



# RANGELAND NEWS

Society for Range Management  
Nevada Section

**EARLY FALL 2007**

**TO FOSTER ADVANCEMENT IN THE SCIENCE AND ART OF RANGELAND MANAGEMENT**

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## PRESIDENT'S PONDERERS

And Muddled Meanderings

So much has happened since the annual SRM meeting in Reno I hardly know where to begin. We had a great Range Camp with about 28 campers, some old counselors to keep us in line and several new counselors to keep us energized. I had the pleasure of cooking for the week and received a great honor from Chris Freeman. It was a T shirt with the words "Dad's Diner, Burn it up and serve it cold". Thank you, Chris. I also have a much greater appreciation for the hard work and sacrifice made by the Benson family over the many years to the Section and Range Camp providing many fine meals in somewhat less than ideal conditions. Thank you, Benson family. Regarding the less than ideal conditions, NDF has agreed to designate one of their Sonoma Kitchens to Range Camp for our sole use. NDF will determine the repairs needed and provide the Section a detailed fix-it list for the Section to vote on in Bishop at our winter meeting. Thank you, NDF.

The summer meeting was hosted by the Smith Creek Ranch, Duane and Heather Coombs and the Hendrix Family. Thank you one and all. We got to see some very interesting riparian areas, riparian aspen stands and some good work and management

by the Ranch and BLM. It is amazing the good things that can happen with open communication and people working together toward a common goal. On the not so bright side, we also got to see a lot of mountain with closed canopy pinion juniper that had crossed the threshold some time ago. Duane's fingers must be sore from keeping them crossed all summer because the Desatoya Range did not burn this year. When it does it will most likely be another catastrophic wildfire with tremendous damage to wildlife habitat and rangelands.

This brings me to the burning issue (I could not help myself), wildfire. Lots of things have happened this year in regards to wildfire. State and federal agencies, NGO's, NACO and others have met several times in the development of a plan to advance proactive fire prevention in Nevada. This effort got a great boost this year when the governors of Nevada, Idaho, Utah and Wyoming met in Boise and declared "War on Cheatgrass". The governors initiated a multi-state group to ***"To promote healthy land and landscapes through sound management practices that will break the cycle of catastrophic wildfires."*** Utah has made great strides in their effort along this line through the Utah Partners in Conservation and Development. Governor Gibbons recently committed to importing and implementing this strategy. Nevada Departments of Agriculture, Wildlife, Conservation, and Division of Forestry have also committed to leading the implementation of this proven strategy in Nevada.

Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative is a partnership-driven conservation effort to restore and manage ecosystem health in priority areas across the state. Conservation strategies implemented as part of this effort benefit multiple species and multiple uses:

- Native wildlife and biological diversity
- Water quality and yield for municipal, agricultural and wildlife uses
- Sustainable agriculture through working farms and ranches
- Quality of life through outdoor recreation opportunities and other intrinsic watershed values

Utah's results are significant and speak for themselves:

- Over \$20 million from multiple sources committed since 2003
- Almost 500,000 acres treated and three times that amount effected with better management practices protecting Utah's values.
- Over 50 conservation partners from state and federal agencies and local governments, agriculture groups, conservation organizations, hunting & fishing groups, others

Another significant achievement was the Great Basin Scientific Forum hosted by UNR, College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources. Thanks to the Section members the Nevada Section has contributed \$2,000 towards this effort. I received nearly 40 responses from the section membership in support of funding the forum, none in opposition. Most of the participants are SRM members and many are also NV Section members. SRM is at the forefront of the effort to regain healthy rangelands, I am very proud to be a part of this organization. The proceeds of the forum will be published as an Experiment Station Bulletin, possibly before Christmas. The major themes derived from this forum were:

- Ecosystem Management and Rehabilitation to Functionality
- Manage annual rangelands as annual rangelands to prevent further degradation
- Fuels Management and Pre-suppression
- Economic & Total Cost-Benefit Analysis of Fire Impacts

- Ecosystem Development
- Monitoring
- Education of Range Managers
- Get Ahead of Fires and Planning for Impacts – recognize current climate and manage and re-vegetate with appropriate species

Once the Bulletin is published there will be a lot of work for the Section and the State to distribute this information and hopefully get it implemented through the Nevada Partners in Conservation and Development.

Keep up the good work and I hope to see many of you in Bishop for the joint meeting with the California Section.

Gary McCuin

## **WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!**

**Clark J. Guild III**, Reno, NV, [cjgiii@nvcbell.net](mailto:cjgiii@nvcbell.net)  
**Michael R. Holbert**, Sparks, NV, [mholbert2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mholbert2@sbcglobal.net)  
**Michele McDaniel**, BLM-Battle Mountain, NV, [mush\\_shellmcdaniel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mush_shellmcdaniel@sbcglobal.net)  
**Jill M. Nannenga**, Winnemucca, NV, [jillnannenga@hotmail.com](mailto:jillnannenga@hotmail.com)  
**Ed Ryan**, Yerington, NV, [seryan@gbis.com](mailto:seryan@gbis.com)

Patti reports membership is 189 as of September 1; several people have moved or have let their membership expire. Let's get them back!

## **ELECTIONS**

Past President Bob Wilson is working on the slate of candidates for Section offices. If you would like to serve, please let him know. To get the newsletter out sooner and save printing and mailing costs, the election ballot alone will be mailed to you this month. Please return your ballots to Bob by October 29 so he can announce the results at the Winter Meeting November 2 in Bishop.

As a preview, Ken Conley has accepted the nomination to run for Section President.

My name is Ken Conley. I am a native Nevadan, raised in Gerlach, Nevada, graduating from Gerlach High School in 1974. I attended the University of Nevada from 1974 to 1978 and received a B.S. in Agriculture in 1978. In 1978 I became employed by the University of Nevada as a Research Aid at the Gund Research and Demonstration Facility. I became manager of this facility in 1985 and continue in that capacity at the present time. In 1991 I entered graduate school at the University of Nevada and received an M.S. in Animal Science in 1993. I became a member of SRM in 2004. Since then I have become aware of the benefits associated with active involvement in SRM. I believe that increased participation and membership in SRM, particularly by individuals in the range livestock industry, is essential for promoting the sustainability of ranching on public lands. I would be honored to serve as Section President of the Nevada Section of the Society for Range Management.

## JOINT WINTER MEETING WITH CAL/PAC SECTION

All registration information is on the Section website home page

<http://www.ag.unr.edu/nsrm/>

Friday, November 2: 8 AM - 3:30 PM – Coffee and Tea, Technical Sessions, Luncheon

Friday, November 2: 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM – Nevada Business Meeting at Inyo Mono Title Company Conference Room (873 N. Main St.)

### We will decide at the winter business meeting:

- Proposal for associate/emeritus membership – Jack and Patti
- How to allocate the 2007 meeting profit – Range Camp Task Force / Sherm for scholarships
- By-laws and Handbook recommendations – Jim Linebaugh
- Committees: do we want them?

Friday, November 2: 5:00 PM - 9:30 PM – Social Hour and Banquet

Saturday, November 3: 8 AM - 5 PM – Field Tour with boxed lunch

### **TECHNICAL SESSION AGENDA (Subject to Change)**

Start at 9AM Friday at Whiskey Creek Restaurant

- Moderator, Dave Kelley
  - Welcome, CalPac Section, Royce Larsen (5min)
  - Welcome, Nevada Section, Gary McCuin (5min)
  - Welcome, Inyo County, Linda Arcularius, Inyo County Supervisor (5 min)
- Dave Martin, LADWP's Watershed Management: Mono Basin To Owens Lake (30 min)
- Debbie House, Range Trend Monitoring Program (30 min)

Break 10:35 (15 min)

- Brian Tillemans, Lower Owens River Restoration Project (LORP) overview (30 Min)
- Jeff Starosta, BLM, Eastern Sierra Public Rangelands (30 min)
- Richard Stewart, Fort Independence Indian Reservation, Prehistoric Occupation and Contemporary Land Use (60 Min)

Lunch 12:05 (60 min)

Meeting Resume at 1:00

- Moderator, Dave Kelley (5 min)
- Terry McLendon, LADWP Consultant, Uses of the EDYS ecological model as a grazing management tool (with examples from Owens Valley). (60 min)

2:10 BREAK

- Yvonne Wood, UCCE, Soils and Geology (30 min)
- Jack Alexander, Mixing old school with the space age: Monitoring in the Eastern Sierra (30 min)
- Wrap-up, Dave Kelley

3:15 Meeting Closes

### **FIELD TOUR AGENDA (Subject to Change)**

Everyone is to meet at Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) Offices at 300 Mandich Lane, in Bishop at 8:00 am. After loading the buses we will travel to the

Owens River Bridge on Benton Crossing Road north of Bishop to discuss the Riparian Livestock Grazing Program on LADWP lands. Then the group will go to Chalk Bluffs road to discuss multiple uses on LADWP lands and the implementation of the Owens Valley Land Management Plan. The third stop will be the Elk Field south of Big Pine. The fourth stop (time permitting) will be the Hines Spring Restoration Site. The Aqueduct Intake would be next stop, with an introduction to the Lower Owens River Restoration Project (LORP). The group will then move to the Blackrock Waterfowl Management Area, Well 368 to discuss Threatened and Endangered Species, range management, and adaptive management on LADWP lands. The final destination is Owens Lake where we will visit the Delta area and Pumpback Station, with a discussion of the Dust Control by LADWP on Owens Lake.

## 2006 AWARDS

Cub Wolfe presented the awards for 2006 at the summer meeting. As Jim Linebaugh likes to say, we have many people deserving of recognition. CONGRATULATIONS! And thank you for your contribution to range.

Past President Award: **Bob Wilson** – will keep working on the fire issues

Excellence in Range Management: **Merlin Flake** – Selected by the Outstanding Rancher of the Year team in 2006, Merlin manages the Cleveland Ranch for the LDS Church in North Spring Valley in White Pine County. Merlin stated they are “hidden in Las Vegas’ water field” with no plans to sell; the Church is committed to raise beef for their welfare distribution and Merlin strives to produce much beef as cheaply as he can, doing the best management possible.

Range Manager of the Year: **Agee Smith** – Kent McAdoo told the story of the Holistic Management Team that began the process in 1996 on the Cottonwood Ranch in Elko County that has seen success on the uplands and riparian areas through management based on duration and timing of grazing. Agee stated accolades go to all the crew and the team and he said he would “never go back” to the old way of doing business; he reaps the rewards of the effort to build trust.

Rangeland Professional of the Year: **Kent McAdoo** – Kent remarked he is pleased to be part of SRM with its camaraderie and diversity within the group. See the following.

Great Basin Award: **Nevada Wildlife Federation**, accepted by Gail Dupree. One of the groups that makes Range Camp possible; where youth get involved in the outdoors. In May, NvWF gave another \$1000 toward Range Camp. Many thanks.

Sustained Achievement Award: **Lester McKenzie** – who unfortunately could not be present to receive his well-deserved award.

## 2006 RANGELAND PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR KENT MCADOO

Nominated by Brad Schultz

Kent McAdoo has contributed to the science and education of rangelands in Nevada for over 30 years. His initial contribution started in the early 1970's and addressed the predation of domestic sheep in north-eastern Nevada. During Kent's long career in Nevada he has worked for the University of Nevada Reno, the mining industry and with JBR Environmental Consultants. The constant theme throughout Kent's 30+ year career has been adherence to high professional standards; the search for and application of the best available knowledge and science to address pressing issues; and collaboration among individuals across disciplines, agencies, and non-governmental organizations.

Kent's contribution to the management of rangelands in Nevada is exemplified by his contributions the past nine years, as an Area Natural Resource Specialist for the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension. During this period Kent has created, coordinated and/or participated in numerous education programs across Nevada. Depending on the specific program, his area of influence has ranged from Elko County to statewide. Among the many education programs for which Kent has assumed a leadership role are the Nevada Range Management School, Cooperative Extension's emerging vegetation management education program, permittee monitoring workshops, Nevada Youth Range Camp, the Elko County Weed Summit, Pesticide Applicator Workshops, and Riparian Proper Functioning Condition Workshops. Kent's role in creating and coordinating the Nevada Range Management School exemplifies his collaborative approach to the management of rangeland resources. He successfully brought together Extension faculty, campus based faculty, agency resource specialists (BLM, USFS, and NRCS), and producers to establish an interdisciplinary approach to teaching applied plant-animal relationships, from the plant to landscape scales.

Kent's collaborative work is best demonstrated by his efforts with the Northeastern Nevada Stewardship Group (NENSG) and the Shoesole Resource Management Team. Kent has been involved with the NENSG since its formation in 1999, and has been the primary coordinator for many of the outstanding workshops they have organized.

Without doubt, Kent McAdoo's long, sustained, and successful commitment to the enhancement of rangeland resources in Nevada, for all land users, qualifies him for receipt of the 2006 Nevada Professional Rangeland Manager of the Year.

## **2007 SUMMER TOUR**

By Heather Mobley

Tucked away in central Nevada lays Smith Creek Ranch, which has undergone dramatic change in recent years. Since the Hendrix family purchased the ranch in 1995 and hired Duane Coombs to manage it they have given a fine example of how cooperative efforts will not go unrewarded. Working with everyone from NDOW to NRCS and with the help of dedicated cowboys, Sam, Clint and McKay, the ranch and those who have teamed up with them have tasted success. Smith Creek provided a tour of aspen and riparian areas and good representations of the typical Nevada landscape which gave us the opportunity to discuss fire in detail as well. Jack Alexander, monitoring specialist for the ranch, was present to discuss what actions the ranch has taken and how monitoring has benefited the ranch. Duane took us to several points on the ranch that have transitioned from poor to good condition and he also took us to see the areas that aren't what he hoped they would be, hoping to pick our brains for ideas. We camped in a meadow near

the ranch headquarters just a short distance from an old pony express station. Gary McCuin, Rick Orr and Ron Torrell cooked, and finer meals under the Nevada sky could not be found. They pulled out all the stops and put on a fine spread for us right down to the fresh, and I mean fresh, goat milk for us in the morning.

Present at the tour to give a talk on aspens and the issues' surrounding their management was David Burton of the Aspen Delineation Project. David has been working with aspen for eight years and was also with us at last summer's meeting. He started by reminding us that aspen groves are a valuable ecosystem for wildlife and livestock alike. The management of this kind of area is something that the Smith Creek Ranch deals with on a regular basis as aspen sites are many all along both Smith and Edwards Creeks enabling us to learn in a virtual classroom of sorts. Aspen are apical plants and therefore are prone to inhibited growth if their apex is grazed. Balancing when domestic animals use these areas is crucial to grove survival. A clear sign that aspen saplings aren't getting the attention they need is if they look like bushes rather than trees indicating consistent use is taking place; since animals don't "prefer" aspen, something else on the range must be wrong. This was the take home message of the day according to David who pointed out that aspen seldom regenerate via seed as they are in need of optimal conditions that aren't always met. However, they do regenerate much better via root sprouts and the goal is to establish cohorts and to keep animals off the saplings long enough to give them a chance to survive. David also pointed out that overstory is much less important than the establishment of these cohorts. In fact, overstory can inhibit the growth of the understory and may need to be managed with fire. Perhaps the most difficult challenge for land managers is to agree on what exactly the goal is for these aspen stands. Finding a balance can be difficult but with cooperation it is possible. Duane has shown cooperation in many ways including the use of exclosures to see how these groves will react to rest from grazing by his cows. The ranch has also taken up monitoring of not only these aspen stands but of the whole ranch. They hired Jack Alexander, of Synergy Resource Solutions, Inc., to reach their monitoring goals. Jack has performed aspen density and riparian green line surveys as well as ecological status inventories of the uplands. He has collected biannual utilization data, maintained several photo points and helped establish a two year deferment for riparian recovery as part of the ranch grazing plan. Several people mentioned the removal of pinyon and juniper from the uplands in order to raise water tables and to make available more moisture for the aspen and the creeks is a subject often overlooked.

Also present at the tour were Chris Hanson and Jason Salson, representatives from NDOW, to talk about sage grouse studies and habitat improvement on the ranch. The ranch has allowed NDOW to do sage grouse research mainly by collaring several grouse to track their seasonal distribution and by doing counts. Sage grouse counts on the Smith Creek are high, over 1000, and Duane and the Hendrix family have allowed for and encouraged the research, recognizing that what is good for the sage grouse can also be good for the land. That is why NDOW has been supportive of Duane's attempts to raise the water table in areas of the ranch with the removal of pinyon and juniper in ways that preserve the important sagebrush habitat for sage grouse.

Robin Tausch, of Rocky Mountain Research Station, described a new way to categorize pinyon-juniper communities into three phases. Phase 1 represents the first 50 years of a community and has low tree dominance. Phase 2 represents the following 50 years (50-100 years), which has mid tree dominance. And finally, phase 3 represents the last 50

years (100 to 150) that has high tree dominance. The point he made was that the higher the tree dominance, the lower the understory amount and the hotter a fire will burn through that area. He states that there is a threshold that is crossed in the middle of phase 2 where before that point, where you will have 40% tree cover or less, not much change in understory takes place. But once you surpass 40% tree cover, the understory will then drop out. Tausch pointed out that right now ¼ million acres cross this threshold per year in the US (35-40 thousand acres in Nevada) which brought us to discussions on how we can treat this problem. Dr. Tausch pointed out that we should not bother with those areas that have already crossed the threshold until we have addressed those areas that haven't. He stresses that the best approach is to help these savable stands to not carry a fire. Most treatments discussed to address these areas involved targeting individual trees with fire. Another method introduced was the girdling of trees to weaken them leaving them prone to bark beetles. Once attacked by beetles, the tree would lose its needles within two years significantly reducing its fuel load. Also discussed, was what to do once a phase 3 area has burned. The biggest concern to our group seemed to be the need to have seed banks readily available in the event of fire to reseed these areas in a timely manner and before the first rain in order to prevent cheatgrass invasion.

Our last stop of the tour was at what Duane called the "eye sore of the ranch." He told us that haying took place near the bottom of Edwards Creek and that a huge head cut at this site was once used as an irrigation gate. At some point the irrigation ceased and cows were let in to use the area cutting trails and creating a site with a high potential for erosion. It was this in combination with two events throughout the years where flooding occurred that created a huge head cut at this site. Range professionals present were fascinated by the geology and history of this site which is now home to a large amount of willows. It was suggested that if left alone, time would heal the problem.

## **2007 SUMMER BUSINESS MEETING**

Convening with the sage grouse in the meadow at Smith Creek Ranch we learned that we should make \$16,732 (FINAL FIGURE IS \$16,872) on the 2007 meeting in addition to the \$1000 for winning the membership challenge. Way to go Nevada Section! Membership stood at 204 as of April 29. We discussed including honorary members and decided to allow it as an SOP in the officer's handbook rather than a by-laws change. The idea of an associate/emeritus category for about \$25/year was well received as a way to honor those who have served for many years. Jack Alexander suggested we could use the beer wagon money to sponsor them! Jack and Patti Novak-Echenique will get together and submit a proposal for the winter meeting.

James Gatzke reported on the successful range camp. Greg Beasley was the director and Gary McCuin cooked. The Trailboss was Guy Stearns of Smith Valley with runner-up Kelly Evenson of Elko County. We hope they will present at the Bishop meeting. The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of range camp will be in 2011!

Cub reviewed the 2006 awards he presented at dinner and stated he plans to always tell those receiving before so they can be present and he will lay the awards out for all to see. We have four extra awards to give this year as we are thanking the traditional range camp sponsors with Great Basin Awards. These are the Nevada Wildlife Federation, Nevada Bighorns, Conservation Districts for sponsoring kids' tuition, and Nevada Division of Forestry. He has nominees for all the usual awards so will present the 2007 awards at the November meeting. Jim Linebaugh reminded us we



have many people in the Nevada Section that are deserving of recognition. April is the cut-off for the National awards so think about that for next year. Cub is no longer on the parent society awards committee but he has examples of submissions for all the national awards to use as models.

There was considerable discussion as to the best way to allocate the money we earned from the 2007 meeting. Suggestions included the endowment fund, scholarships, and a kitchen for range camp. Since all are good ideas Gary will appoint a Range Camp Task Force to report at the November meeting on equipment needs/prices and Sherm will report on scholarships, how much we have and where and how we can spend them. There is interest in scholarships for Great Basin College students as well as UNR. Nevada Bighorns are willing to help with the kitchen; we would like a propane refrigerator. Rick states we have about \$24,000 in the total endowment fund with just under \$15,000 in the corpus, leaving about \$9000 to spend as the governing board decides. We will vote at the November meeting.

Jim Linebaugh said the committee to examine the by-laws and handbooks will have recommendations for the November meeting. He thinks there will only be minor changes to the by-laws and maybe more to the officer's handbook. Everyone should review the handbooks on line, [http://www.ag.unr.edu/nsrm/nevada\\_srm\\_documents.htm](http://www.ag.unr.edu/nsrm/nevada_srm_documents.htm) and give your feedback to Gary or Jim. We will put the zone council members on each agenda so they will appear and can get paid.

Gary asked the question again – do we want to have and use our committees or are we just a tour/social club? Jeremy Drew is starting and chairing a Wildlife Habitat Committee with Kent McAdoo. Heather Moblely said committees are a good way to involve students and give them a chance for experience, though they need leadership from the chair. Jack Alexander suggested ad hoc committees are the best. We agreed the committees need a job to do and they should submit a written report to speed up the section meetings. Decide what you think and commit!

Gary reported that John McLain has written an Urgent Needs Paper that highlights the situation that several outstanding minds of the Great Basin such as Dr. Jim Young and Dr. Robin Tausch are close to retirement and we need to capture their knowledge of what conditions are, how we got there and how can we fix it. We will contact the other sections that have portions of the Great Basin and together send a resolution to the parent society to support this work. We could incorporate this and our fire work and the Sage Steppe project into a regional symposium.

Maggie reported on our work in *The Progressive Rancher*. We have submitted three articles so far: Gary's introductory one, Sherm's on the new Monitoring Handbook, and the next will be Dr. Young's cheatgrass article. Also in line are goat ones from Leslie Haug and Ken Conley's cheatgrass work at the Gund Ranch. Please submit articles to Maggie; she is managing, not writing the articles. All felt comfortable that Maggie would seek advice on any potentially questionable articles in the future. The response link is active on the section website; there have been no comments yet. Maggie will try to get our summary and disclaimer blurb included with each article. You can view the paper online now at [www.progressiverancher.com](http://www.progressiverancher.com). Articles are limited to 1500 words. Thank you for the excellent articles so far submitted.

The Producer's Committee of Ken Conley and Agee Smith will make sure we have a booth at the Nevada Cattlemen's Association meeting in Reno this fall. We want to continue the outreach work that was so successful at their Elko meeting last fall. We will ask the Cal-Pac Section to help as it will be a joint Cattlemen's meeting with California.

Jack Alexander is running for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of Society for Range Management. Nevada is his home section and he would like our endorsement. Cub

spoke to endorse Jack and add further support to Rick Orr's candidacy for Board of Directors.

It was great to have the UNR Range Club present for the meeting. The students thanked Duane for including them in the on-going ranch monitoring before the tour. They are looking for fundraising activities to be able to attend the meeting in Louisville. They will have a plant team and maybe an URME team. Got a project? Contact Brittney Askew at [brittneya2216@yahoo.com](mailto:brittneya2216@yahoo.com); the range club can use your help.

We will try to move all our products for sale at every meeting, ours, Cattlemen's, wherever. We have wild rags, cookbooks, sweatshirts and T-shirts.

We gave many thanks to Duane Coombs and the Hendrix Family of the Smith Creek Ranch for their hospitality and wonderful location. See the real minutes at (<http://www.ag.unr.edu/nsrm/Minutes.html>).

## **GREAT BASIN FIRE ECOLOGY & VEGETATION MANAGEMENT**

Submitted by Kent McAdoo

On July 13<sup>th</sup>, 45 people attended a technical session on "Great Basin Fire Ecology and Vegetation Management" at the Elko Convention Center. This symposium was co-sponsored by the Northeastern Nevada Stewardship Group, Elko County, Bureau of Land Management, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, Nevada Division of Forestry, Nevada Cattlemen's Association, Local Volunteer Fire Departments, Nevada Department of Wildlife, U.S. Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Jiggs and Owyhee Conservation Districts, Nevada Fire Safe Council, Great Basin College, and Nevada Section Society for Range Management.

Focus of the symposium was on three major categories: the role of fire historically in Great Basin wildland vegetation, implications for active vegetation management, and tools for active vegetation management. The goal of this session was to begin developing management strategies for reducing the size and intensity of wildland fires and sustaining multiple uses values. Keynote speakers were Dr. Charles Kay, Utah State University, on "Presettlement Fire – What Was "Natural?" and Dr. James A. Young, USDA Agricultural Research Service, on "History of Annual Grass Invasion."

Other speakers included Brad Schultz (Sagebrush Rangeland Ecology – Foundational Concepts), Kent McAdoo (Fire and Vegetation Change; Active Vegetation Management - Implications for Sagebrush and Associated Wildlife Species), Dr. Robin Tausch (Implications for Pinyon-Juniper Management), Dr. Sherm Swanson (Active Vegetation Management for Resilience), Dr. Gary Back (Assessing and Prioritizing Management Needs at the Watershed Scale), Jason Vernon (Fire and Fire Surrogates for Active Vegetation Management), and Ed Smith (Livestock Grazing as a Fuels Management Tool).

The technical session concluded with a panel discussion, "Where Do We Go from Here?" involving session speakers and representatives from BLM (Gene Seidnitz), Forest Service (Ed Monnig), Nevada Division of Forestry (Tom Turk), Nevada Department of Wildlife (Steve Foree), and Nevada Cattlemen's Association (Dan Galian). Although the diverse participants did not agree on every point, the general mood was to work cooperatively on vegetation management strategies that would minimize the negative impacts of wildland fire and promote resource sustainability.

## **THE PROGRESSIVE RANCHER**

Maggie seeks writers for future articles for *The Progressive Rancher* (TPR). Leslie Haug has begun an excellent series on things to know when using targeted grazing. Ken Conley has the next article based on his cheatgrass work at the Gund Ranch. We have made a great start with this project and need to keep it going. We submit articles of 1500 words every other month in the effort to connect current science or thought with those practicing range management on the ground. Please indicate to Maggie at [sideoatsg@yahoo.com](mailto:sideoatsg@yahoo.com) an article you would like to do or suggest someone else's work.

## **STUDENT UPDATE**

Submitted by Brittney Askew, UNR Student Chapter, SRM

The Range Club was able to have some of its members attend the SRM summer meeting at Smith Creek Ranch. The experience was educational, and as always we had a great time. We arrived a day before the meeting in order to experience some monitoring practices with Jack Alexander of Synergy Resource Solutions Inc. We focused on greenline and aspen monitoring. Our club is planning to attend the winter meeting in Bishop CA.

The Club has been brainstorming on some fundraising opportunities. We need fundraising projects so that we are able to go to the SRM meeting in Kentucky to compete with other schools. Some fundraising projects that have been brought in front of the committee are a fence building project for the Forest Service and a "steer a year" program where hopefully we could get ranchers to donate one "steer a year" to the UNR range club that we can feed out and sell at auction. Both projects are still in the works. We are also interested in any fundraising opportunities or suggestions that people are willing to make. (Contact Brittney at [brittneya2216@yahoo.com](mailto:brittneya2216@yahoo.com).)

Beginning in October we are going to start having plant study sessions in order to prepare for the competition in Kentucky.

## **BLM SUPPORTS STAFF INVOLVEMENT**

BLM recently released an internal memo supportive of participation in professional organizations. It is Instruction Memorandum No. 2007-131 and can be read in full at <http://www.blm.gov/nhp/efoia/wo/fy07/IM2007-131.htm> It states in part:

**Background:** The BLM manages the natural resources of the largest Federal land estate in the nation. To fulfill our mission to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands, the BLM must maintain a diverse and highly qualified professional workforce. Our employees are our greatest asset in ensuring that our management approaches are based on the best available science and meet professional standards.

With the many resource conservation challenges facing the BLM, it is essential that BLM professionals, regardless of occupation, maintain and enhance their knowledge and skills. Membership and participation in professional organizations is encouraged in order to maintain and enhance our capabilities in professional resource management. Such membership and participation not only helps to develop a knowledge-based workforce but also enables the BLM to accomplish our strategic and programmatic goals. It also helps to develop a higher degree of public confidence and trust in our professional

abilities. There are many benefits and opportunities as a member of professional organizations,.....

## **2008 INTERNATIONAL MEETING**

At <http://flsrm.ces.fau.edu/meetings.php> is a link to the revised guidelines for presentations for the 2008 Annual SRM/AFGC meeting in Louisville, KY. Important dates are included.

The Young Professionals Conclave has many activities planned for the Louisville meeting. Jason Hohlt, YPC President announces YPC has been asked to help with the 2008 Job Fair at the Louisville meeting by contacting potential employers of range graduates to see if they would like to have a booth at the Job Fair. Jason will coordinate the effort so if you have a suggestion, email him at [jason.hohlt@yahoo.com](mailto:jason.hohlt@yahoo.com) with the information. In Louisville there will be a business meeting, luncheon and Veteran Member Panel Discussion. For more details see <http://www.rangelands.org/ypc>.

## **NOTES AND DATES OF INTEREST**

~Ecological Site Descriptions "As a Management Tool" Workshop - Oct. 23, 24, & 25, Park City UT. For Registration and detailed information click on [http://www.rangelands.org/events\\_esd.shtml](http://www.rangelands.org/events_esd.shtml). Our own Kent McAdoo will speak.

~Find grasses and where they occur at <http://herbarium.usu.edu/webmanual/>

~The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies has put together a website for information sharing on wind energy. See [http://fishwildlife.org/agency\\_science\\_windwildlife.html](http://fishwildlife.org/agency_science_windwildlife.html).

~If you know of someone or a group that would benefit from reading our Section newsletter, forward it on or get their address to Maggie for permanent addition to the mailing list.

~Mason and Smith Valley Conservation Districts, Western Nevada Resource Conservation and Development and others are hosting a bioengineering workshop November 27-29. Contact the CD's at 775 463-2265 for more information.

## **State Range & Soil Judging Contests Held in Esmeralda County**

Submitted by James Gatzke

The State Range & Soil Judging Contests were held in Dyer, Nevada on Monday, October 1. Esmeralda County Conservation District and especially the Wallace family were a big help in organizing the event. The soil judging contest occurred on and near the farm of Leland Wallace in Fish Lake Valley. Soil judging contestants saw everything from a buried A horizon clay loam in the valley bottom to an extremely gravelly loam on an alluvial fan. The range judging contestants competed just below Nevada's highest peak at the mouth of Middle Creek. The contestants evaluated a riparian woodland, a loamy slope, and an upland woodland and identified plants in

Middle Creek and from the hot desert in Eureka Valley just to the south. Grant Wallace, James Gatzke and Tracey Jean Wolfe set up the contest sites.

Below are the top teams and individuals from each contest:

Soil Judging:	1) Smith Valley B	1) Nicholas Talbott, Smith Valley
	2) Smith Valley A	2) Jenna Calloway, Smith Valley
	3) Moapa Valley	3) Charlie Mann, Smith Valley
Range Judging:	1) Churchill County	1) Mark Stewart, Pahrnagat Valley
	2) Lincoln A	2) Jacklyn Burchard & Mireya Montero, Churchill
	3) Carson Valley	3) Moroni Wadsworth, Lincoln

## **HISTORICAL (or hysterical!) NOTE**

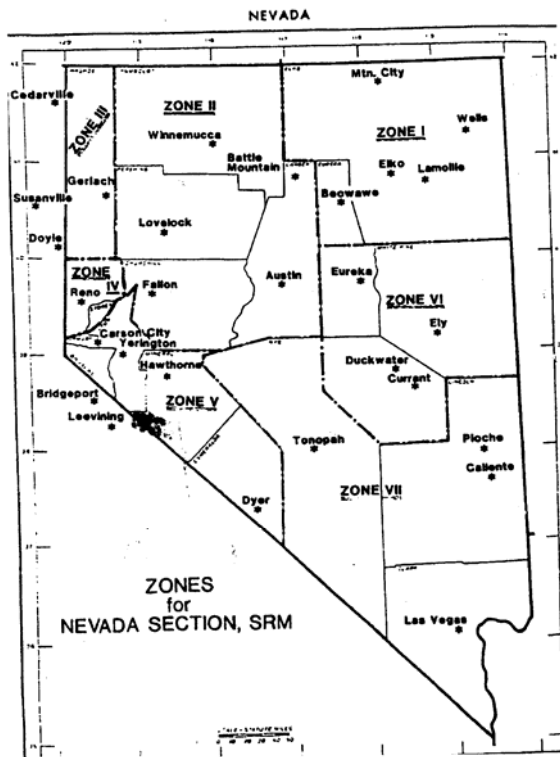
Maggie Orr

Those of us who had not the opportunity to know Fred Renner, one of SRM's founding leaders, did have the delight to hear Ginger Renner speak at the Reno banquet on the kind of man he truly was. In this excerpt from "A History of the Society for Range Management, 1948-1985," from the "Membership Qualifications" on page 3 (this was found online on the main SRM website), we can all see the man he was and who we are as a professional society.

*One of the first issues needing attention was that of membership qualifications, and it was discussed at great length. There was general agreement on the admission of those actually engaged in the technical aspects of range management, but less agreement on the admission of ranchers. Basically, there was a wide support for admitting ranchers, but there was some concern that, without some restrictions, ranchers whose land stewardship was questionable could become members. One proposal was to admit ranchers only if they were "conservation ranchers" which would be determined by examination of their properties by Society representatives and certification that they had "a good crop of grass" on their lands.*

*Frederic G. Renner, who was presiding, "innocently" suggested that this sounded reasonable but pointed out that, in a democratic organization, any such requirement ought to be applied to all classes of members. He then went on to suggest that if it were applied to Land Utilization Project managers, National Forest supervisors, and regional graziers, the Society might find itself in the position of having to return the membership dues of a considerable number of those who had already joined. The ensuing laughter settled this point and those present voted, almost unanimously, in favor of broad membership requirements.*

# **REMEMBER TO REGISTER AND VOTE!**



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