

# RANGELAND NEWS



TO FOSTER ADVANCEMENT IN THE  
SCIENCE AND ART OF RANGELAND  
MANAGEMENT

NEVADA SECTION – SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT

December 2016

## NEVADA SECTION OFFICERS

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(see map on last page for zones)

**"Like" the Facebook page for the Nevada Section of SRM: <https://www.facebook.com/NevadaSRM/>**

## PRESIDENT'S PONDERERS

Tim Rubald, December 11, 2016

As I sit in my office beginning preparations to enjoy the holiday season with family and friends, I would like to take the opportunity to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas as we look forward to 2017. I hope that all of you that have supported SRM in general this year, and specifically the Nevada Section, are looking forward to 2017 as much as I am. It will be a very busy year for all involved!

The first event in 2017 will be the Nevada Section's winter meeting, an event that our President-elect, Charlie Clements, has been working hard to put together. The event will be held January 10-11 at the Sparks Nugget. *Plant Materials and Methodologies for Great Basin Rangelands* is the topic, and knowing Charlie he will have many great speakers presenting!

Also, there are two other important events taking place associated with the winter meeting. The Section's business meeting will take place Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup>, with the results of the election being announced during

this meeting. Please get your ballots in as soon as you can to our Immediate Past President Ryan Shane. Ryan put together the entire election process this year, and I truly want to express my sincere appreciation for his hard work on this difficult task. I'm sure it took Ryan many hours on the phone working to get people to volunteer themselves for these critically important positions to the future of the Section.

One of the many topics that we'll be discussing at the Section's business meeting that morning will be the upcoming 2017 Range Camp. Kathryn Dyer, who heads up that very important activity of the Section, will have a lot to inform us on numerous changes taking place with Range Camp starting in 2017. Come attend the meeting and be the first to hear about some of the exciting things happening with one of our best known activities. Lots of great improvements I hear!

That same afternoon, there will be a very important planning meeting, for the 2018 International Convention the Nevada Section will be hosting at the end of January 2018. If you haven't been involved with these meetings this past year, please contact either Mark Freese or Ryan Shane, the co-chairs of this great event. We're looking to raise some serious money for the Section during this event, in addition to bringing some world class presenters to Nevada during the conference. I'm quite sure that Mark and Ryan would welcome additional folks to help with all of the moving parts that this entails....they've taken on a massive job and need all of the member's help! Please let them know that you're there for them!!

Along those same lines, and to get educated about hosting an International Conference, please get your registration in for the 2016 SRM International Conference being held this year in St. George, Utah. Other than the event in Reno/Sparks in 2018, you'll rarely get an opportunity to attend one of these world class events any closer to home. Additionally, it's very important that as many members of the Nevada Section attend to support Barry Perryman's run to be on the International Board of Directors. This would be another great feather in Nevada's proverbial hat, and Barry will do a super job supporting us. But we need to support him first, so please plan to attend and put out the word that Barry's a great guy and running for the Board!

As you plan on attending the state Section meeting in January, as well as possibly the meeting in St. George, please consider inviting a friend, and particularly any producers you may know. This is a great opportunity to provide them with the newest research and tools to manage their production as efficiently as possible. Gary McCuin, our Executive Vice-President, is very focused on involving more producers in our Section. I agree with Gary's effort and back him wholeheartedly, and hope that you will as well. After all, isn't that why we do a lot of what we do as far as research and the presentation of it? It's to make managing rangelands a better, easier, more efficient, and scientifically sound process. The producer is the key to all that and we have a tendency to not always focus on that aspect of our work. Please consider involving producers that you know in the upcoming events in 2017 and 2018!

Again, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at both the Section meeting in Reno/Sparks on January 10-11, as well as the International meeting in St. George. Come and share your expertise with us and who knows, we might all learn a little something new!

## **WELCOME TO OUR NEW, AND THANKS TO OUR RENEWING MEMBERS!**

Danielle Courtois	Urban Strachan	Bettina Scherer	L Domingo Uhart
Gabriel Covington	Jamie Ludwig Dafeo	Deborah F Origer	Ruby Uhart
Hanes J Holman	Olivia John	Abbie Jossie	Dave Voth
Kris Kuyper	Connie Lee	Tabitha Romero	Juan Carlos Cervantes

The following list has a note from Membership Chair Trina Johnson, "There is no join date connected to them; thanks to these folks for starting the membership back with us and if they know their join date to let me know at [tmski17@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tmski17@sbcglobal.net)."

Mark Coca	Jason C Davison	Cody Nicholes	Gary L McCuin
Brenda Smith	Cody Zacharia	Todd Adams	Ron Keil
Garrett Bunyard	Sandra Li	Wade Lieurance	Francisca Mendive
Sayjro Nouwakpo	Marc A Pointel	Cheri Howell	David Miles Culverson
Joshua Robbins	Spencer Smith	Lee Turner	Brian F Wakeling
Amanda Wartgow	Stacy Greenberg	Ernest B Paine	Lewis Mendive
Ira Hansen	Dan Harmon	Gracian Uhalde	Erica Freese
Doug W Frazer	Brittney Lossing	Samuel Lossing	Charlie D Clements
Edwin G Smith	Jeff Starosta	Laurel Marshall Uhalde	Kimberley A Wolf
Pete Test			

## SECTION ELECTION – VOTE BY 12/30/16

Ryan Shane

As chairman of the nominations committee, I am proud to present to you the 2016 SRM Election ballot. I would like to thank those members who contributed to the nomination efforts and the nominees for stepping forward as leaders no matter the outcome of the elections. Votes should be sent via email to [rsshane@gmail.com](mailto:rsshane@gmail.com) by 12/30/16 at 5:00pm PST (Ballot, including biographies, is attached to the newsletter email for your convenience)

### **Zone II Council (Humboldt, Pershing, Churchill and Lander Counties)**

\_\_\_ [Bettina Scherer](#)

\_\_\_ [Jamie Dafoe](#)

### **Zone V Council (Lyon, Carson, Douglas, Mineral, and Esmeralda Counties)**

\_\_\_ [Katrina Leavitt](#)

\_\_\_ [Tracey Jean Wolfe](#)

### **Zone VI Council (So. Eureka, White Pine, and NE Nye Counties)**

\_\_\_ [Maria Ryan](#)

### **Zone VII Council (So and NW Nye, Lincoln and Clark Counties)**

\_\_\_ [Cayenne Engel](#)

### **President Elect**

\_\_\_ [Rixey Jenkins](#)

## WINTER MEETING – JANUARY 2017

President Elect Charlie Clements

## *Plant Materials and Methodologies for Great Basin Rangelands*

**Sparks, Nevada – January 10-11, 2017**

January 10-Registration 8:00am, Presentations 9:00am to 5:00pm – *Nugget Casino Resort, Bonanza A TBA presentations by very experienced speakers from Oregon, Nevada and Utah focus on the difficulties facing restoration/rehabilitation of Great Basin Rangelands from extensive years of experience in plant material development and testing to applications and monitoring. Registration 8-8:45 AM Evening Dinner and Awards Ceremony 6:00pm – Santa Fe Hotel 235 Lake Street, Reno*

January 11 – Business meeting (8a-12 noon) – 2018 SRM Program Committee (1-4pm) - Nugget TBA. Room Block available @ \$39/night under Nevada Section SRM (775)356-3300

Note: correction to the original Registration Form - There is no Thursday meeting and lunch is not included but rather on your own to enjoy the Nugget venues.

## **2018 ANNUAL MEETING PLANNING COMMITTEE (AMPC)**

Co-Chairs, Mark Freese and Ryan Shane

The 2018 SRM International Meeting, Technical Training and Trade Show will be hosted by the Nevada Section in Sparks/Reno January 26 – February 3, 2018! There are opportunities to participate on the planning committee. We hope that you will consider helping out in this effort to make the 2018 meeting a success! To be added to the Annual Meeting Planning Committee (AMPC) contact list please email Génie MontBlanc at [emb@cabnr.unr.edu](mailto:emb@cabnr.unr.edu).

### ***To date...***

- The Parent Society has signed a contract with the Nugget in Sparks
- The Nevada Section has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Parent Society outlining roles and responsibilities
- We are close to having a final theme and logo
- Four AMPC meetings have occurred
- We have a Planning Task List developed
- We have the Program at a Glance drafted

### ***The next steps...***

- The next AMPC is scheduled for January 11, from 1-4pm at the Nugget in Sparks following the NV Section Winter Business meeting. We hope to have a conference line available in you cannot attend.
- Present final Theme and Logo
- Create and launch the meeting website
- Initiate Budget planning
- Develop a Tour Schedule
- Organize and assign meeting space
- Meet with federal and state agency directors to explore partnership opportunities

The Nevada Section of SRM has a reputation of putting together memorable meetings that attendees talk about 20 to 30 years later. The Section and the Planning Committee aims for nothing less for the 2018 meeting, and needs your help to create a fun and memorable experience for the Nevada Team and the attendees. Please consider helping in the planning and management process by being a part of the planning committee.

## **SUMMER 2016 TOUR NOTES**

Charlie Clements

The Nevada Section held their annual tour in Eureka, Nevada on July 29<sup>th</sup>. Originally planned for June, but with so many conflicting workshops and events, the tour was moved to the end of July during record breaking heat. The tour began at the Baumann Ranch where the private land owner works in cooperation with Eureka County,

Eureka Conservation District, Pinon Juniper Partnership Program and various funding sources, including exceptional funding through the Nevada Department of Wildlife. The goal of the PJ Cutting Project was initially to just get trees on the ground and improve resource availability for wildlife and grazing resources, but as time went by the need to utilize the biomass from the cut trees to help fund these projects became more apparent. Since 2013, more than 5,000 acres of PJ have been selectively removed to enhance grazing and wildlife resources. The costs of these cuttings have ranged from \$70-\$115 depending on slope and density. The additional goal of producing bi-products from this biomass to help fund these projects is also a challenge, but one that the Conservation District and PJ Partnership Program are aggressively pursuing.

One of the more prominent bi-products being pursued from the biomass produced from these PJ cuttings is biochar. The PJ biomass is put through a chipper and then through a Pyrolysis process in which the biomass goes through a combustion at 400-700C in low oxygen levels. The biochar is being researched as a soil additive on agricultural fields, corner pivots and mining/reclamation land as well as being added to organic mulch and sold in bags through certain vendors. Tye Morgan, Biological Science Technician with USDA-ARS presented on biochar-soil research that herself and Robert Blank, Soils Scientist USDA-ARS, performed in a greenhouse setting at their lab in Reno. In their research they reported that most applications of biochar on various soils increased Phosphorus which plays an important role in photosynthesis, respiration, energy storage and transfer, cell division, cell enlargement and several other processes in plants.

The next stop on the tour showcased where Jim Baumann in cooperation with Jan Schade, Wildfire Conservation Group, applied the mechanical treatment of the Lawson Aerator on 160 acres in 2011 and 2012. A portion of the treated area was seeded with crested wheatgrass in the fall of 2103 using a rangeland drill and 'Immigrant' forage kochia using a broadcast seeder. By 2015 the treated habitat had experienced a 300% increase in herbaceous grass and forbs while at the same time has enhanced the shrub stand age, edge effect and grazing and wildlife resources. The treated habitat resulted in a new sage grouse lek as well as increased sage grouse habitat use.

Alan Jenne and Lee Turner, Nevada Department of Wildlife and Jake Tibbitts, Eureka Conservation District, presented on the importance of teaming up resources to treat and rehabilitate larger areas. Lee Turner presented information on the desire of many to increase efforts to grow the Nevada Partners for Conservation and Development (NPCD) where land owners, local Conservation Districts, state and federal agencies join forces to pull resources together and treat degraded habitats with increased success. Currently, the State of Utah has such a program and nearly twenty-five million dollars are allocated each year for such projects. If Nevada could head in that direction, habitat improvement projects would significantly benefit wildlife habitat and grazing resources.

Following a nice lunch sponsored by the Eureka Conservation District, the group visited a 1969 PJ chaining/seeding that had been re-invaded by PJ to a Phase II-III stand. The Eureka Conservation District in cooperation with the BLM removed 504 acres of PJ in a 3-day period at \$70/acre. The removal of the PJ keeps the PJ encroachment from truncating critical browse and herbaceous species while at the same time provides edge effect and improves hydrological processes as these PJ densities can intercept 40-50% of the moisture before the tree even takes water for its own use. Mike Scott, Nevada Department of Wildlife and Kent McAdoo, University Nevada Cooperative Extension spoke about the importance of treating PJ encroached habitat for wildlife use, especially mule deer browse and sage grouse corridors. The use of PJ woodlands by many wildlife species was noted, but at the same time as the group looked over the vast landscape it was well recognized that PJ was here to stay and would in fact be part of the overall environment. John McLain, Resource Concepts,

gave a brief presentation on the importance of the PJ Partnership Program as the steering committee focused on landscape level restoration with the resulting biomass as an additional beneficial outcome. Innovative ideas are underway to get PJ into a favorable economic use such as the soil amendments and mulch already discussed along with greenchips for essential oils and a replacement to coal.

The tour then visited a BLM fuels project in which big sagebrush was mowed back in 2004. Many of the mow strips became dominated by cheatgrass and Halogeton as there was not enough residual perennial grass species to fill the void which weedy species will. Sherm Swanson, University Nevada, presented data from a 10 year study by which they found that 57 out of the 76 (75%) mowed sites they measured increased in perennial herbaceous cover rather than an increase in annual species such as cheatgrass. He did mention the importance of good perennial densities and cover prior to the mowing treatment as a key factor in these results. The group talked about past research that points out that these mow strips really should be seeded to greenstrips and how important it is to provide greenstrips to protect critical habitat and reduce the chance of the further advancement of catastrophic wildfires.

After what turned out to be a very hot day, the group retreated back to Eureka and enjoyed some cold drinks and sit down supper prepared by the local Mennonites at the Opera House. Special thanks go out to all the presenters, Jake Tibbitts, the Eureka Conservation District and Patty Peek of the Opera House.

### **UNR RANGE CLUB** Lewis Mendive

The University of Nevada, Reno Range Club has been busy this fall semester with various events and fundraisers. First this semester was the UNR College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources' Field Day, where students showcased their clubs to the general public. The club also held a Garage Sale, along with working a weekend at the Gund Ranch, where students assisted the ranch manager with various ranch tasks. Next week, we will be having our firewood fundraiser, where we will be cutting and splitting wood that was generously donated to us by Dave Mercer and Scott Schield; wood will be sold by the cord to the public. All these fundraisers are to help raise money for transportation and travel for 11 club members to attend the SRM meeting in St. George, UT. At the annual meeting in January 2017, our club is participating in events such as the Undergraduate Range Management Exam (URME), Rangeland Cup poster competition, Plant Identification exam, extemporaneous speaking competition, as well as a booth at the tradeshow.

I have been a member of the Range Club for two years and the Public Relations Coordinator since September 2016. I have gained a wealth of knowledge from the contacts I've made over the past two years, as well as meeting other students with a passion for rangelands. Often times networking is hard to accomplish for many majors, but we are very lucky to have a great advisor, Dr. Tamzen Stringham, who ensures the very best for us in making sure we are prepared for life after college. The opportunities within this club are life changing. By continuously learning, it makes all of us in the club better prepared for careers not only in the real world, but in our own lives as well. We all have dreams for the future and the club is helping make those aspirations a reality. I look forward to participating in the many more fundraisers and community activities we have for 2017. Thank you to all who support the Nevada Student Chapter of the Society for Rangeland Management we will see you all in Saint George!

## **VOTE FOR BARRY PERRYMAN FOR SRM BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

## NEVADA YOUTH RANGE CAMPERS CELEBRATE THEIR EXPERIENCES

From **Sterling Lee** of Fallon: *Range Camp is most certainly a fun and great experience. High school students from all around our state of Nevada come to Big Creek for a week of meeting new people or seeing old friends, along with learning about our rangelands.*

*Over the course of two years of attending range camp, I have furthered my knowledge in range land and other things like riparian areas, and the pinyon and juniper trees. My favorite part of the camp is traveling to the Smith Creek Ranch where we get to learn about the ranch and participate in building dikes. Getting to take our one shower of the week was most certainly refreshing.*

*This camp is most certainly one to attend. You don't have to be a rancher to attend this camp, as long as you have an interest in learning about your surrounding rangelands this camp is worth it.*

And from **Christopher Reil** of Utah: *Range camp, where do I even begin? My Grandpa Jim [Linebaugh] is the one who turned me onto it so before I start I'd like to thank him. I've been attending for 3 years and plan on going as long as I can. Not only does it have a great curriculum but the people are amazing.*

*My first year I was a little nervous even though I'd met a few of the people last year when we picked my brother up, but that nervousness was dispelled quickly. The longer camp went on the more I started to enjoy myself. Between the hands on activities, (by hands on I mean stumbling around the dark with your hands on a compass and a flashlight in the night compass course) the people, and the food, I've had a great time.*

*The activities cover all the aspects of our western range land. Firstly and most importantly soil. Without it you could have all the water in the world and it wouldn't do you a lick of good. Next comes water, it is scarcest resource both in our range land and the world. Then the plants that use these to grow. They are broken into 4 sections riparian, pinyon and juniper, and sagebrush. Lastly are the animals that use this land both wild and domestic.*

*As I've said before the people are amazing, the campers, counselors, and the people who make it possible. Oh and let's not forget the cook, he's the real hero here. He and his helpers keep 30 plus people stuffed to the brim for a week.*

## NEVADA SECTION HISTORY; IN THE PAST AND IN THE MAKING Section Historian Chris Jasmine's "Historical Ramblings"

I often find motivation in the influential quotes of the leaders who have come before us. During difficult or challenging times I search out wisdom that has already been spoken more eloquently than I could ever hope to achieve. Recently I have been focusing on the following two passages. Although both quotes focus on the same underlying theme; and although both men were considered conservationists in their own circles; and although they were written during the same general time period, they could not have been written by two more different men. With all that said, the message in both quotes is clear, we can talk about doing things or we can do things, and the choice is ours.

"I listen carefully for clues whether the West has accepted cheat (*cheat grass*) as a necessary evil, to be lived with until kingdom come, or whether it regards cheat as a challenge to rectify its past errors in land-use. I found the hopeless

attitude almost universal. There is, as yet, no sense of pride in the husbandry of wild plants and animals, no sense of shame in the proprietorship of a sick landscape. We tilt windmills in behalf of conservation in convention halls and editorial offices, but on the back forty we disclaim even owning a lance.”

– Aldo Leopold

“It’s not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs and comes up short again and again, because there is no effort without error or shortcoming, but who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, who spends himself for a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows, in the end, the triumph of high achievement, and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who knew neither victory nor defeat”

– Teddy Roosevelt

Rangeland management is and always will be driven by the men and women who do things. The achievers of great feats in our field are not the critics who only talk about how things should have been done differently. As rangeland managers we choose if we will be critics or if we will carry our lance. The answer seems clear to me... let’s get out there and do things.

## **2016 AWARDS NOMINATIONS REQUESTED**

Meagan Carter states, “It’s never too late to celebrate the work of our fellow Range Enthusiasts! Taking those few short minutes to nominate a friend or colleague for the amazing work that they do will result in satisfaction and appreciation that will last a lifetime! Our Awards Chair is always here to help. The torch will be passed on to our Zone III Council Seat in 2017, but every Council Seat is ready and able to take award nominations at any time of the year! Thanks and see you all at the Winter Meeting! Contact Meagan at 775-964-2671 or [Meagancarter@fs.fed.us](mailto:Meagancarter@fs.fed.us) or PO Box 292 Austin, NV, 89310.

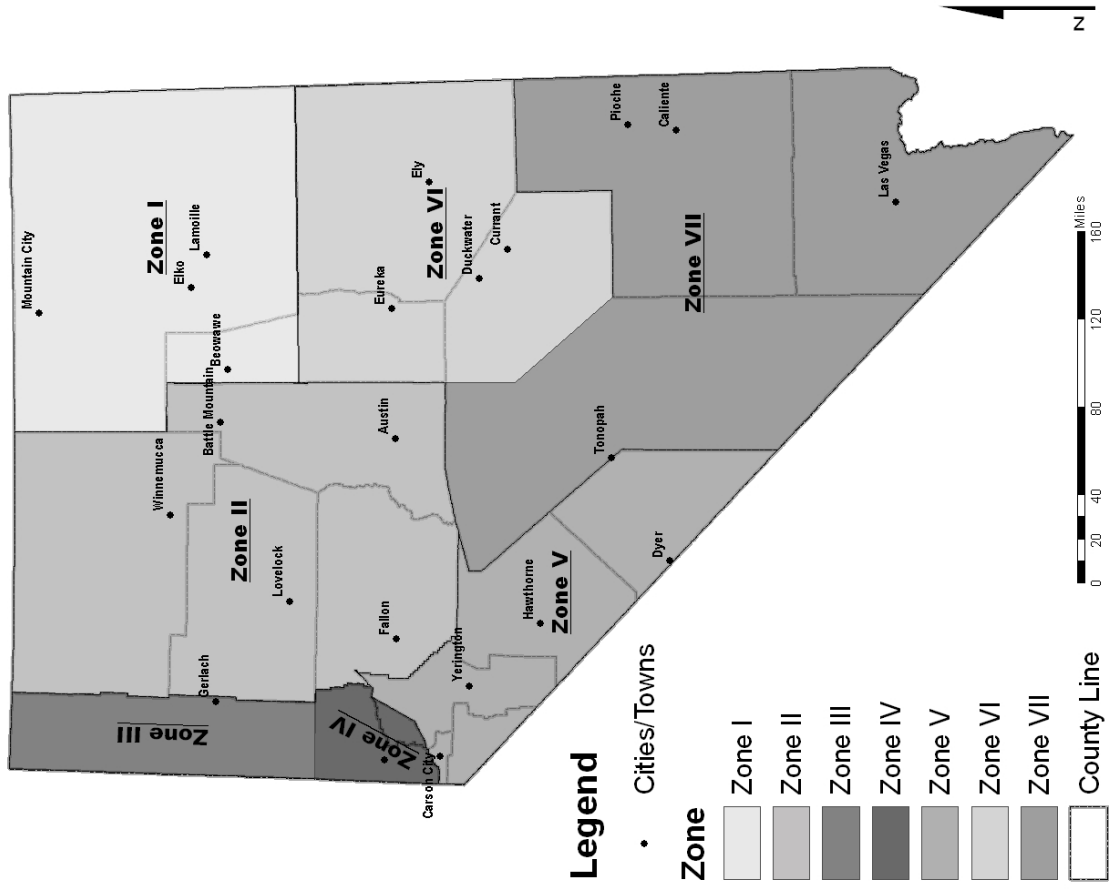
## **NEWS AND NOTES**

\*\*We’d like to send the NvSRM newsletter to key stakeholders such as the BLM State Director, USFS Forest Supervisor, head of NDF, etc; they will have the option to unsubscribe but if they do we need to put the new person in when the job is refilled. This will be a separate mailing list that Trina will send out. In the past, it used to be that when a new agency head came a small delegation from the Section would go and talk about SRM. **SUGGESTIONS NEEDED FOR WHOM / POSITIONS TO INCLUDE ON THE MAILING LIST.** Please send suggestions to Membership Chair Trina Johnson at [Trina.Johnson@nv.usda.gov](mailto:Trina.Johnson@nv.usda.gov).

\*\*Congratulations to the 2016 **BLM Rangeland Stewardship Award** winners! The Grazing Permittee winners are Pete and Sam Mori and families of Tuscarora because they have strived to maintain healthy rangelands while maintaining a sustainable livestock operation. The other winners from Nevada are the Shoesole Resource Management Group of Elko Count for a Collaborative Team. Members of this group include the Cottonwood, Boies, and Home ranches. They are a collaborative, consensus-based group, working on natural resource management and are devoted to sustaining healthy and productive public and private landscapes.



# Nevada SRM Section Zones



Trina Johnson

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