

**NEVADA SECTION - SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT
SUMMER BUSINESS MEETING
UNR GUND RANCH
JUNE 7, 2008
MINUTES**

Present:

Duane Coombs	Maggie Orr	Cub Wolfe
Tracey Jean Wolfe	Maria Ryan	Jeremy Drew
Tracy Shane	Ryan Shane	Lee Schmelzer
Justin Ely	Sam Lossing	Brittney Askew
Jon Wilker	Ken Conley	Tamzen Stringham
Sherman Swanson	Ron Kay	Brad Schultz
Rick Orr	Wally Butler	Gary McCuin

President Duane Coombs called the meeting to order on the lawn by the shop. He called on Rick Orr and Wally Butler to give an update from the **Board of Directors**. Rick summarized the Rangelands magazine update as a new editorial board will develop policy and job duty description for the editor-in-chief, they seek a new full time editor and they will maintain the color publication, doing as many as possible if it pays for itself. The goal is six issues a year with themed issues maintaining the application on the ground types of articles. John Tanaka and Allen Rassmussen went to DC to meet agency heads and congressional staff members to reinvigorate the idea SRM is out there and take forward issues we have. This week is the summer BOD meeting in Denver and they will interview the four EVP candidates. All please remember the position is open until filled. SRM received an inquiry from USFWS on sage grouse; the wildlife committee is preparing a response that will come through the Board. Wally reported the new SRM Center for Education and Professional Development will hold the Wildfires and Invasive Species in American Deserts conference in Reno December 8-12. CEPD provides seed money for regional meetings and they are looking for more proposals. Wally stated SRM now has a well-balanced, open-minded BOD. He said membership was slightly down but holding and that John Tanaka has done invaluable service in the Denver office, making communication better, analyzing costs to show where the money goes and upgrading the facility and communication by a web server with a private carrier so tech support, email address and bulk mailings are available to Sections and members through the Denver server. Tracy offered kudos to who revamped the CPRM process, improving how they make determinations on who is qualified. Cub remarked the NRCS staff leading NRI have to be certified, that is the value NRCS places on CPRM; it is a good excuse why the government should pay people to come to meetings. Wally said that is a regular discussion point when delegations go to DC.

Membership and EVP: Gary McCuin said he didn't have much to report beyond keeping the email list current is a pain! He needs to know from each zone council person when their term is up. Linebaugh is still working on the by-laws and constitution. Ryan said he needs to know when a person comes into his zone so he can add them to his email list. Gary will have the membership chair send rosters to each zone council so they have a current list of people. Then all can send lists of events in their zone as Ryan does for Zone 1. (Please send those event updates to Maggie as well for the newsletter)

Treasurer: Brad Shultz said he did not have a full blown report but he did hand out the Spending by Category and Financial Overview. We have a total of \$112,664 in the bank and he had fun filing a tax return for 2007 due to the Reno 2007 meeting. He hasn't had any time to talk to anyone about taking the treasurer's position. Brad and Sherm announced three scholarships have been awarded: the UNR Robertson-Fleming to Sam Lossing for \$2000 (Sam, I learned from Maria Pregitzer of UNR, has a 3.9 GPA!), and \$500 each to Justin Ely and Brittney Askew from NvSRM's Robertson-Fleming. All were present at the meeting and tour. Congratulations! We donated money to 4-H/FFA Range/Soil Judging and to the Range Club and spent \$5260 on the cook trailer for Range Camp; some of this will be reimbursed by Nevada Bighorns Unlimited. Later Sherm made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and give commendation to Brad for work done above and beyond the call of duty, seconded by Gary. All approved.

UNR / Range Club / Students: Tamzen stated she hopes to have going in a year or two a Gund Ranch Rangeland Intern program for students with no ranch background. Sherm announced that UNR should soon have an inter-department undergraduate Range Bachelor of Science degree program and possibly an M.S. and even PhD program. By combining the faculty from two departments the program should be accreditable by SRM. Because students major in a degree program rather than a department, both departments would be seen by the Dean as contributing to the success of the program and college. UNR finally has critical mass to make this Range program successful. It would be robust with the addition of one more professor. They will seek to excel at the GS 454 requirements.

Brittney stated the Range Club has 10 active members, three of which are here at this meeting. Their big fundraiser is a raffle for the saddle Duane made and donated for his costs. They will be selling tickets for this gorgeous saddle through the Albuquerque meeting, with the drawing there. Contact Britt at brittneya2216@yahoo.com for tickets. Other fund raising ideas for travel to Albuquerque suggested were endearing the Club to Nevada Cattlemen's, asking the Dean and ASUN, asking the agencies for projects to do, hay sale via Kevin Piper, and any projects near Reno anyone could have the students do. They will probably take the school van to Albuquerque. They will have a booth at that meeting and Tamzen suggested they design a booth now that they can take when they display the saddle around. Gary suggested the Producer Committee chair and they do the booth each year for the Cattlemen's meeting. What Section members can do for the students: offer them any projects close to Reno, post flyers for the saddle at their work.

Duane began a discussion on how we can mentor the students. We recognized going to the field or meetings with people would be invaluable to the students for exposure now and contacts later when they graduate. We can get the ok from employers to allow them to job shadow. Tamzen stated students are welcome on any short field trips she makes and that permittees are always looking for monitoring help. Tracy will work with Ben to get a form on the Section website where anyone can register opportunities for students and the link will go to the Range Club email and to Great Basin College students. Being available to mentor younger professionals is an important charge for each of us and the students were excited at the possibility.

Awards: Cub stated he needs nominations for the Excellence in Range Management Award; he just needs a nominee and he will put the award together. This award does not have to be a SRM member but it is the one that gives us the most exposure in the state. Gerry Miller is the committee chair for this now, if someone is interested in

assuming this role let Cub or Duane know. The Young Professional Award is for people up to age 40. Ken and Ron Torell will brainstorm a list for the Excellence award; they will ask Doug Busselman of Farm Bureau as well. Cub will work with Sherm on getting the Range Camp awards awarded at camp instead of later. National awards for Nevada Section members raises the exposure of Nevada; examples of these are on the www.rangelands.org website under a member login. To do: deadline dates will be in the newsletter each time, get names and half a page on a nominee for a Section award to Cub; he will not nominate but he will move them forward, zone councilmen should nominate one per year; Ryan will contact the other zone councilmen to initiate this, put the Section awards on the website, and when the by-laws are complete dedicate time at a meeting to review all responsibilities so others know how to help those in positions. It was noted that the Nevada Wildlife Commission awarded the Outstanding Conservation Educator to our own Kent McAdoo. Congratulations, Kent!

Range Camp: Gary stated the kitchen is functional but not finished, Amy Ruhs is working on a manual and we are low on numbers attending (20) but have lots of counselors. Currently to advertise we send letters to all the high schools, if someone is there that takes an interest it goes well. We don't mail applications out anymore; just direct them to the website. Usually they come from high school FFA's; it is hard to get rural kids. Jeremy explained how Nevada Bighorns solicited entries for a youth photo contest: they sent a letter to each youth hunting license recipient, did a press release and advertised in the NBU newsletter. They got the best response from the letters; he will try to get us the list. Jim Barbee (?) has a list of all the FFA members in the state. 40 campers is our max, we used to talk about only taking the cream. Urban centers' newspapers run lists of summer camps. This year the poster was smaller which is less visible but easier to mail. Maria suggested extension educators sometimes have excess bulk mailing money available we could maybe use.

Wildfires and Invasive Species in American Deserts conference, Reno, Dec. 8-12: Sherm presented the concept for the conference which hopes to identify what science we need to understand to put on the ground to help the affected deserts and how to connect this information to the public. At this point it is envisioned as a plenary session followed by workshops on each of the four deserts, common themes throughout and where to go from here. The Conference will include policy makers at multiple levels, academics, producers, range cons and fire fighters to work together on future strategies with the idea we can't talk anymore, we must act. SRM is facilitating this broad cross-section of opinion and expertise through its Center for Education and Professional Development. Section members provided Sherm with passionate input and ideas for his Monday morning planning call. Rick reminded all that this will happen step-by-step like a CRM process. We can't get it all done at this meeting; future meetings will be specific to each desert area. Duane appointed Ken Conley, Tamzen Stringham, Maria Ryan, Jeremy Drew and the new treasurer-to-be to a subcommittee to provide input from the Section. If the Section wants to be involved monetarily or otherwise we need to contact Linda Coates-Markle at the SRM office.

Winter Meeting: It is undecided at this time if the winter meeting will be in conjunction with the American Deserts meeting in Reno in December or at the Eureka Opera House as suggested by Ken. Brad reminded us winter and summer meeting registrations are how we get our operating funds.

The Progressive Rancher: Maggie and Brad presented what has been submitted to TPR so far and thanked those authors for their excellent work. They sought some form of plan as where to go from here with the articles so it is not just a catch-as-catch-can operation. Articles are submitted every other month, photos are ok and 1500 words the target. Maggie manages the articles, she doesn't write them. She is available for suggestions and some editing help. We agreed to put the articles on the website and as companion documents to the newsletter and make this a standing item on the business meeting agendas to identify the next months' series of articles. Brad suggested agency authors use the opportunity to clarify an agency process or policy. We need to think about when articles are published to tie them to events or season.

Article suggestions:

Ecological Sites, Tracey Jean Wolfe, for July 2008

Gund Ranch cheatgrass work, Barry/Ben, really Lee Schelmzer, Sept 10 (or later)

Observations from Mongolia and China after 1000's years of livestock grazing, Sherm
Fire History and Management-how to do presuppression on your ranch, costs, options,
Series from RMS material, Kent and Brad

Monitoring-how is it going on the ground, Gary McCuin, January?

Juniper and Water Tables, Tim Deboodt (per Tamzen)

How landscapes worked naturally when "following the green," Burkhardt

Mindset to change ranch management, Ken Conley

Cattle management on the UNR Gund Ranch, Jon Wilker

Riparian herding on 3 Nevada ranches, Sam Lossing – want to publish in winter

Articles from Range Club members

The Progressive Rancher articles submitted by NvSRM to date:

April 2007, What is SRM?, Gary McCuin

June 2007, Nevada Rangeland Monitoring Handbook, Second Edition, Sherman Swanson

August 2007, Cheatgrass, James Young and Charlie Clements

October 2007, Targeted Grazing Need to Know Guide – The On Site Evaluation (Part 1)
The Client, Leslie Savva Haug

December 2007, Make Peace Not War, Ken Conley

February 2008, Target Grazing Need to Know Guide – The On Site Evaluation, The Contractor, Leslie Savva Haug

April 2008, Keeping Water on the Land Longer, Sherman Swanson

June 2008, Management of Native Hay Meadows After Herbicide Treatment for Noxious Weeds, Brad Schultz, Kent McAdoo, Ron Torrell, Earl Creech

Respectfully submitted,
Maggie Orr
6/23/08

