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## PRESS RELEASE

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### Martinez Honored by Society for Range Management with Outstanding Young Range Professional Award

Jose “Pepe” De la luz Martinez Garcia received the ***Outstanding Young Range Professional Award*** at the Society for Range Management’s 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico earlier this February. The Award is presented by the Society to an individual member who has demonstrated extraordinary potential and promise as a range management professional. This award is presented as an encouragement for outstanding performance by young men and women entering the profession of range management.

Martinez has been a tireless advocate and educator for range management since he chose his major in college. He has constantly strived to learn and be involved in as many range and wildlife as possible. He jumped headlong into the profession and has not come up for air since.



Once he had experience, Martinez took on the role of educator. His love of sharing his passion for all things range continued as he began work for USDA-NRCS, where he continued to coach FFA teams, work with South Texas

Bobwhite Brigade and TSSRM Youth Range Workshop. He is a gifted presenter who connects with youth audiences and engages them through his own passion. He eagerly takes on assignments like speaking to literally hundreds of elementary school students at the East Foundation’s “Behind the Gates” event annually.

The ranchers and land stewards of South Texas value and respect Martinez for his technical assistance. Often requested to be on the program at workshops and the Hispanic Farmers and Ranchers Conference, he has the ability to connect and gain the trust of land stewards across South Texas.

For the tremendous contributions to the science and management of rangeland ecosystems he has made, it is with great honor the Society of Range Management recognized Martinez with the Outstanding Young Professional Award.



**MISSION:** Providing leadership for the Stewardship of Rangelands based on sound ecological principles.

**VISION:** A well-trained and highly motivated group of professionals and rangelands users working with productive, sustainable rangeland ecosystems.