

RANGELAND NEWS

Society for Range
Management
Nevada Section

FALL 2008

TO FOSTER ADVANCEMENT IN THE SCIENCE AND ART OF RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

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PRESIDENT'S PONDERERS

I have heard it said that the most important books in one's library are the books you have yet to read. In keeping with the spirit of this, I have the problem of buying more books than I have the time to read with the intention of getting to them "this winter". I was thumbing through one recently titled Revolution on the Range and came across a quotation taken from the writings of James Ingalls, a US Senator from Kansas in the late 1800's.

"Grass is the forgiveness of nature – her constant benediction. Fields trampled with battle, saturated with blood, torn with the ruts of cannon, grow green again with grass, and carnage is forgotten. Streets abandoned by traffic become grass grown like rural lanes, and are obliterated; forests decay, harvests perish, flowers vanish, but grass is immortal."

As simplistic and unscientific as this statement is there is truth that rings from it. The lands we all live and work in have seen much --- and I believe that studying that history is essential to understanding where we are now. However, the sun will come up; the grass will grow, whether or not we are involved in it. By being involved with it we

have the opportunity to “direct its feet;” becoming part of the land, part of the solution. Only then can we say we are “land managers”.

To me working with rangelands is akin to riding a horse with lots of life --- very seldom do you get to place his feet exactly where you want them. If you try he'll either buck you off and get away or over time become a plug, honest, but almost lifeless, like a lot of farm ground, doing what is asked, but no more and no less. Rangelands, though often manipulated, retain a quality of wildness that is appealing to me. They are more likely to throw you a ringer in return, something unexpected. That horse with lots of life? If you give him direction – point his feet, and allow him the freedom to become, oh, what a ride you get! On the wall of my shop I have a wood cutout of the word “BE.” We spend so much of our time surviving the day to day things that must be done that it is easy to neglect our destinies to be-come...whatever. There comes a point where survival is what we do, no more, no less. We become farm ground. Simple survival IS the doldrums, it breeds mediocrity. There is no excellence in mediocrity.

There is concern among some section members that as a section we have hit the doldrums --- we are really not moving much. Membership is kind of stagnant, there is not much excitement, yada, yada.... Well, I have spent some time rolling this around the empty chambers of my mind and frankly, I agree. So, what is happening? Actually - I am afraid, not much. In the words of our upcoming fearless leader, Mr. Conley; “We have already talked about it --- LET’S DO SOMETHING.” I am afraid we are becoming a society of hand wringers and discussers of “if only we could do this or that”. There is too often some convenient obstacle that makes it possible to stay comfortably where we are.

I think one of the things we can do to rejuvenate our section is to focus and highlight action on rangelands. I love to hear what others are doing – it motivates, inspires, gives courage. Anything worth doing is going to be scary and it is good to know that others are doing scary things too.

I would solicit your input as well – how can we get some traction and become what we should be? I intend to set aside some time during our winter business meeting to discuss the future of our section. Please come and help us become better.

Duane

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Shane Trautner, Eastern NV Landscape Coalition, set_enlc@yahoo.com, 775 289-7974

Jon Wilker, Gund Ranch, jwilker@cabnr.unr.edu

Bryan Fuell, BLM, Wells FO, bryan_fuell@nv.blm.gov, 775 753-0200

Chelsy Simerson, BLM, Ely DO, chelsy_simerson@blm.gov, 775 289-1896

Boyd Hatch, USFS, Winnemucca, bhatch@fs.fed.us, 775 623-5025, ext 5

Section membership stands at 182 per the October Membership report from Denver.

NEW TREASURER

Many thanks to Denise Adkins of Winnemucca NRCS for accepting the challenge of Treasurer. Many many thanks to Brad Schultz for carrying the torch in a superlative manner for more than eight years. Thank you, Brad and Denise.

WINTER MEETING 2008 – DECEMBER 10 IN RENO

RSVP TO KEN CONLEY ASAP!

Date/Time: December 10 at 5 PM

Location: Washoe County Extension Office - 5305 Mill Street, Reno (Across from UNR Main Station Farm)

Dinner: \$15/Person - Provided by Wolf Pack Meats – Pay at the door.

The main topic for discussion and/or action will be the obvious lack of application of true science in range management decisions. Efforts by anti-grazing interests to hamstringing this very basic principal have been extremely effective. Also, see Duane's Ponders in this newsletter.

Call Ken Conley @ 775-237-5465 or e-mail at bkconley@gmail.com with questions or comments. Please RSVP to Ken ASAP.

ELECTIONS

BALLOT IS ON PAGE 6 – THIS PROCESS WILL ALLOW COMPLETION BEFORE WINTER MEETING – DUE DECEMBER 6

President-Elect: **Ingrid Drieling** is a Zone Rangeland Management Specialist who works on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Bridgeport and Carson Ranger Districts. Since 2004, Ingrid has been involved with the Forest Service working as a seasonal and then earning her permanent position through "On the Spot Hire" at the 2006 SRM meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Ingrid has been involved in SRM since her college years in Nebraska where she received the Nebraska section scholarship. She has a love of the Rangelands and a passion to teach younger generations. Her involvement in SRM now includes being a counselor at NV Youth Range Camp for the last 2 years, assisting with the "On the Spot Hire" program, and a member of the Young Professionals Committee. As a Rangeland Management Specialist her responsibilities include administering and suggesting management changes to be made on the almost two million acres of the Bridgeport and Carson Ranger Districts Range allotments. Her experience in range issues include cattle and sheep winter and summer grazing, threatened species issues, Wild Horse and Burro territory management, prescribed fire and weed control.

Ingrid stays active in the community by working as a volunteer and EMT on the local fire department. She enjoys hunting, trapping, horseback riding and being outdoors with friends. Ingrid will connect the experience of Nevada Section members with the new and future young professionals that are becoming part of Nevada Section Society for Range Management.

President-Elect: **Ken Visser** - I was born near Sunnyvale, California before it became Silicon Valley where my father started a Lutheran church soon after World War II. I was raised in what was then the small, primarily agricultural town of Lodi, was a high school athlete, played in the band and enjoyed heading up to the Sierra rivers with my older brothers in the summer for camping, hiking, swimming and cliff diving. I then attended Cal Berkeley which was only 90 miles from home. Although family college funds were lacking, I worked my way through it thanks to 72 hours per week summer employment at an apricot, peach and tomato cannery in Lodi.

Upon graduation with a B.S. in Conservation of Natural Resources, I was hired by BLM in Elko. Then I transferred to Susanville as a Supervisory Range Conservationist before being hired by BLM headquarters into my current position as a Rangeland Management Specialist in the Division of Rangeland Resources. While in the field positions I performed the breadth of duties typical of government range conservationists from allotment management to wildfire fighting. In my current position my focus is on range policy development and program oversight in the area of grazing administration.

I live with my wife in Reno, Nevada near Bartley Ranch Regional Park and enjoy exploring mountain and desert venues with my dog and my two sons when they can find the time. I have been an SRM member since the 80's.

Zone 2 Council: **Boyd W. Hatch** Howdy, Here is a little bit to get to know me. I grew up farming and ranching in southern Utah. I have also worked for Cedar City Livestock Market since I was 12 and up through college. I have been in Winnemucca for three years and really enjoy working on Nevada's beautiful and unique rangelands. While in college I was involved in the student chapter of SRM in Logan where I competed in the Speech, URME and Plant ID contests. I graduated with a degree in Rangeland Management from Utah State University and received a job working for the Forest Service in Fillmore, UT. I was involved with the Utah section of the SRM working on the council in charge of student affairs. As a member of that section I received the award for Outstanding Young Range Professional in 2003. At the annual section meetings I facilitated URME, Plant ID and Rangeland Cup contests to help prepare the students for the upcoming national meeting. I enjoy working with SRM in any capacity. It has added to my knowledge and understanding of how to work with the resources that are entrusted to us.

Zone 5 Council: For those of you who don't know me, my name is **Jeremy Drew**. On a professional basis I am a Resource Specialist and Engineer Intern at Resource Concepts, Inc. I've been with RCI for about three and a half years now, and have learned a ton under the tutelage of Mr. McLain and Co. In my off time I hold down several unpaid positions serving as the President of the Northern Nevada Chapter of Safari Club, and as a Board Member of the Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife. I've been involved in SRM for just over two years now being named as the Wildlife Habitat Committee Chair. As you may have concluded at this point I love to hunt and I'm passionate about wildlife. However, I'm also a 4th generation native Nevadan with a farming and ranching family history. I feel that the resource challenges that this state faces are bigger than any one interest group can tackle alone. As such I see SRM serving as a bridge between various interests in order to do what's best for the resources of Nevada. I appreciate your time and consideration.

Zone 6 Council: My name is **Jake Tibbitts** and I was born and raised in Blackfoot, Idaho where my family owns and operates a feedlot and ranching operation. I received both my undergraduate and graduate education at Idaho State University where I studied biology (undergraduate) and GIS and remote sensing to manage and monitor rangeland resources (graduate). I've recently moved to Eureka where I have taken on the responsibilities, challenges, and privileges of being the Eureka County Natural Resource Manager. In this new position, I help keep the County informed and connected to a wide range of natural resource issues including anything relating to public land, range management, air space, wild horses, wildlife, grazing allotments, mining, and recreation. I have a deep personal and professional interest and love for the

science of range management and I feel that it is imperative that we manage our range resources, farms, ranches, and rural lifestyles in order to keep the backbone of our society and economy sound and strong. I welcome the opportunity to have a seat on the Zone Council and I believe that I can serve you well through full representation of the goals, ideals, and interests of the Nevada Chapter of SRM.

Zone 6 Council: My name is **Jon Wilker**. I am 46 years old, originally from southeastern Idaho. I have lived in Nevada for 21 years, working the last 18 at the UNR Gund Ranch. I grew up working on ranches in southern Idaho and northern Utah except for a short period when I worked for John Deere. When I first came to Nevada, I worked for Dan Russell at his Fish Creek Ranch in Eureka. This is where I first met Ken Conley which led to my current employment. As you know Ken retired this summer and I have now taken over the management of the ranch. My family consists of my wife Rhonda, who works for the Eureka County School District and two daughters Hallee and Erin, and a son, Tanner. I also have two wonderful grand children Timothy and Thomas.

Zone 7 Council: **Maggie Orr** is a range graduate of the University of Montana and a Board Supervisor on the Lincoln County Conservation District. I currently make my living as a wildland fire dispatcher but that is not who I am. I am passionate about rangelands. Many of you know me as the Nevada Section Nag; I enjoy the role, trying to help keep things moving behind the scenes. I am the Section newsletter editor, prep cook at Range Camp, and the manager of *The Progressive Rancher* articles the Section submits to try and connect range science with those most practicing it on the ground. I'd be happy to serve on the Zone Council.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND MAIL THE BALLOT ON THE NEXT PAGE

GREAT BASIN COLLEGE AGGIES CLUB NEWS

By the Aggie Club

For the 2009-2010 school year, there is a whole new team of officers for the Great Basin College Aggies Club. The President is Kendall Shaw, Vice President Carl Weatherford, Secretary LesAnn Harris, Treasurer Shannon Martinez, and the Social Chair, Seth Vesco. The Aggies Club is the Great Basin College agriculture student organization for agriculture and other students who want to get involved in the agriculture community and learn more about it. Students participate in various events and activities throughout the year. This year students participated in planting trees for the new organic community garden in Elko. They attended the Nevada Cattlemen's Convention in Winnemucca to help the Nevada Beef Council man their trade show booth and explain the benefits of beef to others. They also attended the Cattlemen's College to learn about low stress livestock handling. They participated in the Trick or Treat Safety Street and recruited new students to GBC by making phone calls and explaining what the agriculture program here has to offer. On April 18, 2008, the 3rd Annual Agriculture Support Dinner was held at the Stockmen's Casino in Elko. The event helped raise \$1,800 for students to attend educational events. The top students in the agriculture program also received awards for their achievements. Each year the club gives out scholarships to new and current agriculture students. The Aggies Club would like to pay special thanks to its sponsors. Without the generosity and the great support of these sponsors, the Aggies dinner event would not have been possible. We would like to thank the Elko community and surrounding areas for their support of the Aggies Club.

**Please: 1. Print this page or make your own ballot
2. Mark your selections
3. Fold in half or thirds for envelope or,
4. Tape closed, NO staples please (per
USPO)**

**5. Mail to: Patti Novak-Echenique
3035 E. 6th Street
Silver Springs, NV 89429
6. Due to Patti by December 6**

VOTE FOR ONE IN EACH CATEGORY

PRESIDENT ELECT:

Ingrid Drieling _____ or Ken Visser _____

ZONE 2 COUNCIL:

Boyd Hatch _____

ZONE 5 COUNCIL:

Jeremy Drew _____

ZONE 6 COUNCIL:

Jake Tibbitts _____ or Jon Wilker _____

ZONE 7 COUNCIL:

Maggie Orr _____

Thank you to candidates and voters! Patti and I are wondering if we can do all future elections this way? She will still mail to those with no computer.

RANGE CAMP, by 2007/2008 participant:

Jacklyn (Jake) Burchard, Fallon

Range Camp- definition: A camp where teenagers and the occasional assistant cook, Colton, come to learn about the landscape, plants, and animals of Big Creek, Nevada. But with every definition there are explanations.

Range Camp '08 consisted of teenagers from all over the great state of Nevada and some of California and all of them from different types of backgrounds, from city kids to ranch hands. But all of us had something in common, the interest of being outdoors, whether it be to learn about plants and animals, fishing, hiking or just meeting new friends.

In my experiences, I have learned so much about everything at Range Camp, such as self confidence, manners, and wildlife. At Range Camp campers have the chance to learn about soils, sagebrush, riparian and woodland areas. When not enjoying the teachings of professionals, campers can participate in other activities such as horseshoes, volleyball, dodge ball, campfire sing-along, hide-and-go-seek, or just socializing. But Range Camp wasn't all fun and games. Each group is assigned chores like dishes, washing tables, hauling water, taking out the trash, and picking up the trash around the camp. And we all knew it was bed time when Sherm Swanson started singing the tooth brushing song!

My experience at Range Camp has been one of a kind. Being able to experience the great outdoors with 30 other kids is a great thing. I recommend this camp to other teens who love the outdoors or just love learning and meeting new people.

(Editor's Note: A quote from an email from Duane Coombs in July, "I had a young fellow stop by last weekend scouting for an antelope hunt. He just graduated from high school and said he was going to Eastern Oregon to college and wanted to major in Range. I asked him what prompted that decision and he said he went to Range Camp three summers ago. Cool, huh??" Yes, cool!)

SUMMER MEETING 2008

Brittney Askew

Once again another summer meeting has come and gone. We spent the time at the University of Nevada, Reno Gund ranch. Friday morning we started off with an introduction to the ranch by **Ken Conley**. Ken informed us of the history of the ranch. Originally the ranch was run by the Walti family, who came from Switzerland in 1886. The ranch was given to UNR by George Gund with the idea of doing research on forage and livestock on a "typical" Nevada ranch. The ranch grew in size after World War I, when veterans came back from the war and were given 160 acres of prime alkali ground. These people did not stay long and the land was absorbed into the Walti ranch. The ranch also received 840 acres of land from the government in 1977. If the ranch ever sells then this land will go back to the BLM. Overall the ranch is 10,700 acres of deeded land and 60,000 acres of BLM permits.

Lee Schmeltzer, a UNR graduate student, spoke on his project involving Bromus tectorum and fuels reduction utilizing livestock. Lee informed us on the negatives of grazing in the spring: the difficulty of congregating the animals, perennials at this time are more at risk, and the short window of time for a target graze making it more difficult

to plan. In the fall these negatives become positives. Perennials are dormant and production is known, making it easier to plan. The goal is to allow cooler mosaic fires to help the burned areas heal faster and make them easier to control. Livestock grazing could help create this situation and Lee said the study was to also not negatively affect the livestock. Sheep will be used in spring grazing in 2009. The study has shown that cattle are actually choosing cheat grass over other forage. Supplement was provided at about one pound per day and this helped the animals eat more. The cattle improved their body condition score during the 2008 study.

Ron Kay spoke to us about the Murphy complex in Idaho. Recent data was available for this area because of an updated land use plan. 100,000 acres in this area was seeded with native seed, there was also a sagebrush seeding done on 300,000 acres. On the non-seeded areas there was a concern of bare ground, and the fact that there will probably be lots of cheatgrass next year.

Selecting for cattle that enhance biodiversity in a sagebrush steppe is a master's project by **Chuck Petersen** from USU. Chuck started his project in October of 2007 at the Cottonwood Ranch in Elko County. The study was not looking for complete control or mortality of sagebrush. Chuck told us that he is patterning his study after Roger Banner's work enhancing diversity with sheep grazing in Utah. Chuck stated that our livestock have not been challenged to get out of their comfort zones. His project causes them to experiment as there is enough pressure and urgency to eat what is available in the study cells, but not so many animals so as to make them feel uneasy. The study is done in five cells each year over a three year period. The grazing is done in October when the terpene levels are down in the sagebrush and the perennials are dormant and not at risk. The study examines if cattle can get over an aversion to sagebrush to add protein to their winter diet, reducing supplementation costs.

Article on the summer 2008 Tour in the next newsletter.

STUDENTS GET FEET WET IN STATE RANGE / SOILS JUDGING

James Gatzke

The 2008 Nevada Soils Judging and Range Judging Contests were held in Fallon, NV on September 17. This year contestants literally got their feet wet as they evaluated sites near the Carson River. The saline meadow range site was adjacent to a small wetland. The nearby soil pit had standing water less than two feet from the soil surface. In addition, range judging contestants identified 20 plants living near the Carson River or transported from Hancock Summit.

The contestants hailed from near (Churchill County) and far (Moapa Valley) and everywhere in between. In soils, Moapa Valley brought two teams that took first and second place in the contest. The top three individuals in soils were Ashley Diamond (1st), Hannah Hardy (2nd) and Chandler Whipple (3rd), all from Moapa Valley. In range, Wells took first while Lincoln County took second. The top three individuals in range were Landon Rose (1st) and Kaci Spahan (3rd) of Wells and Moroni Wadsworth (2nd) of Lincoln County.

NEWS AND NOTES

~Kathy Voth has put videos up on YouTube to help folks learn more about using cows as weed managers. See <http://www.youtube.com/KathyVoth>. Her website is <http://www.livestockforlandscapes.com>.

~Dupont has released a replacement for Arsenal in terrestrial sites called Lineage™ Clearstand™. It is not restricted.

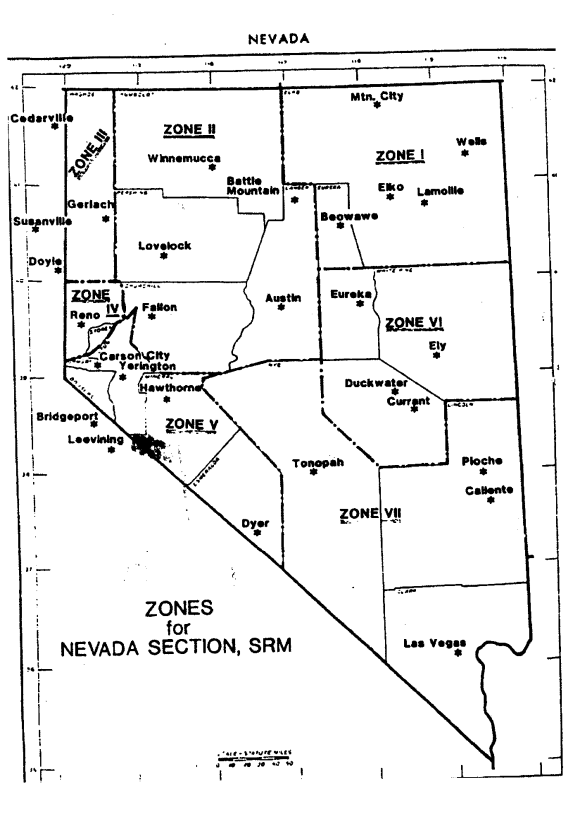
~Invitation to 2011 International Rangeland Congress in Rosario, Argentina. Excellent video, in English, on Argentina's rangelands at <http://www.pastizales.blogspot.com>.

~<http://www.cabnr.unr.edu/naes/wildfireforum.pdf> for Great Basin Wildfire Forum: the Search for Solutions publication.

~Nevada Weed Management Association annual meeting: March 3, 2009 at the Atlantis in Reno. Contact Earl Creech of UNCE.

~Range Management School, 12/16/08 in Tonopah. RSVP to Kent McAdoo at UNCE.

~Give a dollar to Future Farmers of America Foundation. Just click on the red barn at <http://www.helpgrowyoursoup.com/>. Tell everyone!



Patti Novak-Echenique
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