

## What is SRM???

Society for Range Management  
Gary McCuin, Nevada Section President



The Society for Range Management (SRM) “*is the professional society dedicated to supporting persons who work with rangelands and have a commitment to their sustainable use.*” This broad statement has a nice ring and covers a lot of ground (excuse the pun) but does not provide any detail. The best way to describe SRM is through its members and their basic motivations. SRM members are ranchers, land managers, scientists, educators, students, conservationists--a diverse membership guided by a professional code of ethics and unified by a strong land ethic. The variety of experience, knowledge and backgrounds provides the strength of the Society.

SRM is a professional, scientific and management organization wrapped up in one neat package. Academicians and theorists working with people on-the-ground, land managers, “ologists” and ranchers, practicing the **Art** and **Science** of range management. This is a novel idea in today’s specialized world. It is not merely a scientific organization consumed with science for science sake, but a professional organization that puts science to work. **Applied science** is the most beneficial kind of knowledge and is by necessity an **Art** when one is managing rangelands at the whims of Mother Nature.

So what does this conglomeration of people do? The formal version is captured in the Vision and Mission of the Society.

**Vision:** *a well-trained and highly motivated group of professionals and rangeland users working with productive, sustainable rangeland ecosystems.*

**Mission:** *to promote the professional development and continuing education of members and the public and the stewardship of rangeland resources.*

Throughout the year the Society publishes several informative media. “Rangelands” provides a forum for readers to get scientifically correct information in a user friendly, non-technical format. “Rangeland Ecology & Management” (REM) is peer-reviewed and provides international exchange of scholarly research and information among persons interested in rangelands. Both of these publications provide much useful and thought provoking information that will help keep you up to date in rangeland science. The Society also produces a number of educational white papers, workshops and symposia, has a presence in Washington D.C. advocating for rangelands, and works with the land management agencies providing them science and information to assist them with rangeland management.

I cannot tell you what membership in this organization will do for you, but let me try to explain what I gain from membership. I have found that membership in SRM opens more doors and provides more opportunities for collaborative on-the-ground range management solutions than any other resource. Through this organization I meet new people from around the world that are open to discuss any topic to help range livestock producers in Nevada. Many of these people have become lifelong friends. I have been able to advance ideas and solve problems with

land management agencies at the highest levels of administration. Not an easy task when you are a state employee.

Our Nevada Range Management School concept evolved from attending the Colorado Range Management School at the SRM annual meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah several years ago. The Riparian Cadre and National Riparian Service Team of which I am now a member is composed largely of SRM members. Many state and federal employees from a wide variety of disciplines as well as many of the top range scientists and Extension educators are SRM members. And there are a number of livestock producers in Nevada and other western states that belong to SRM. I have simply found no other organization that provides so much value to me personally and professionally.

It is said that you get out of life what you put into it. I believe that is not merely a saying but is a truism. It is true for anything you do in life, running a ranch, training horses, raising children, marriage, and membership in industry organizations and professional societies. SRM is easy to put a lot of effort into because you can get so much back in return.

In 2007 the Nevada Section hosted the 60<sup>th</sup> annual meeting at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, Nevada. All of the Nevada ranchers who participated or attended the meeting in Sparks gave me the impression that it was a worthwhile and enjoyable experience. Preston Wright shocked me with his observation that there was too much science to absorb. I imagine that Preston's mind will be pondering the information he received and he will be trying something new at Mary's River Ranch some day soon. Ron Cerri said he was impressed with the people, the opportunity to network and the information he received at several symposia. Ron indicated he will become a member.

To provide our Nevada range livestock producers with a flavor of the things that SRM is involved with, and that may be of use to you on your ranch, "Progressive Rancher" will carry an occasional article from members of SRM. These articles will mainly come from Nevada members and deal with Nevada challenges and opportunities. As the current Nevada Section President, I look forward to the Section membership's contributions and in hearing from the industry your thoughts and topics to discuss. I also invite you to become an SRM member; you can put as much or little time into this as you see fit, but I believe you will see the benefit at any level.

To become a member you can get a membership application online at the Nevada Section's website at <http://www.ag.unr.edu/nsrm/>, (the updated Nevada Monitoring Handbook and Rancher's Monitoring Guide are also posted) or at SRM's main website at [www.rangelands.org](http://www.rangelands.org). While at these sites browse through the information posted there. If you are not comfortable with the computer age, you can ask any SRM member you know in the state or contact me at the Nevada Department of Agriculture (775) 684-5333.

Here's to a wet spring, green grass, fat calves and a good market.

Gary McCuin