



**Dannele Peck**  
*Director*  
*Ag Economics*



**Windy Kelley**  
*Coordinator*  
*Extension*



**Matt Reeves**  
*Co-Lead, FS*  
*Rangeland Modeling*



**Rafael Guerrero**  
*Co-Lead, NRCS*  
*Director, Tech Center*



**Justin Derner**  
*Research Leader, ARS*  
*Rangeland Science*

## Select Accomplishments in FY21 Q2 (Jan – Mar 2021)

NPCH is pleased to welcome three new team members for 2021!



**Julie Elliott**  
*NRCS Liaison*



**Toni Klemm**  
*Postdoc*



**Katie Walsh**  
*Postdoc*

**Julie Elliott**, NRCS liaison from Holyoke, Colorado, conducting *outreach on Grass-Cast* and drought planning.

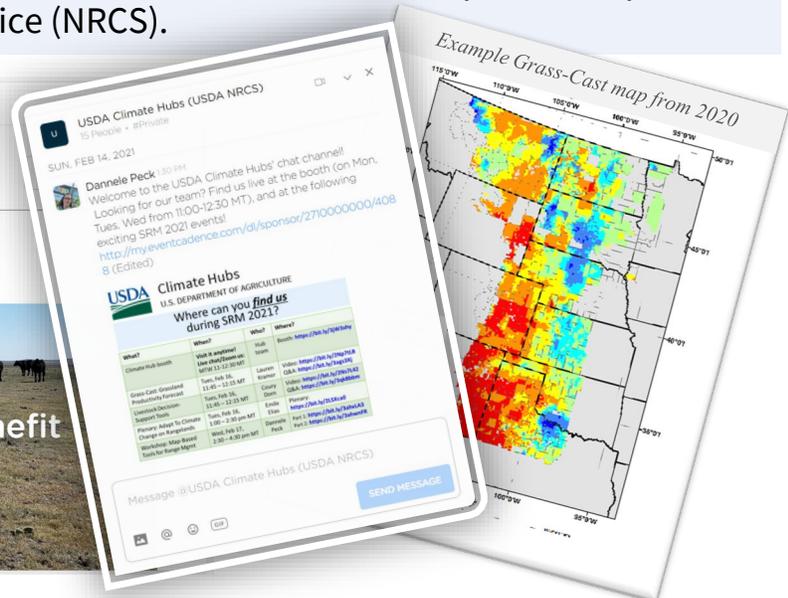
**Toni Klemm**, postdoctoral research associate, leading a *grasslands vulnerability assessment* for the N. Plains.

**Kathryn Bills Walsh**, postdoctoral research associate, and *social scientist* for ‘Ranching, Rangelands & Resilience’.

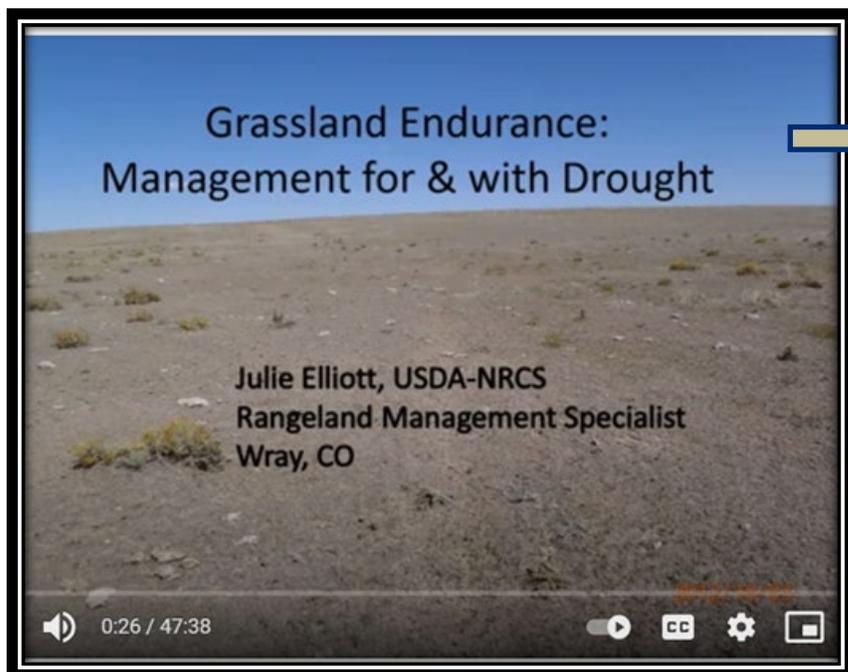
To learn more about them: <https://go.usa.gov/xHRjQ>

## Science Synthesis & Tool Development

With much of the West in drought, rangeland managers are busy assessing conditions and anticipating how much or little grass their livestock might have. At the **2021 Society for Range Management meeting**, the Northern Plains Climate Hub gave two presentations about Grass-Cast, engaging with over **190 participants**. Those interested in learning more about **Grass-Cast** and other climate information and decision tools could also visit the USDA Climate Hubs’ virtual **tradeshow booth**, co-hosted by the Northern Plains and Southwest Hubs, in partnership with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

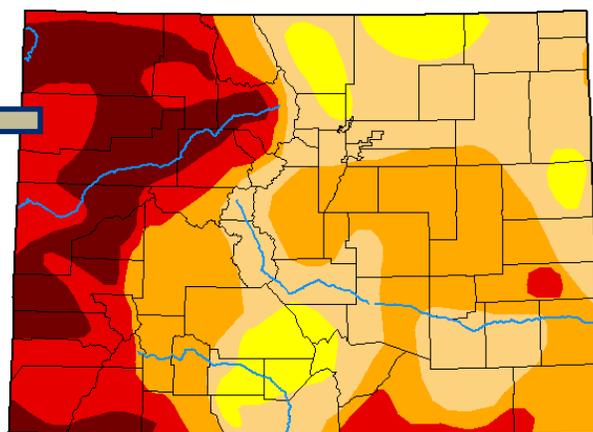


## Outreach & Engagement



Rangelands are essential for grazing livestock in **Colorado**, so the prospect of 2021 being **yet another drought year** has ranchers in parts of the state worried. In response, **Climate Hub liaison, Julie Elliott (from NRCS in Colorado)**, is busy sharing drought planning resources, such as Grass-Cast, the U.S. Drought Monitor, and USDA program information.

### U.S. Drought Monitor Colorado



USDA NDMC droughtmonitor.unl.edu

March 30, 2021  
(Released Thursday, Apr. 1, 2021)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Julie serves on the **Colorado Drought Advisors Team**, which farmers and ranchers can call or text at (970) 988-0043 for drought-related resources. She also presented at a **drought webinar** hosted by the Yuma & Yuma County Conservation Districts (watch the video at <http://y2u.be/WvWRnX1NbnM>). Through these activities, **Julie reached ~230 people!** She also co-wrote an **ag news article** about Grass-Cast and other drought decision tools, which you can read at <https://bit.ly/32R5c0c>.

The state of **Wyoming** also faces a second year of **widespread drought**. To facilitate communication between stakeholders and climate service providers, the **Wyoming Conditions Monitoring Team (WCMT)**—a state, federal, and tribal partnership started in 2020 by the **Northern Plains Climate Hub coordinator, Windy Kelley**—held 4 virtual outreach events this quarter.

USDA USGS WRDS UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

**WY Conditions & Outlooks:**  
*Precipitation, Temperatures, Drought, Floods, & Everything In-between*

March 18, 2021

The University of Wyoming is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.

During the first-ever **Wyoming Conditions & Outlooks webinar**, on March 18<sup>th</sup>, the WCMT team summarized current drought information, and shared helpful resources, such as USDA programs. The webinar is now held monthly and can be viewed at [http://y2u.be/Gv3X\\_1az2sl](http://y2u.be/Gv3X_1az2sl). Through this and three other virtual events this quarter, **WCMT reached ~200 individuals!**