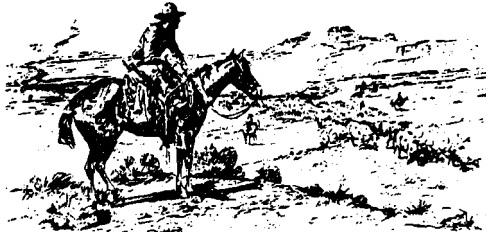


RANGELAND NEWS



TO FOSTER ADVANCEMENT IN THE
SCIENCE AND ART OF RANGELAND
MANAGEMENT

NEVADA SECTION – SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT

MAY 2010

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(see map on last page for zones)

RANGE MANAGERS OF THE YEAR: STAN AND JAN HUNEWILL

PRESIDENT’S PONDERERS

Ken Visser

One perennial difficulty in the field of rangeland management is communicating with laymen regarding what we do and why we do it. A booklet that I have been reading lately is “Sustainable Rangelands Goods and Services” published by the Sustainable Rangelands Roundtable. It is a good primer that can aid in the effort to communicate what rangelands do for society and what we (all of us) do to steward and conserve them. It is not exactly written for the laymen audience, but it can be used by managers and ranchers as a resource when they are preparing to explain what they do and why they do it to a general audience or to a new acquaintance at the coffee shop. A primary focus of the booklet is to expound on the efforts that are needed to improve the capability for the uniform monitoring and reporting of rangeland conditions in the United States, but the opening chapters contain concise discussion of the goods and services derived from rangelands. It can be downloaded at no cost from <http://sustainable.rangelands.org>. On that page, look for “PDF Downloads,” then “Ecosystem Goods and Services Book.”

It can also be difficult for land management agency personnel to explain to the public the procedures and requirements that must be employed to support government decision-making. The BLM, or at least, I, call these “Big D” decisions to differentiate them from “little d” decisions we make

every day. The “Big D” decisions involve analysis of information gathered and compiled by the agency, public input, and the opportunity for challenge and review of the decision in court (appeal). This is done with cognizance of the need to comport with all applicable law, regulation and procedures, which typically are numerous and intertwining – creating a lot of “opportunity” for slip-ups. More and more often, agency personnel are encountering the need to explain their decisions to a government lawyer, who in turn needs to explain that to a judge. Whether the judge will “get it” in any particular challenge is anybody’s guess.

Sometimes the process to make decisions (let alone getting them funded as needed and implemented) is agonizingly slow. Basic civics teaches us that certain functions in government are deliberately designed to go slowly. I do not disagree with that philosophy – I think that government should be cautious and deliberative when making decisions that could have profound effects on resources, individuals, or society – but for the practitioner and the public alike, the pace of decision-making can be frustrating. Even more frustrating is having months and sometimes years of work and collaboration flushed down the toilet because some reviewing body found the explanation wanting.

The other day I fielded a question from a wild horse advocate who inquired about how “things worked” with respect to how ranchers come to be issued grazing permits on public lands and what considerations are given to wild horses and burros in that process. Some in the blogosphere would have the public believe that the management situation on public lands for wild horses is an “us vs. them” proposition, with the advocates being the “us” who “defend” the horses from being “ravaged” by the “them” (and we know who we are). Thus I welcomed the opportunity to provide this information to someone who obviously wanted to dig a little deeper. What did they get? For starters, weblinks to a copy of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act –with special note of its definitions of “multiple use” and “sustained yield”; BLM’s Land Use Planning Handbook; BLM’s NEPA handbook; a copy of the Taylor Grazing Act, and references to the plethora of other laws that apply or have bearing upon public land management. This was followed up links to specific environmental assessments that analyze grazing permit issuance for several allotments in Nevada that also encompass all or part of wild horse and burro herd management areas. All in all, it would be quite the stack if printed out. I hope that this information leads the recipient to a greater comprehension of the complexities inherent to the mission of “multiple use management” and perhaps to a realization that the consideration and appreciation of wild horses is not the sole province of wild horse and burro advocacy groups.

Recently, the United States found the greater sage grouse to be “warranted but precluded”; I am not an expert on the ESA, but basically it means to me that if the USFWS had less to do, it could have been listed. Although addressing the habitat needs of sage grouse has been part and parcel of federal agency “Big D” decisions for quite some time now, I expect that future decisions will be made even more cautiously and come under even more scrutiny. Changes are inevitable in the journey of life. How we react and adapt to them is the measure of our character.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Anna Allen-Pittson, Reno, UNR, aapittson@gmail.com

Kristi McKinnon, Elko, JBR Environmental Consultants, Inc, kmckinnon@jbrenv.com

Sarah Rose Ravenelle, Carson City, student, sarah.ravenelle@gmail.com

Welcome to the Nevada Section! Hope to meet you at the summer meeting!

ELECTION CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to President-Elect Kevin Piper, returning Zone Councilman Ryan Shane, and new Zone Council members BJ Raymond (Zone 3) and Ann Bollinger (Zone 4). Thank you very much!

2010 SUMMER MEETING – JUNE 30 to JULY 2 at UNR GUND RANCH

Kevin Piper

President Elect Kevin Piper plans a great opportunity for some good old hands-on **soils** work for the summer meeting. Yes, we are planning a soils refresher course to be held July 1 at the Nevada Agricultural Experiment Station's Gund Ranch. CEU's will be available. The class will be taught by Paul Blackburn, NRCS Soils Scientist from Elko who has designed the class so that we will be traversing the ranch on foot discussing soil properties, climate, aspect, landforms and how all this relates and should be considered important to soil/ecological site correlation and examination. The traverse will include multiple small hand dug soil pits and auger holes placed in representative areas of ecological sites and landforms. At each pit soil properties observed will be discussed and their importance to the presence or absence of species occurrence on site. Discussion of other soil related topics will be addressed during the traverse as well.

It all kicks off for those who want to arrive on Wednesday, June 30 with an informal potluck dinner and gathering at the Gund Ranch Headquarters starting at 4pm. A good chance to visit, socialize and go for a soak in the hot pond!

Thursday, July 1 the day starts at 7am with breakfast provided; at 8:30am the Soils Refresher Course begins. Registration opens at 7am; CEU's will be available. During the day lunch will be provided by the UNR Range Club. The course will continue until approximately 4pm, when we will return to the Gund Ranch Headquarters for a Social Hour sponsored by the UNR Range Club followed by a Dutch oven dinner included in your registration cost. After dinner will be a panel discussion on: The inconsistencies of implementation associated with the use of Ecological Site information. This is a chance to have an open discussion by class participants and agency personnel (invited) from USFS, BLM, NRCS and USFWS.

Breakfast is served Friday morning at 7am followed by the Section business meeting from 8:30 to noon.

REGISTRATION IS DUE BY JUNE 15, 2010. SIGN UP EARLY AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE EARLY REGISTRATION FEE OR FOR YOU PROCRASTINATORS PAY MORE THE DAY OF THE CLASS, YOUR CHOICE OF COURSE.

Directions:

The Gund Ranch is located 45 miles NE of Austin, Nevada

From Hwy 50: Turn North on the Grass Valley Road approximately six miles East of Austin. Follow the signs 40 miles to the ranch.

From Hwy 278: Turn at the JD Ranch turnoff approximately 45 miles South of Carlin, Nevada. Follow the signs 30 miles to the ranch.

From Crescent Valley and Beowawe: Turn South at Cortez Gold Mine. Follow the signs 25 miles to the ranch.

Wednesday Afternoon/Evening – June 30th, 4pm to 9pm

Early arrival for those participants who would like to gather at the Gund Ranch to set up camp, orient themselves and enjoy a potluck dinner and socialize.

Thursday – July 1st – Soils Refresher Course and Panel Discussion

- 7:00 am. Breakfast provided; registration opens Nevada Curlew Chapter, IDOS
- 8:30 am. Soils Refresher Course Begins; assemble at the Gund Ranch Headquarters
- 8:40 am. Welcome and Opening Remarks Ken Visser – NV Section SRM President
- 8:45 am. Soils Refresher / Course overview Paul Blackburn, NRCS Elko, NV.
- 9:00 am. Load in vehicles and travel to soils field site to initiate course work

An area of the ranch will be traversed discussing soil properties, climate, aspect, landforms and how all this relates and should be considered important to soil/ecological site correlation and examination. The traverse will include multiple small hand dug soil pits and auger holes placed in representative areas of ecological sites and landforms. At each pit soil properties observed will be discussed and their importance to the presence or absence of species occurrence on site. Discussions of other soil related topics will be addressed as well.

- 12 noon Lunch – make your own cold cut sandwiches, chips, drinks. Provided by UNR Range Club
- 1:00 pm. Continuation of Soils Refresher Course
- 4:00 pm. Return to Gund Ranch Headquarters
- 5:00 pm. Social Hour - Provided by UNR Range Club
- 6:00 pm Dutch oven Dinner – Provided by the Nevada Curlew Chapter, IDOS and the UNR Range Club
- 7:00 pm Panel Discussion on: The inconsistencies of implementation associated with the use of Ecological Site information.**
- Soils class participants and agency personnel (invited) from USFS, BLM, NRCS and USFWS.

Friday – July 2nd – Nevada Section SRM Business Meeting

- 7:00 am. Breakfast Nevada Curlew Chapter, IDOS
- 8:30 am. State Updates Ken Visser
- Section History Update Les McKenzie
- Zone Council Updates Shane, Hatch, Raymond, Bollinger, Drew, Tibbitts, Orr
- Budget Update – Discussion Erica Freese
- Old / New Business Ken Visser

UNR RANGE CLUB

Most of you saw the article Tamzen sent around about the great participation and winning efforts of the UNR students at the Denver meeting. You can see on the agenda for the summer meeting that they are very involved with making it be a success for you. Let's all support them in their efforts. It has been a tough spring for them with the situation at UNR.

GREAT BASIN AGGIES

The Great Basin College Aggies Club hosted the 5th annual Agriculture Support Dinner on Friday April 30th. The speakers for this year's event were Advocates for Agriculture Troy and Stacy Hadrick of Vale, South Dakota. They presented their talk "Discovering Your Influential Power" to help motivate and educate attendees on how to become influential in your community. This is a tough year for agriculture in Nevada and Troy and Stacy will provide strategies for increasing the influence that agricultural producers, educators, and students can have on the outcomes of agricultural issues.

NEVADA YOUTH RANGE CAMP

50th ANNIVERSARY YEAR !!!

SECOND OLDEST RANGE CAMP IN SRM!

This year is our 50th anniversary; we have the second oldest range camp in SRM! The dates are June 20-26 at Big Creek Campground in the Toiyabe Mountains south of Austin. It all happens because of the hard work of individuals from University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Nevada Division of Forestry, Bureau of Land Management, Nevada Division of Conservation Districts, US Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada Department of Wildlife and other volunteers over the years who just love Range Camp and the opportunities it offers to Nevada youth. Nevada SRM also thanks Nevada Conservation Districts, Nevada Bighorns Unlimited, Nevada Wildlife Federation and our own Section for the finances to make it all happen.

DENVER - NEVADA REBUTTAL TO DR. MACK'S PLENARY CHEATGRASS "WAR"

"Contrary to what you may have heard earlier at this conference, my co-authors and I think that a war on cheatgrass is unnecessary and unwinnable. Furthermore, in every war there are collateral casualties. If the war is waged with skill, commitment of adequate resources, precise tactics, and accurate intelligence, then collateral damages can be minimized, and the lives and livelihood of the native population are preserved for the benefit of non-combatants. History is replete with the consequences of ill conceived wars fought for the wrong reasons, without commitment and consideration of the unintended consequences. Thus, we contend that until society is ready and able to gather the required intelligence and commit adequate resources to reclaim our rangelands then we must learn to manage cheatgrass. The consequences of a ready, fire, aim strategy such as the use of biotic crusts to eliminate cheatgrass from rangelands is akin to massive radiation treatments. You may cure the cancer but will surely kill the patient". Gary McQuin, Charlie Clements, James Young, and Barry Perryman in Gary's presentation at the Denver meeting, "Managing for the best of the worst, what do we do with cheatgrass?"

WESTERN NATIONAL RANGELAND CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT

Rick Orr

Maggie and I and Kent McAdoo had the opportunity to attend the pilot offering of this event in Twin Falls, ID. It is being developed by Lovina Roselle, Karen Launchbaugh, and Brindan Brezee with input from several individuals in Utah and Nevada. The contest portion took place on Friday afternoon with youth evaluating sage grouse habitat, livestock management, stocking level calculations, plant ID and physiological factors such as slope, aspect, soil texture and depth, etc. Saturday included a split team quiz on the material, an agency career and college recruitment fair, a second quiz for the two top quiz contest teams and a banquet and presentation of awards for the judging contest. The contest format is strongly tied to data collection techniques, landscape scale evaluation, and knowledge of plants and wildlife/livestock forage and habitat needs. Although I don't agree with trying to establish a split national contest as teams from Nevada have done well placing at the current national contest, this is a well developed contest format and provides an excellent opportunity to test student's skills and have opportunities to meet agency and natural resource related college representatives. Currently the plan is to get three to seven or more states involved with the contest and have it move from state to state on a rotating basis. The plan is for Nevada to host the contest next year, probably in Elko County.

THE PROGRESSIVE RANCHER PROJECT

Organizer Maggie Orr offers many thanks to the authors in our on-going Section project to submit relevant, practical articles to convey range management and current issues to practitioners in the field using every other month articles in *The Progressive Rancher* magazine. You can view the articles at <http://www.progressiverancher.com/progranchissues.html> on TPR site and see the outstanding layout and design our articles receive or just read the Word files found on the Section website at http://www.ag.unr.edu/nsrm/progr_rancher.htm. Though we have a link for questions and comments, we have not received any since we began in April 2007. Maggie asked publisher Leana Stitzel her opinion of our work and she replied, "You need to keep on keeping on...that's what I think...good work...good people...thank you for letting me be part of it."

Already this year we have had articles on wild horses and Nevada Youth Range Camp. The plan is for energy discussions by Jake Tibbitts, Duane Coombs on aligning the planets to accomplish project work at Smith Creek Ranch, Erica Freese on livestock manipulation for sage grouse chicks and Kent McAdoo on a TBA topic. Maggie welcomes any suggestions or offers of authorship; the schedule is flexible to include publication of event times as well. Articles should be about 1500 words or less and photos are ok to include.

2014 MEETING

Thanks to all who offered opinions in the 2014 survey if Nevada should host the 2014 or partner with another section or allow another section without meeting facilities to organize one on our turf. It was a mixed bag of answers! The 2014 meeting will be in Orlando, Florida. Catch the meetings before then at Billings-February 5-11, 2011, Spokane-January 28-February 3, 2012 and Oklahoma City-February 4-7, 2013.

SRM COOKBOOK

Jessica Taylor of Salmon, ID NRCS is coordinating the new SRM cookbook submissions. She seeks recipes, range stories and range photos for the project. Please include your name, ranch name, SRM

section and city and state with each submission. Send them to srmcookbook@yahoo.com. Jessica also needs someone to organize this for Nevada. Volunteer at the summer meeting or notify Jessica at Jessica.Taylor@id.usda.gov. More information at www.rangelands.org.

PREMIER SHOWING AND PRIMO EATING

Kevin Piper, Gary McCuin, Ron Torell, and Rick and Maggie Orr of the Nevada Curlew Chapter of the International Dutch Oven Society wowed the Genoa Cowboy Poetry Gathering with such delicacies as Tennessee Bread Pudding as well as presenting the debut of the first "Hope on the Range" poster. Gary McCuin designed the initial poster in the series: "RANGELANDS: What are they? Why would you care?" More than 400 stopped by the booth to see what was cooking in the black pots and then look at our poster. Many even gave us their email addresses to send them occasional info on rangelands. The poster will be on display at the summer meeting for comments. Thanks to the NV Section and other sponsors for the monetary support. The combination of food and information seemed powerful; people were receptive to reading the poster carefully.

NEWS AND NOTES

~Barry Perryman reports, "Nothing has changed!" in the on-going issue of feral horses. Jeremy Drew adds, "I'm not sure what exactly that means, good, bad or indifferent."

~Alex Werbeckes said, "I think I can speak for the both of us [Austin Piper too] when I say Denver was great and we had a blast."

~REMARKS BY U.S. SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE TOM VILSACK AND U.S. AMBASSADOR KARL W. EIKENBERRY AT A CEREMONY TO HONOR **STEVEN THOMAS STEFANI IV**
<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal?contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/01/0011.xml>

~National Native Seed Conference, May 17-21 at Snowbird, UT. Register at nativeseed.info.
http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/boise/research/shrub/Links/2010_National_Native_Seed_Conference.pdf

~Good news! http://www.sltrib.com/Business/ci_14429181

~Water info: <http://inform.com/united-states/guzzlers-gouge-rift-nevada-state-agencies-776377a>

~16th Wildland Shrub Symposium, Utah State University, May 18-20, register at
<http://conference.usu.edu/shrub/reqform.pdf>

~Great online training sites for invasive plant management from Scott Marsh of NV Dept of Ag:

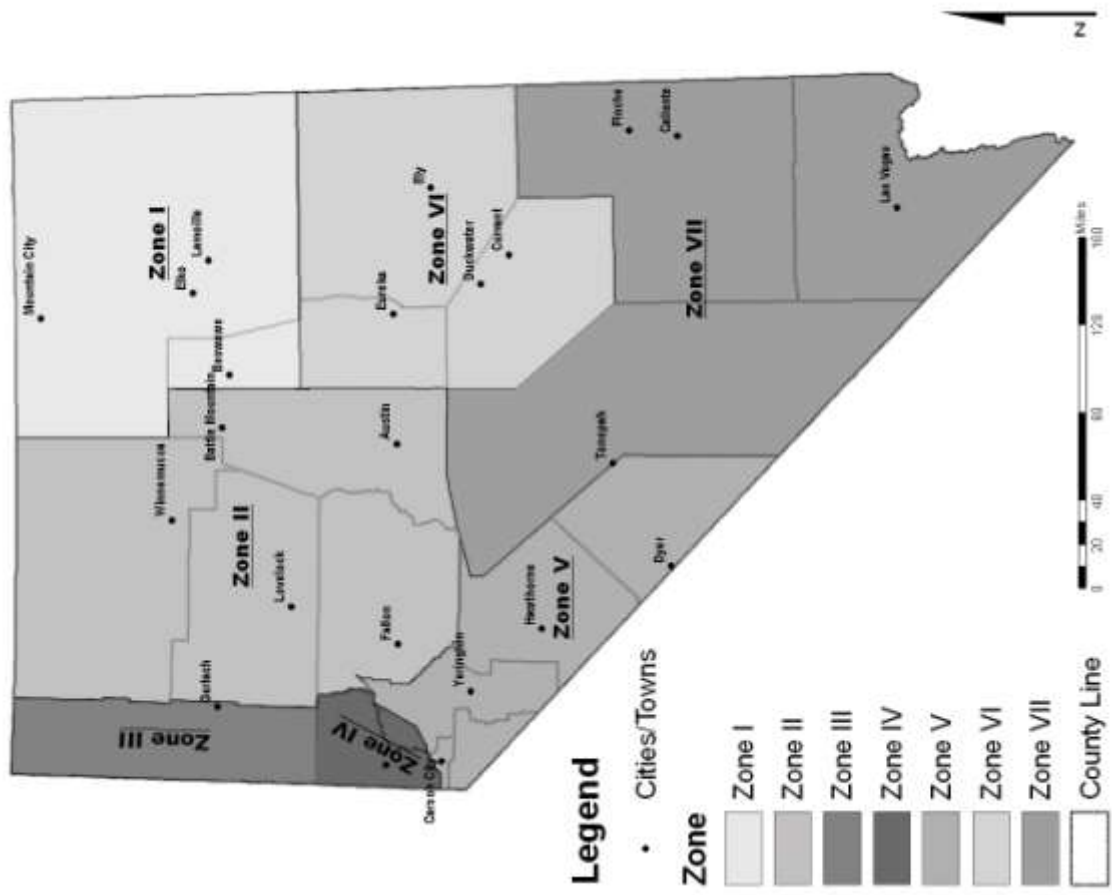
For volunteers and beginners, <http://www.fws.gov/invasives/volunteersTrainingModule/index.html>

For professionals looking to learn a little more, <http://www.fws.gov/invasives/staffTrainingModule/index.html>

x~PFC Class at Squaw Valley Ranch, June 10-11. Contact Sherm at sswanson@cabnr.unr.edu.

REMEMBER TO REGISTER FOR SUMMER MEETING BY JUNE 15.
FORM AVAILABLE ON NV SRM WEBSITE
<http://www.ag.unr.edu/nsrm/newsletter.html>

Nevada SRM Section Zones



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