

2024 FREES Summit Plenary Speaker: Dr. Amanda Gearhart

"Rangelands Lowest Common Denominator"



Dr. Amanda Gearhart is a Wildlife Staff Specialist in the Habitat Division of Nevada Department of Wildlife. She was born and raised in Central Oregon. As an undergraduate, she pursued a degree in Animal Science with an emphasis in pre-veterinary medicine. After taking a year off to work in a veterinary clinic Dr. Gearhart returned to school and earned a Master of Science degree in Rangeland Ecology and Management from the University of Idaho. From there, she spent six years in North Dakota working with private landowners to improve their rangeland management practices and earning her doctorate in Rangeland Science from North Dakota State University. She spent a year working as a post-doctoral research scientist for the USDA-Agricultural Research Service in Burns, Oregon before taking her dream job as the State Rangeland Extension Specialist with the University of Idaho. After becoming a single mother, she realized that life on the road was not compatible with raising two young sons solo and resigned from her dream job. After another stint as a post-doc, she took a job with the Bureau of Land Management as a Wild Horse and Burro Specialist in Northeastern California which she held for nearly five years. She briefly returned to academia at the University of Nevada Reno where she taught and conducted research on grazing and the impacts of wild horses and burros on ecosystems. Currently, Amanda coordinates NDOW's restoration and rehabilitation efforts around the state of Nevada. She has a deep love of wide open rangelands, problem solving, and healthy herds on healthy landscapes.