daughter who lives in Cedar City. We had 13 attendees, Cooper Obray, Garrett Finlinson, Brooklin Goble, Jade Goble, Sydney Bosh, Emmitt Nelson, Jake Brinkerhoff, Korver Staples, Maddie Cox, Holden Harris, Hadley Harris, Aden Patterson, and Theron Dye from North and South Sevier, Kane, and Carbon Counties.

Monday afternoon and evening were spent learning about stocking rates, grazing rotations, plant ID, ESD, Range Management, and GIP projects thanks to Ashlee Longmore (USU) myself (USU), Dean Winward (SUU), and Randy Marshall (GIP), and Jeff Barnes (NRCS/CDE).

On Tuesday we tagged along with the WRI tour that started at the Beaver County Fairgrounds. We discussed pinyon and juniper treatments, sagebrush reseeding, stream improvements, reseeding, and BDA's. The kids persuaded us to stop at the Beaver Creamery after the tour, it wasn't too hard to convince us since the temperatures were nearing 100 degrees. That evening one of the vans broke down but we were able to get everyone back to the mountain center where we performed a blacklight test to show the coumarins and palatability in certain sagebrush species like Wyoming and Silver Sagebrush vs mountain sagebrush. Eric Thacker (USU) also gave a presentation on wildlife and rangelands.

On Wednesday, Lara Kitchen (BLM) showed us some prairie dog relocation burrows, sagebrush treatments, and reseeding and talked about being a Range Con for the BLM. We walked the kids through several of the tests they will encounter at the Western Regionals Competition this fall including Plant ID, Shrub Intercept, ESD reference state, and soil texturing and horizons. We had lunch at the Parowan Gap Petroglyphs where we followed Ethan Hooper (FS) up Paragonah Canyon where we talked about some PJ treatments, utilization monitoring, NEPA, and working for the Forest Service. We circled back around to Brian Head where we found out that the other van had brake issues. Luckily, they held until we made it back to camp although most of us smelled like hot brakes the rest of the evening. Clare Poulsen (NRCS) gave a presentation on Restoration that evening and helped out a lot with plant ID throughout the day.

Thursday Dean Winward and Jeff Barnes spent the morning with the kids going over a few more things that would be on their competition like current issues facing rangelands, and estimating percent biomass while I set up the final Plant ID test. Ruger Carter (USU PHD Student) presented on pursuing higher education in Rangeland Management. He talked about a study he led in the Grand Staircase Monument about cattle distribution using GPS collars, and the study he is working on now, tracking Sage Grouse with GPS harnesses. That evening the kids

each gave a 2-minute oral presentation about something they learned at Range Camp and then they had to answer any questions Jeff Barnes and Linden Greenalgh (USU) threw their way. At the end of Range Camp, we grade their oral presentations, notebook notes, plant ID tests, participation, and their plant collection (they need to collect 25 plants and correctly label them to get full points). SRM provides the top 2 competitors with a paid expense trip to the Parent SRM Society meeting which will be held in Sparks Nevada this upcoming year. The results are as follows;

**Notebook:**

1<sup>st</sup> Sydney Bosh & Brooklin Goble

2<sup>nd</sup> Maddie Cox

3<sup>rd</sup> Garrett Finlinson & Jake Brinkerhoff



From left to right: Garrett Finlinson, Jake Brinkerhoff, Maddie Cox, Sydney Bosh, Brooklin Goble, Cory Farnsworth

**Plant Collection:**

1<sup>st</sup> Cooper Obray & Jake Brinkerhoff

2<sup>nd</sup> Sydney Bosh & Maddie Cox

3<sup>rd</sup> Brooklin Goble



From left to right: Brooklin Goble, Maddie Cox, Sydney Bosh, Jake Brinkerhoff, Cooper Obray, Cory Farnsworth

**Plant ID Test #1**

1<sup>st</sup> Jake Brinkerhoff

2<sup>nd</sup> Brooklin Goble

3<sup>rd</sup> Hadley Harris

**Plant ID Test #2**

1<sup>st</sup> Brooklin Goble

2<sup>nd</sup> Garrett Finlinson

3<sup>rd</sup> Hadley Harris

**Plant ID Over-All**

1<sup>st</sup> Brooklin Goble

2<sup>nd</sup> Hadley Harris

3<sup>rd</sup> Jake Brinkerhoff



From left to right: Hadley Harris, Brooklin Goble, Jake Brinkerhoff, Cory Farnsworth



From left to right: Hadley Harris, Garrett Finlinson, Brooklin Goble, Cory Farnsworth



From left to right: Jake Brinkerhoff, Hadley Harris, Brooklin Goble, Cory Farnsworth

**Over-All Top Scores Combined (out of 650 points)**

1<sup>st</sup> Brooklin Goble- 606 pts

2<sup>nd</sup> Sydney Bosh- 567 pts

3<sup>rd</sup> Jake Brinkerhoff- 563 pts

4<sup>th</sup> Hadley Harris 559- pts

5<sup>th</sup> Holden Harris 542- pts



From left to right: Holden Harris, Hadley Harris, Jake Brinkerhoff, Sydney Bosh, Brooklin Goble, Cory Farnsworth

Everyone did a great job, congrats to Brooklin and Sydney! Whoever wins at the competition this fall will also get to go with them to Sparks, so there is still some hope for the runner uppers. Attending Range Camp has generally given a huge advantage to anyone competing at Western Regionals. A special thanks to Rebekah Esplin (USU), Ashley Longmore, Dean Winward, and Linden Greenalgh for sticking around most of the week to help ensure things ran smoothly.



From left to right: Jeff Barnes, Dean Winward, Brooklin Goble, Sydney Bosh, Cory Farnsworth, Linden Greenalgh



Front left to right: Brooklin Goble, Sydney Bosh, Maddie Cox, Korver Staples

Back left to right: Jeff Barnes, Dean Winward, Cory Farnsworth, Jake Brinkerhoff, Theron Dye, Aden Patterson, Emmitt Nelson, Hadley Harris, Holden Harris, Garrett Finlinson, Cooper Obray, Jade Goble, Linden Greenalgh, Ruger Carter, Rebekah Esplin



Death by power point at the SUU Mountain Center



Plant ID Test



Plant  
Collection





Exclosure  
Discussion



Measuring  
Shrub Intercept



Prairie Dog  
Discussion



"Dirt with Dean"  
Soil Lab