

# RANGELAND

# NEWS



TO FOSTER ADVANCEMENT IN THE  
SCIENCE AND ART OF RANGELAND  
MANAGEMENT

NEVADA SECTION – SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT

May 2014

## NEVADA SECTION OFFICERS

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Zone 6: Jake Tibbitts, [natresmgr@eurekanv.org](mailto:natresmgr@eurekanv.org)  
(see map on last page for zones)

Congrats to new officers: Ryan Shane is the President Elect and Barbara Raymond, Genie Montblanc, and Chris Jasmine will serve on the Zone Council.

## PRESIDENT'S PONDERERS

Mark Freese

Another spring is here, bringing some greenness to Nevada's rangelands. Spring is a reminder of renewed life, in the form of green grass, splendid wildflowers, and the sound of resonating bird chirps. This spring may be like many others to most of you, but it is quite different for me. My wife and I were blessed to welcome a delightful baby girl into our lives. It is truly a miracle! In light of this new development, I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone to spend and enjoy time with your families this spring, as life is short and this is the only one we get on earth.

On a separate topic, has anyone been following the Cliven Bundy – BLM dispute? It seems that everyone has been watching this dispute closely as it has become a popular debate topic in national news. The news tends to cover this as either you are for or against one side (i.e., no middle ground), and has created much emotion. This has led to much disagreement and polarity for those willing to debate the topic. As this issue has boiled over and as we have started another SRM year, I think it is important to review the SRM Nevada Section Mission and Vision statements. Maybe in your next

Cliven Bundy-type debate you can bring some facts and truth, dispel some emotion, and maybe provide an objective view.

### **Mission**

*The mission of the Nevada Section is to foster the advancement of the science and art of managing rangelands. Our emphasis is within the State of Nevada, but our concerns transcend state and national boundaries. The Nevada Section promotes enhancing the conservation and sustained use of natural resources and ecological services present on rangelands that are required to support the high standard of living expected by our Society. The Nevada Section attempts to do this by stimulating discussion and understanding of scientific and management problems and issues on public and private rangelands. The Nevada Section serves as a medium for the exchange of facts, knowledge, concepts, and ideas among Section members, and between rangeland professionals and the broader public. Our ultimate goal is to improve management on rangelands in our Section, so that natural resources desired or required throughout Society are available to all, in perpetuity.*

### **Vision**

*A well-trained and highly motivated group of professionals and rangeland users working with productive, sustainable rangeland ecosystems*

After reviewing the mission and vision of our Section, I would like to bring it to your attention that there are several opportunities to actively participate. For example, opportunities to participate in the Nevada section include Executive Vice-President, Youth Activities Chair, and Awards Committee Chair. If you are interested, please let me know. Help with setting up and taking down Range Camp would also be appreciated this year. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who are currently active and helping ensure our mission is fulfilled.

Lastly, the Nevada Section bid to host the 2018 Annual Meeting in Reno has been accepted! I hope you are excited at the opportunity to raise additional funds for the Nevada Section, bring Nevada rangeland resource management issues to the forefront, and provide a forum for addressing such issues, etc.

Enjoy your spring and I hope to see you at one of the many great events the Nevada Section is hosting!

## **WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!**

**Tim Rubald**, DCNR Sagebrush Ecosystem Program, [timrubald@sagebrusheco.nv.gov](mailto:timrubald@sagebrusheco.nv.gov)

**Riley Morgan Anderson**, UNR student, [rileyanderson123@gmail.com](mailto:rileyanderson123@gmail.com)

**Brittney Osborn**, [bosborn17@gmail.com](mailto:bosborn17@gmail.com)

**Melissa Mahlberg**, student, [mmahlberg5@gmail.com](mailto:mmahlberg5@gmail.com)

**Annie Overlin**, student, [annieoverlin@gmail.com](mailto:annieoverlin@gmail.com)

Membership Chair Charlie Duncan reports we have 33 renewed members since the winter meeting, nine expired for 2014 and 36 extended expired (2013) members.

## **SUMMER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

You don't want to miss the Summer Tour: **RANGELAND WILDFIRE – MANAGEMENT BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER**, organized by President Elect Ryan Shane. Join us in Winnemucca, June 12, to earn 6.5 CEUs. See work in the Montana Mountains, the Horse Creek Ranch Conservation Seeding and the Holloway Fire with speakers from ARS, NDF, BLM, RCI, UNCE and UNR and the

chance to interact with other Rangeland professionals. See <http://nevada.rangelands.org/> for the announcement and registration form. Please register early online to help with a good count for attendance at the tour and Section Social at the Martin Hotel at 6:30 PM, with dinner and awards following at 7 PM at The Martin (94 W Railroad St in Winnemucca). We will honor more of our long-standing members: Jim Linebaugh, Jim Doughty and Al Steninger.

A government rate is available at the Winnemucca Inn (800 633-6435) and stay for the Section **Business Meeting, Friday, June 13** at 8 AM at the Winnemucca Cooperative Extension Office, 1085 Fairgrounds Road. Register today!

## **TREATMENT GUIDELINES FIELD TOUR IN ELKO ON FRIDAY JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup>** Genie Montblanc

Save the dates for vegetation treatment field workshops around the Great Basin! Rick Miller, Professor Emeritus of Range and Fire Ecology at OSU, will discuss tools to rapidly assess resilience to disturbance (ability of a treatment area to recover), resistance to invasive annuals, predict successional pathways, and determine the need and suitability for seeding on potential vegetation treatment areas and areas burned by wildfire. These discussions will be based on two upcoming field guides, "A field guide for selecting the most appropriate treatment in sagebrush and piñon-juniper ecosystems in the Great Basin," and "Rapid assessment of post-wildfire recovery in sagebrush and piñon-juniper ecosystems in the Great Basin." Check [www.gbfiresci.org](http://www.gbfiresci.org) for more information.

### **HONORING NvSRM MEMBERS – 50+ YEARS WITH SRM!**

The Nevada Section is honored to recognize our long-standing members. Four members were recognized at the last Winter Meeting in Reno; Ann Bollinger states we hope to honor a few more of our 50+ year members in June at the Summer Meeting and encourages everyone to join us.

Celebrating 50+ years with the Society for Range Management

Jack Artz – Sparks, NV

Jim Doughty – Livingston, TX\*

Chuck Saulisberry – Dayton, NV

Dr. Paul Tueller – Reno, NV

Rex Cleary – Genoa, NV

Jim Linebaugh – Carson City, NV\*

Al Steninger – Elko, NV\*

\* Biography will be presented at the next summer meeting.



**Rex Cleary**, member since 1960; his proudest achievement is the Modoc Washoe Experimental Stewardship Program which raised the bar and set the pace for people working together on the challenges that BLM and SRM have to work with. It created a model to get to the root of the most trying problems on public lands and set out to solve them. This became the model for Coordinated Resource Management.

**Chuck Saulisberry**, member since 1950, pioneered the soil ecological sites used today by NRCS. While working with SCS they only had two-wheel drive pickup trucks. Getting stuck all over Nevada was normal.

**Paul Tueller**, member since 1956, was instrumental in the development of remote sensing and its application to rangeland management. The technology has been used for watershed assessments in other western states but it remains an under-utilized tool for landscape-scale assessments across Nevada. Idaho State University has honored Dr. Tueller by providing a Paul T. Tueller Fellowship in Rangeland Remote Sensing.

**Jack Artz**, member since 1949, wrote to his grandkids, "I suspect that the "Range Man" as I knew him will soon be a thing of the past. You may not know about him if you don't hear it from me. Range Management has become both more specialized and more generalized. Procedures, priorities and values have changed drastically as has the working environment of the Range Man. Change is inevitable and much of it is often 'for the good.' Nevertheless, I regret that you will never have the opportunity to know rangelands as I have. I wish you the best as you learn to understand and adapt as our environment continues to change in ways so difficult for us to predict today."

See the complete statements with fun stories and fascinating insights and a photo of the Honorees at the Section website: <http://nevada.rangelands.org/>. Our members make a difference.

### **GREAT BASIN COLLEGE AGGIES**

Heather Steel

The GBC Aggies have been busy this year! Recently, they implemented a series of local "date nights" where the club members take over the Great Basin College and Family Center to provide childcare for the community on select Friday nights, so that parents can get a much needed night out to themselves. The Aggies are also gearing up for the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Aggies' Dinner, on Friday, May 9, which will celebrate local agriculture and support Ag Ed programs. Senator Pete Goicoechea will be the keynote speaker, with additional presentations by Aron Hansen and Ashley Buckingham. Jay Dalton will be the entertainment for the evening. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased by contacting Aggies' adviser Heather Steel at 775-753-2303 or [heather.steel@gbcnv.edu](mailto:heather.steel@gbcnv.edu).

Ashley Buckingham, Aggies' Vice President has earned and been appointed the Nevada Beef Ambassador! Ashley had to compete and complete a rigorous application process that includes writing an essay about a recent issue in the beef industry, participate in a mock media interview, and a consumer promotion project! Beef Ambassadors educate consumers and youth about beef and beef production. Many congratulations to Ashley in her recent accomplishment!!!

### **UNR RANGE CLUB**

Deanna Davis, Range Club Secretary

UNR Range club is getting ready to attend the Oregon Science Days. Several great basin universities are going to Burns, Oregon to the experimental station from April 24-27<sup>th</sup> where we will have tours, a plants test, a mock management plan competition and more.

### **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WINTER BUSINESS MEETING**

We covered a lot of ground at the Winter business meeting. Please see the excellent Minutes at <http://nevada.rangelands.org/Minutes.html>. Thank you to Ann Bollinger for her great work as secretary.

### **NV SECTION WILD HORSE & BURRO (WH&B) RESOLUTION**

Sherm Swanson took the WH&B Resolution we passed at the Winter Meeting to the Advisory Council at the Orlando meeting. He reports they were "very interested but had a few reservations about our wording and so a few of us revised it and it was then passed unanimously and moved forward to the Board of Directors." The final draft resolved: (Complete draft on Section website)

*Be it therefore resolved: the SRM strongly encourages the BLM, FS, and Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Committee to conduct a transparent process of public participation, with visits to imperiled herd management areas, to achieve consensus through collaboration prior to and/or during the predicted die-off events to make decisions that have not been politically feasible in decades of severe but less drastic circumstances. A long-term solution from this collaboration must be scientifically based, ecologically sustainable, legally supported, and fiscally achievable.*

Leonard Jolley reports the Board of Directors accepted the draft that the Advisory Council passed on and with few tweaks it went on to the National Horse and Burro Rangeland Management Coalition (NHBRMC). Jess Peterson and/or Kelly Fogarty are members of the NHBRMC, and their input to that coalition reflected the Resolution from Nevada and the discussion during the AC meetings. "Your resolution was key to prod the Society to provide their input to the Coalition."

Kelly Fogarty's press release about SRM's statement submitted to the WH&B Advisory Committee quotes SRM President Pluhar, "*The public must acknowledge that the current status quo cannot be maintained when it comes to the nation's wild, free-roaming horses and burros. Carrying capacities and herd sizes have surpassed any reasonable limits as defined by science. The current management practices will lead to the detriment of both the species and the habitat. Our land management agencies must be given the tools to proactively address this issue; science must lead on this issue moving forward if our country's rangelands and this iconic species are to be maintained.*"

I requested a response from BLM due to the Section's concerns with WH&B. I received this from Alan Shepherd, Nevada WH&B State Program Lead / Joan Guilfoyle, BLM Division Chief for WH&B Program, dated May 5, 2014.

Will animals be removed from the range this year?

- Wild horse and burro gathers will likely occur on a limited basis across the West, including Nevada, during the remainder of fiscal year 2014. The limited level of removals is based on BLM's current budget and holding space limitations.

How will the potential gathers be prioritized?

- BLM has tasked a small group of managers and field staff to prioritize any potential removals within the program based on court orders, private property concerns, and public health and safety concerns. This team will also be considering concerns from the on-going drought across the West that has led to declining animal and rangeland conditions.

How will/does RFA process for a new PGS method work?

- The BLM issued a Request for Applications in response to recommendations of a June 2013 National Academy of Sciences study. In the RFA the BLM declared its interest in the development of new or refinement of current techniques and protocols for either contraception or the spaying/neutering of on-range male and female wild horses and burros. The methods may be surgical, chemical, pharmaceutical, or mechanical (such as intrauterine devices).

The agency is reaching out to veterinarians, scientists, universities, pharmaceutical companies, and other researchers outside of the agency. The BLM is extending the deadline to May 28, 2014 to



ensure that it receives the best ideas for effective contraceptive techniques. The original deadline was May 7.

BLM's use of fertility control?

- The BLM will continue to use its approved fertility control vaccines in those areas where benefits can be projected or where the use of these vaccines are already in place. Several locations are continuing to use field darting of ZonaStat-H vaccine to complete annual booster cycles on mares that they have been treating with the vaccine over the last few years. The use of PZP-22 will occur on a case-by-case basis when gathers occur that allow for sufficient treatments that will show a beneficial population growth rate reduction.

How are BLM NV and National responding to the Iron County, UT threats of capture on private lands?

- BLM NV will continue to listen to and communicate with the private landowners in dealing with wild horse and private land issues across Nevada. We will evaluate gathers on a case by case basis.

Where NV and National WH&B program are headed?

- BLM NV will continue to strive to reach its appropriate management levels (AMLs) across the state as well as manage our HMAs to have healthy wild horse and burros and healthy rangelands. We have a number of difficult changes to face in order to do achieve this goal but we will keep facing them. Along with achieving and maintaining AML, we have a goal of reducing our population growth rates within our HMAs so that we can maintain AML longer as well as see long-term benefits to the rangelands and the associated vegetation. The BLM's vision continues to be to sustain healthy horse and burro populations on healthy public lands in a manner that supports wildlife, recreation, and other land uses. We are in the process of implementing some of the actions recommended by the National Academy of Sciences, within limitations of budget allocations.

## SAGE GROUSE WINTER MEETING NOTES AVAILABLE

Thanks to Mark Freese, a summary and the speaker power point presentations from the January 2014 Tools and Management Applications Workshop for Managing Greater Sage Grouse are available on the Section website at <http://nevada.rangelands.org/>. This is a lot of great information.

## HISTORIAN'S HIGHLIGHTS – A LOOK BACK AND FORWARD

“Putting a snake in a boy’s bed and having him pull it out when he got into bed and coiling it up and placing it on his pillow before laying down to go to sleep alongside of it.” Ken Tipton (Camper).

Does that get your attention?!  
Can you identify anyone?  
It’s a contest!

The Benefits and memories of Range Camp 1968



Range camp counselors 1968



Range camp campers 1968

Looking forward, we have the possibility of three future NvSRMers. Mark and Erica Freese welcomed Adalyn, Sam and Brittney Lossing are loving Dennis, and Rick and Maggie Orr are proud grandparents of Penelope. Are there other babies I don't know about?

## THE PROGRESSIVE RANCHER PROJECT

Greetings Nevada SRM Members:

My name is Tye Morgan and for those of you who don't know, I accepted the role of article recruitment liaison between SRM and Progressive Rancher. Currently, I am a soils research technician for Dr. Robert (Bob) Blank, Soil Scientist, at the USDA/ARS/ Great Basin Rangelands Research Unit, in Reno, NV. I started working with the USDA/ARS in 1993 as a high school summer intern. I quickly became enthralled with soils research, particularly being in the field, and this is where my passion began. Twenty years later, I am constantly refining my research expertise and I believe in incorporating the SRM vision and mission into my scientific framework. My philosophy on research is to be professional, honest, motivated, productive, and practice sound principles that are developed within rangeland sustainability. It is important to focus on the art and science of past generations, yet streamline new scientific advances and technologies to future generations. I can't do this alone, and this is where I call on all the existing SRM members for assistance. I need to find articles relating to sustainable rangelands, and I ask that SRM members be proactive and contact me with their passions, areas that are problematic, and concerns that could be addressed. From there we can compile new articles for Progressive Rancher that will be relevant and informative. I am not here to be the author of these articles. I am here to assist, develop, and/ or streamline quality articles from our SRM members first and maybe some future members as well. Please feel free to contact me anytime for article submissions, open and/or frank discussions, and any new thoughts or ideas.

Thank you,

Tye Morgan

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<http://www.ars.usda.gov/pandp/people/people.htm?personid=10867>

## NEWS AND NOTES

~Pheasants Forever **position** in Elko to provide range /wildlife technical assistance for the NRCS Sage Grouse Initiative to agriculture producers and landowners. Announcement open until May 14; to apply, please follow the link: [www.pheasantsforever.org/jobs](http://www.pheasantsforever.org/jobs)

~Nevada Bighorns Unlimited Legacy **Scholarship** for juniors/seniors in a 4-year university. Applications due May 31; <http://nevadabighornsunlimited.org/>

~**July 15-17** Joint Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition and Nevada Pinion-Juniper Partnership Summer Conference & Field Tour, "Aligning Industry and Ecology to Achieve Landscape-Scale Restoration in the Great Basin" at Reno-Sparks. Information at <http://envlc.org/>

~Riparian Proper Functioning Condition Assessment sessions will be held  
**June 26-27** Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe 565 Rio Vista Drive Fallon NV  
**July 22-23** Greenhaw Tech. Building Rm 130 Great Basin College Elko, NV  
**September 11-12** South Fork of the Humboldt River Reservation, Lee, NV  
OR Riparian Multiple Indicator Monitoring Class.  
**May 19 – 23**, at UNR (FA 234) Ninth and Evans, Reno, NV

Please feel free to contact Sherm Swanson, 775-784-4057, [sswanson@cabnr.unr.edu](mailto:sswanson@cabnr.unr.edu)

~ **August 20**, Porter Canyon Experimental Watershed tour. After five years of pre-treatment data, the project will quantify the impact of tree felling within a PJ dominated watershed on the reestablishment of the historical sagebrush plant community and examine the hydrologic budget at the watershed scale and soil erosion potential at multiple scales. Please RSVP to Tamzen Stringham if you plan on attending; [tstringham@cabnr.unr.edu](mailto:tstringham@cabnr.unr.edu)

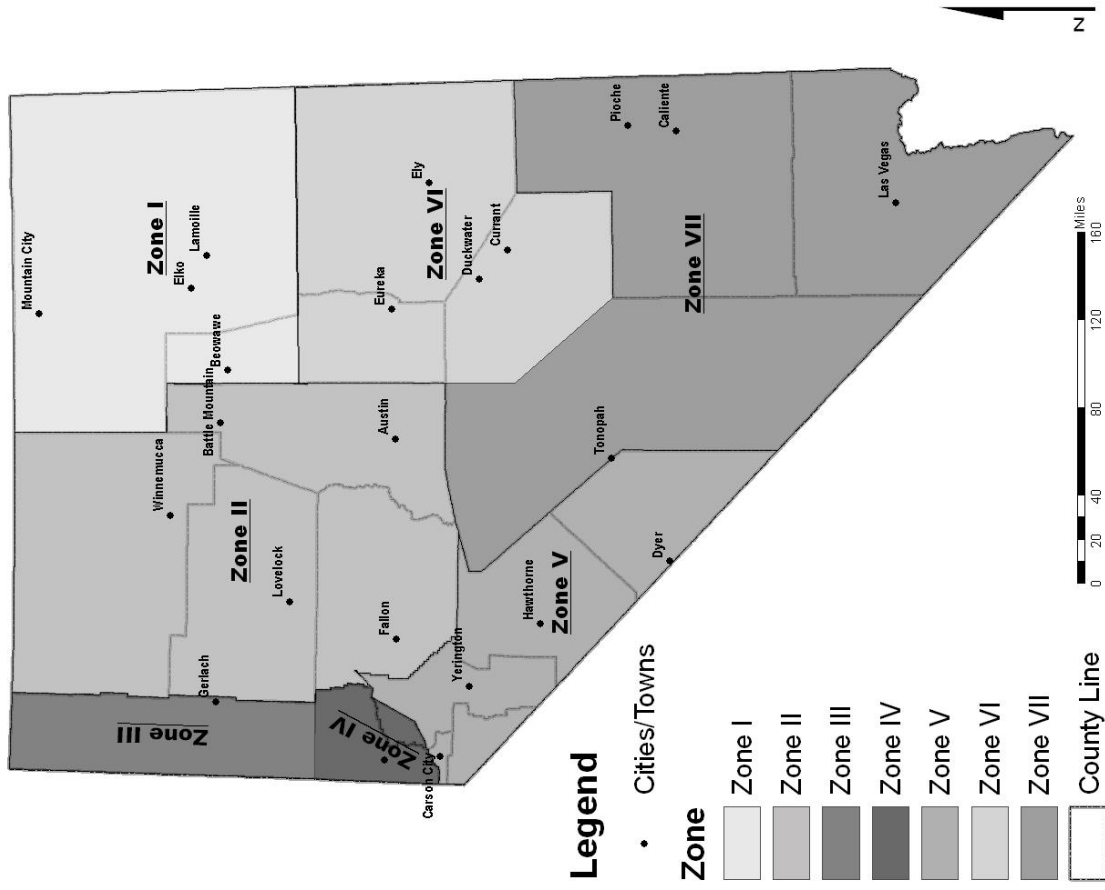
~**August 26**, Range Management School (RMS); one day with plant growth and timing and duration modules in the morning, monitoring session in the afternoon. Early October, full 2-day RMS in Carson City area. Contact Kent McAdoo, [mcadook@unce.unr.edu](mailto:mcadook@unce.unr.edu).

**MAILING LIST:** Please keep your email address current with Genie for correct delivery of NvSRM emails via the Section online mailing list; [emb@cabnr.unr.edu](mailto:emb@cabnr.unr.edu) to update.

**REGISTER FOR THE SUMMER MEETING RIGHT NOW!**



# Nevada SRM Section Zones



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