

WESTERN RANCH MANAGEMENT ACADEMY

<https://wrma.usu.edu/>

Managing Legal, Government and HR Concerns on the Ranch

Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2026 8:00 AM-7 PM Champions Room,
Thursday, Aug. 27, 2026 8:00 AM-12 PM USU Maverik Stadium, Logan, UT

Wednesday, August 26th

Doors open at 7:30 AM to 8:00 PM

7:30 AM Registration and Morning Social

8:00 AM Building a Strong Ranch Workforce: From Hiring to High Performance

Mark Fisher, Director of Human Resources Ranches and Int'l, AgReserves, Inc

11:30 AM Box Lunch

12:30 PM Welcome and Introductions

12:45 PM Keynote Speaker

Karen Budd-Falen, Deputy Secretary of the Dept. of the Interior, Washington D.C.

1:30 PM Water Law

Emily Lewis, Culp & Kelly, LLP, Salt Lake City

2:45 PM Break

3:00 PM Access Disputes and Severed Property Interests

Gage Zobell, Dorsey & Whitney, LLP, Salt Lake City

4:30 PM Break

4:45 PM Government Relations

Brian Steed, Vice President of Government and External Relations, USU

5:30 PM Evening social and appetizers

6:00 PM Speaker Q&A

6:30 PM Dinner



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Wednesday, August 27th, Morning

7:00 AM Breakfast Social, Fruit, Pastries & Coffee

8:00 AM Wildlife/Endangered Species Act
Sandi Snodgrass, Holland & Hart, LLP, Denver

9:15 AM Hunting/Recreation Contracts
Kent Jorgensen, Director of Land Management, AgReserves, Inc

10:00 AM Break

10:15 AM Conservation Easements
Sara Meess, The Nature Conservancy
Gabe Murray, Bear River Land Conservancy

11:15 AM Conservation Easements from a Rancher's Perspective
John and Joel Ferry, JY Ferry & Son, Inc, Corrine, Utah

12:00 PM Speaker Q&A

12:30PM Adjourn



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