



Lost Resource – Dr. Rex Pieper

A respected and highly accomplished scientist, educator and mentor, and longtime member of the Society for Range Management, Dr. Rex D. Pieper passed away in Las Cruces, NM, on June 22, 2017. Rex grew up on a farm in southeastern Idaho. He received his Bachelor of Science in wildlife management from the University of Idaho in 1956 and went on to complete a Master of Science in range management at Utah State University in 1958. He earned his PhD in plant ecology at the University of California at Berkeley in 1963. In that same year, he joined the faculty in the Department of Animal and Range Sciences at New Mexico State University (NMSU) where he worked tirelessly until his retirement in 1998. Rex taught courses in range vegetation analysis, range ecology, and applied multivariate techniques. Throughout his career he advised over 100 graduate students, including 66 international students from 26 countries. Many of his numerous graduate students went on to prominent careers in teaching, research or extension in range science programs throughout the U.S., across North America, and around the world, especially in Mexico, Africa and countries of the Middle East. He received numerous honors including Distinguished Teaching, Research, Graduate Teaching, and Advisement awards from the College of Agriculture at NMSU as well as SRM's prestigious W.R. Chapline Research Award in 1996. He was named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and Fellow of the Society for Range Management. He was also named Eminent Scientist by the New Mexico Commission for Higher Education. In the late 1970s and early 1980s Rex served as the editor of the Journal of Range Management. His prolific scientific work made significant contributions to understanding the ecology of piñon-juniper woodlands in New Mexico and, more broadly, the ecology of southwestern rangelands. He wrote substantive review chapters on North American rangelands and was a key contributor and co-author of the six editions of the textbook 'Range Management: Principles and Practices' used by range science students across the world. His colleagues remember Rex as a true gentleman and mentor, as a quiet person, very thoughtful and respectful with words, very kind, soft spoken, who never sought the spotlight or put himself forward. Rex will be greatly missed by all of us at New Mexico State University, by his former graduate students, and by the range science community as a whole.