

# Celebrating with the Society for Range Management



## Shoesole Resource Management Group Great Basin Award

**Introduction:** The Shoesole RMG is comprised of three ranching families in northeastern Elko County, including the Cottonwood Ranch (which initiated the group in 1996), the Boies Ranch (which joined in 2000), and the Home Ranch (which joined in 2012). They are all part of a group that works collaboratively with representatives of the BLM, U.S. Forest Service, Nevada Department of Wildlife, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Trout Unlimited, Nevada Department of Agriculture, Nevada Division of Forestry, and others.

### Contributions benefitting Nevada's

**Rangelands:** According to Jeff Moore, Shoesole RMG member and BLM Rangeland Management Specialist, *"The flexibility and success of the collaborative HM process requires hard work from all team members and extra effort on the part of participating ranchers to implement change."* The Cottonwood Ranch, Boies Ranch, and new member Home Ranch continue to work collaboratively to modify their livestock grazing plans in consideration of multiple rangeland resource values and develop appropriate adaptive management strategies to achieve balanced economic and ecological sustainability. To date this effort has resulted in positive vegetation responses, with sustainability implications for livestock grazing, wildlife, and multiple land uses on 183,000 acres of BLM, USFS, and private land that make up the three-ranch Shoesole RMG landscape.

### Awards:

- In the fall of 2004, Agee Smith, Cottonwood Ranch owner/manager was given the "Rancher of the Year" award at the Nevada Cattlemen's Association's Annual Meeting.
- The Boies Ranch received two awards in 2008: (1) "Excellence in Rangeland Management award" from the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts, and (2) "Commendation and Certificate of Appreciation" from the Public Lands Foundation.
- In September of 2016, the Shoesole Resource Management Group (RMG) received a national award from the Bureau of Land Management, the "Range Stewardship Award- Partner Group".
- In June 2016, the Shoesole RMG took time during its annual summer tour to celebrate their 20 years of working together (**Figure 10**). Unbeknownst to the group, James Rogers, manager of the neighboring Winecup Gamble Ranch and SANE member, made a stirring presentation to Shoesole RMG members as he formally transferred the historic Shoesole brand from the Winecup Ranch to the Shoesole RMG: *"Shoesole Team – You have left your mark across this great landscape. The trail you have blazed will be forever remembered as one of the greatest contributions ever made to the land, the wildlife, and to future generations. It has not always been easy, but there is confidence for many in the public lands grazing community because of the perseverance, humility, integrity, and wisdom put forth by each of you. May this token of our appreciation serve as a reminder and be an encouragement that through your process of collaboration, many are following in your footsteps."*

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## Samuel Lossing

### Young Rangeland Professional

**Introduction:** Samuel Lossing joined SRM in 2007 while working on his Bachelor Degree of Range Science from the University of Nevada, Reno from which he graduated in 2008. He received his Master's Degree in Range Science from Idaho State University in 2012.

**Career so far:** Sam started out as a cowboy for the Gund Ranch, Woodland Cattle Co., and the Smith Creek Ranch. Transitioning to the Lead Off Man for the Smith Creek Ranch before becoming Ranch Foreman in Sun Valley, ID. Sam, along with his wife Brittney Lossing and 3 year old son, Dennis Lossing, recently returned to the Smith Creek Ranch as Ranch Manager.

### Contributions to Rangeland Management in Nevada:

- Smith Creek Ranch GRSG CCAA signed in Fall 2016
- Desatoya Habitat Resiliency and Restoration Project
- Porter Canyon and Edwards Creek Allotment Permit Renewal
- Active involvement with Nevada Youth Range Camp annually for the past 10 years, mentoring young cowboys and cowgirls.

### Publications:

- Lossing, S., T.K. Stringham, C. A. Carr, K. A. Snyder, M.A. Weltz and B. J. Stringham. *In Revision*. Quantifying and modeling rainfall interception and redistribution by singleleaf pinon and Utah juniper. *Rangeland Ecology and Management*.
- Musings of a Central Nevada Cowboy. Progressive Rancher March 2009. <http://www.rangelands.org/nevada/Prog%20Rancher/Musings%20of%20a%20Central%20Nevada%20Cowboy.pdf>

### Awards:

2016 NCBA Regional Environmental Stewardship Award with Smith Creek Ranch.

<http://www.americancattlemen.com/trending/smith-creek-ranch-honored-stewardship-efforts>

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## **Kathryn Dyer**

**Nevada Rangeland Professional of the Year**

### **Introduction:**

Kathryn is the State Range Program Lead for the Nevada State Office of the Bureau of Land Management and Camp Director of the Nevada Youth Range Camp

### **Contributions to the Nevada Rangeland Management:**

- Kathryn presents rangeland management challenges, projects, and potential solutions at many meetings and webinars throughout the state such as the “Climate Monitoring for Great Basin Land Management Webinar,” the Targeted Grazing Meeting of 10/16 and the GRSG Management Roadshow of 2016 and 2017.
- She is also working to develop a targeted grazing system for weed reduction in the state.
- She teaches high school students about Nevada’s desert and mountain ecosystems, rangelands, and management challenges at the Nevada Youth Range Camp.
- She is on the forefront of developing ideas to conserve and restore healthy rangelands with all community stakeholders.

### **Contributions to the Nevada Section of SRM:**

- Kathryn Dyer does so much for the Nevada Section of the Society for Range Management by educating our state’s youth about Great Basin ecosystems through her management of Range Camp, and through always being available for presentations and information exchange to promote healthy rangelands through community partnerships and innovative ideas.
- She has developed and manages the current Range Camp program.
- She serves the NV SRM by always being available to present the latest information on rangeland issues from the BLM.

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## **Robert Burton**

**Nevada Rangeland Manager of the Year**

### **Introduction:**

Robert is the Natural Resource Specialist for the Winnemucca Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management in Nevada.

### **Contributions to the Nevada Rangeland Management:**

- Excellent example of a manager who is willing to try new methods to solve rangeland problems. For example, supported the collection of local seeds and increasing the Winnemucca Field Office local seed program with the help of a local seed company
- A great collaborator for state and federal scientists interested in applied rangeland research; exemplary collaborative work has led to increased understanding of barriers to seedling establishment, effects of repeat fires on cheatgrass, and the effects of restoration in cheatgrass die-off areas.
- Applies local seed collection and use practices to the seeding program.
- He is a pleasure to work with; according to collaborative partners: “Rob is superb!” and “I love working with Rob Burton”.
- Rob does excellent work in restoration practices on Nevada’s rangelands, his willingness and ability to work with multiple partners, and his willingness to communicate his practices and findings through publication and outreach.

### **Publications:**

- Baughman, Owen W, Robert Burton, Mark Williams , Peter J Weisberg, Thomas E Dilts, Elizabeth A Leger. Cheatgrass Die-Offs: A Unique Restoration Opportunity in Northern Nevada. Submitted to: Rangelands.

## James A. Young

**Dr. James A. Young** spent 43 years as a Rangeland Scientist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service in Reno, Nevada. He attended Oregon State, North Dakota and University of CA Davis and Chico State. Dr. Young is well recognized for his knowledge of Great Basin Rangelands and was acknowledged as such being awarded the U.S. Department of Agriculture Scientist of the Year, Weed Science Society of America Award of Excellence, Society for Range Management W. R. Chapline Research Award, Outstanding Achievement Award, and Fellow Award as well as Nevada Section Researcher of the Year Award. Dr. Young also received the very First Nevada Weed Management Award, which was named after him, "James A. Young Award". Dr. Young authored and co-authored more than 700 scientific articles including numerous books such as *Cattle in the Cold Desert*, *Purshia: The Wild and Bitter Roses* and *Cheatgrass: Fire and Forage on the Range*. It is often stated that Dr. Young has probably forgotten more information on the ecology of Great Basin rangelands than most professionals in resource management will ever learn.