

RANGELAND NEWS



TO FOSTER ADVANCEMENT IN THE
SCIENCE AND ART OF RANGELAND
MANAGEMENT

NEVADA SECTION – SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT

June 2016

NEVADA SECTION OFFICERS

<p>TIM RUBALD <i>President</i> (775) 790-0035 (c) timrubald@dcnr.nv.gov</p>	<p>CHARLIE CLEMENTS <i>President-Elect</i> (775) 848-2501 (c) charlie.clements@ars.usda.gov</p>	<p>RYAN SHANE <i>Past President</i> (775) 934-5946 (c) rsshane@gmail.com</p>	<p>GARY MCCUIN <i>Interim Acting EVP</i> (775) 385-5248 (c) gmccuin549@gmail.com</p>
<p>ANN BOLLINGER <i>Secretary</i> (775) 230-3297 (c) ABollinger@carson.org</p>	<p>ERICA FREESE <i>Treasurer</i> (541) 231-5267 (c) ericafreese66@gmail.com</p>	<p>MAGGIE ORR <i>Newsletter Editor</i> (775) 726-3742 (h) sideoatsg@yahoo.com</p>	<p>NEVADA SECTION WEBSITE http://nevada.rangelands.org submissions to Steve Foster at fosters@unce.unr.edu indicate "for the website"</p>

Zone 1: Duane Coombs, duane.coombs@newmont.com
Zone 3: Genie Montblanc, emb@cabnr.unr.edu
Zone 5: Rob Pearce, robert.pearce@ca.usda.gov
Zone 7: Rick Orr, bbwheatgrass@yahoo.com

Zone 2: Meagan Carter, MeaganCarter@fs.fed.us
Zone 4: Ty Minor, twm3645@yahoo.com
Zone 6: Jake Tibbitts, natresmgr@eurekanv.org
(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

As summer quickly develops to its full power, I want to urge anyone that hasn't been out on the range yet this year to do so pretty soon. It is gorgeous! I've had the pleasure of being pretty much all over the state in the past couple of weeks and I don't remember the country looking as good as it does this year any time in the past 20 years.

Past Presidents Mark Freese and Ryan Shane, along with a large group of committee members, have been working very hard on planning for the 2018 SRM Annual Meeting. If you haven't heard, we are the host Section and it's taking place the end of January 2018...that's only 19 months from now. It seems like a long time but it will definitely be here before we know it. Please join this esteemed group of organizers who are more than willing to step up when needed to move your organization forward. We can certainly use the help!

There is a lot going on with that pesky little bird, the sage-grouse; both the Bi-state and the Greater. Regarding the Bi-state, the "new" Record of Decision (ROD) became effective on May 20, 2016.

According to this new ROD, “the plan amendment describes desired conditions, objectives, standards and guidelines, to conserve, enhance, and/or restore sagebrush and associated habitats to provide for the long term viability of the bi-state sage grouse. The amendment will guide project and activity decision making and resource management activities across bi-state sage grouse habitat on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (HTNF).” As you might have noticed, this ROD was completed by the HTNF, but in cooperation with the BLM, so it includes all public lands in the area.

My current belief was this amendment was done to bring in to the Bi-state area many, if not all, of the standards that are in the Greater SG EIS. There is not a “Sagebrush Focal Area” in the new ROD, but I believe most of the other standards found in the Greater SG EIS are now part of the Bi-state management plan and incorporated into the RMPs.

There is also lots of work being done as we all get to know and understand the new RMPs. This includes issues such as “Maximum Allowable Disturbance” (MAD)”, and of course the now nearly infamous “Table 2.2”. MAD probably won’t affect much of the rangelands area, but Table 2.2 is a major concern out there these days, with some new controversy firmly attached.

If you’re not familiar with Table 2.2, it sets the expectations for stubble height on rangelands. There’s a new study out just last month by Gibson, Blomberg, and Sedinger originally published in the Journal Ecology and Evolution and now available online [here](#). The study appears to contradict some of the justification behind Table 2.2 as far as the timing of the stubble height and needs of such for nesting. If you haven’t seen it, you might want to look it over....could be a game changer for many ranching operations.

Another activity that is moving forward rapidly is the use and implementation of the state’s Conservation Credit System (CCS). In April the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council (SEC) awarded five different operators, in various parts of the state, a total of over a million dollars to “front load” the credits in the system. These funds are to assist the cooperators with the cost of the projects, get them involved in the system, and put available credits into the system to offset ongoing disturbances on public lands. The cash provided then comes back to the state to set up what will become a revolving fund that can be used by the Council when capital is needed to implement credit projects. There is another tranche of funding expected, nearly a million dollars, to be provided later this year.

A number of Conservation Districts are actively involved with producers working with the CCS. The Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team (SETT) held a “certified verifier” training in March, and all three of the Conservation Districts Program staff took the training and became certified verifiers. There were about fifty people representing many consulting firms who also became verifiers at that time, with many of them out working with producers developing CCS projects. These are the people that determine the habitat level, and number of functional acres of an area, by following the protocols in the Habitat Quantification Tool. These numbers directly relate to the number of credits a project area produces over time. For more detailed information on this, contact the SETT at 775-684-8600.

Also, of course the ongoing wild horse issues continue to plague Nevada. I think everyone has noticed the variety of problems, from threats to remove grazing from allotments due to the damage by the horses, to the numerous communiqués between the Governor, BLM State Director Ruhs, the Nevada Congressional Delegation, and BLM officials in Washington, DC. But sadly, so far, to no avail of the problem. Monitoring of the situation continues of course.

OTHER HAPPENINGS:

- The Nevada Association of County Officials (NACO) became a member of SRM earlier this year. They have requested a presentation to their Board, and I will be representing the Section at their meeting on June 24th.
- Range Camp starts with set up on June 18th and runs through June 25th, contact Kathryn Dyer, Sherm Swanson, or Maggie Orr for more information.

- 2018 Convention planning meeting July 25 at 5:00pm, details available through Mark Freese or Ryan Shane, Co-chairs.
- Riparian Grazing Management training July 26-28 in Ely. For additional details contact NvSRM Member Dr. Sherm Swanson.
- NvSRM Summer Tour will be Friday July 29th which is different than originally announced. The Tour will be in the Eureka area with additional details to follow.
- NvSRM summer business meeting will be on Saturday July 30th in Eureka.
- Multiple Indicator Monitoring in Winnemucca; contact Dr. Sherm Swanson.
- PFC training in Western Nevada – details to follow; contact Dr. Sherm Swanson.

There are surely many more activities going on throughout Nevada, this is just intended to highlight a few that the members might be interested in attending.

In closing, please follow the Section on our social media postings to stay up to date on opportunities and happenings. You can find us currently on both Facebook and Twitter. Have a great summer and I hope to see you all at the Summer Tour and business meeting at the end of July!

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

Robert R. Blank	Gary K. Brackley	Donald E. Henderson
Joseph Allen May	Tye Morgan	Deborah F. Origer
Jeanne C. Chambers	Warren P. Clary	Ronald W. Kay
Tim Rubald	Mark A. Weltz	Desiderio C.Zamudio
Karen A. Zamudio	Michael P. Dolan	Jim W. Doughty
Jim V. Gifford	Ronald A. Green	Scott Lusk
Patti J. Novak-Echenique	Edward A. Petersen	Charles A. Petersen
Kent A. Reeves	Bettina Scherer	Brad W. Schultz
Glenn E. Shewmaker	John C. Swanson	Tracey Jean Wolfe
Danielle Courtois	Gabriel Covington	Mark T. Freese
Hanes Holman	Chris M. Jasmine	Kris Kuyper
Katrina Leavitt	David F. Lile	NV Assoc. of Counties
Margaret R. Orr	Richard A. Orr	Robert A. Pearce
Marguerite B. Smith	Agee Smith	L. Domingo Uhart
Ruby Uhart	Joseph A. Wagner	Jeffrey S. White
Jim D. Yoakum		

Membership Chair Trina Johnson reports 42 people as of 04/26/2016 are in “bad renewal status;” that doesn’t sound like the place to be! Nevada Section appreciates all its members and works hard to support Nevada rangelands.

2016 SUMMER MEETING
Intermountain West Range Improvement Practices: Lessons Learned
 President Elect Charlie Clements

The Nevada SRM Section will be holding its annual summer tour and business meeting, July 29-30, 2016 in Eureka, Nevada where the field tour will visit active Pinyon Juniper cutting, chipping and bio-char production, application of bio-char on mining lands, Lawson Aerator applications and seeding, and the seeding of mowed fuel strips. Speakers will include, but are not limited to The PJ Partnership Program, Wildfire Conservation Group, Eureka County Conservation District, Private Landowners and the USDA, Agricultural Research Service.

A bag lunch will be provided and a no-host bar-dinner will be held at the awards ceremony from 5-9pm on Friday evening at the Opera House downtown Eureka. A limited block of rooms are available at the Eureka Gold Country Inn, (775)237-5247, so get your rooms ASAP. The plan is to meet in the parking lot of the Eureka Administration Building at 8am; hoping to have the business meeting in the same building Saturday at 8am. Details to follow; watch your email!

2018 ANNUAL MEETING PLANNING COMMITTEE (AMPC)

Co-Chair, Mark Freese

The next AMPC meeting is scheduled for July 25 from 5-7pm. I am attempting to set up a video conference for the following locations:

Reno – Washoe Coop Classroom A (Host)
Elko – UNSOM GRIS 31
Winnemucca – Humboldt Coop Ext
Austin Forest Service
Yerington NRCS

Caliente – Lincoln Coop Ext
Eureka – Coop Ext
Carson City - Coop Ext
Minden NRCS

We will also have a call in number available. Chairs please come prepared to provide a committee update. If you will be absent, please have your co-chair provide an update.

BARRY PERRYMAN’S CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY

Watch Barry explain to Congress that grazing “IS an ecosystem function,” and perplex the Committee with a one word answer. He describes the Great Basin as the “Cinder Bowl;” <https://youtu.be/uKbm6s0V8Lw> is the link, or you can find it on the Section website: <http://nevada.rangelands.org/index.html>; Barry offers the video for use wherever it might be helpful.

UNR RANGE CLUB

Ty Minor and Lewis Mendive

We would like to thank the Nevada section of SRM for your continued support. We are proud of our association as student members. Club participation has averaged 12-14 members at our bi-weekly meetings, though we are always actively recruiting more members. The University of Nevada Reno Range Club and Student Section for Society for Range Management was involved in a variety of volunteer, educational, and fundraising events in 2015. The club sent nine members to Corpus Christi; to raise money we sold almost 300 gun raffle tickets, participated in a fundraising event at the UNR Gund Ranch, raised money handing out flyers for Panda Express and U-Swirl Frozen Yogurt, and received generous donations. (NvSRM contributed \$2500 to the Club for travel to Corpus Christi.)

The club was also involved in the 2015 SRM Annual Meeting in Sacramento, Science in the Sagebrush Steppe in Burns, OR, mock interviews, Roaring Springs Ranch educational tour, SRM Summer Meeting to Roaring Springs Ranch, Hope on the Range Booth at Capital City Farm days and Nevada Outdoor Experience, CABNR Field days, FFA Range competition set up, Nevada and California Cattleman’s Convention.

With all their activities the Club works to always recoup their account balance to a comfortable \$10,500; the Club will participate in several more fundraisers Spring of 2016 semester. Up and coming events and activities for the spring include Science in the Sagebrush Steppe, Mock interviews, Adopt-a-Space fundraiser through BLM, a Dutch oven food sale on UNR Campus, and Club merchandise sales. The Club is currently growing and increasing the amount of activities we are involved in annually. The future of the Club looks very promising and we can’t wait for what opportunities will be available to these young professionals.

NEVADA SECTION HISTORY; IN THE PAST AND IN THE MAKING

Section Historian Chris Jasmine's "Historical Ramblings" and

AWARDS, AWARDS, AWARDS!

****PLEASE OPEN THE 1973 RANGE CAMP REPORT PDF ATTACHED****

In range management change is inevitable. Changing weather, changing policies, new noxious weeds, new listed species....But thankfully in Nevada one thing has not changed much since 1961 and that is Range Camp. Attached you will see the summary newsletter from Range Camp in 1973. Oddly, everything in those photos is just as I remember camp when I attended in 1995, and I know the 2016 camp will look the same as well. I am proud that the Nevada Section has continued this tradition for so long, mostly unchanged for over 50 years; however, there is one big change that stands out from the 1973 summary newsletter if you look closely.

1973 was the first year that the name was changed from Range Camp for Boys to simply Range Camp, and girls were allowed to attend. What a smart decision it was to include girls along with the boys. Some of the best range ecologists, range cons, wildlife biologists, and ranchers in our profession are the fairer sex. On top of that I am glad that one day my daughter will be allowed to attend camp and explore a profession doing what all of us love...making a living understanding the land. I hope that this look back at the changes to Range Camp in 1973 shows us all that sometimes change is for the better, but that even with change, traditions can and should continue.

(Editor's Note: I hope you looked at the attached PDF to see the great photos and happenings from 1973; when I tried to combine the documents, the photos fuzzed out. As Chris said, Range Camp connects the past and future. Many thanks to Jack Artz who we remember below, Charlie Fisher's son Jon taught soils for many years, and Darwin Bradfield (listed as Gradfield) gave his coveted Dutch oven coating recipe to Rick Orr; it is what we use to this day for Sunday's evening meal. You will recognize the last names of many of the campers attending in 1973. There are happy and sad connections.)

LOST RESOURCE; JACK ARTZ

Jack Artz loved jazz and Western landscapes. His high school graduation present was a one-way ticket from Syracuse, NY to Jackson Hole to take a seasonal job as a fire lookout. After completing his service in World War II he married and moved to Missoula to graduate from University of Montana. After several Forest Service jobs he took his family to Nevada to work for the BLM in Elko, Battle Mountain, Winnemucca, Eureka, and finally Carson City in 1957. He was responsible for most of the crested wheatgrass seedings in northern Nevada.

For 15 years Jack worked as Deputy State Forester for Nevada Division of Forestry, managing the agency's fire program and setting up the state prison honor camp system for inmate fire crews. In 1967 he took a temporary assignment as State Extension Range Management Specialist at University of Nevada; the position became permanent and for nearly 20 years Jack was instrumental in setting up UNR's Renewable Natural Resources Program. He was increasingly active on the public land policy and administration front with two years in DC as the first and only National Range Management Program Leader with USDA Extension Service; he returned to UNR and retired in 1988.

Jack served three years as an officer in SRM, as president in 1992 and for two years as a member of the National Wild Horse and Burro Management Advisory Board. Jack was an asset to the Nevada Section, serving as President in 1959, secretary-treasurer, newsletter editor and Range Man of the Year in 1971. He was instrumental in starting Range Camp and the primary force to keep it going for the first 20 years.

Memorials to NvSRM or the Section Endowment Fund in Jack's honor may be sent to Treasurer Erica Freese at 8905 Little Creek Rd, Reno, NV 89508; please put a note in the memo with your wishes and make it out to "NvSRM." Thanks to Jim Linebaugh for this information.

KATLYN UHART WINS FIRST PLACE AT 2016 HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH FORUM

Lasts year during Nevada's annual youth range camp, I was honored to be the second place recipient of the 2015 Trail Boss Award. As a result, I was sent as one of the Nevada youth delegates to the annual Society for Range Management's High School Youth Forum in Corpus Christi this past January. Once there, I had the opportunity to build relationships and compete against 24 other students from all over the country, as well as Canada! After meeting everyone, our exploration of Texas rangelands began.

On Monday, we toured the Welder Wildlife Foundation, where we learned about the unique resources available to rangeland professionals and ranchers, as well as challenges that are facing rangelands in Texas. In the afternoon, we went to the beach which was a very interesting ecosystem to visit. I personally learned how much the ocean influences all the natural resources, wildlife, and even the human population.

Tuesday was the day of the presentation competition. All of the youth delegates were required to prepare a six to eight minute speech with an accompanying presentation on a range topic of their choice. I had been working on my presentation since July of 2015, choosing to talk about the benefits of collaboration between agricultural businesses and regulatory agencies on the range. As I prepared to deliver my presentation, I'm sure you can imagine my nervous excitement! All of the delegates presented very interesting topics and did a wonderful job.

On Wednesday morning we travelled to the Texas State Aquarium. They had multiple species there, and I was fascinated by the tiny sea horses, star fish and jelly fish. I think my favorite experiences were getting to touch the sting rays and sand sharks, as well as watching the dolphin show. Wednesday afternoon was the awards ceremony, where I was ecstatic to receive first place out of all the delegates for my presentation!

In the end, that week in Texas was truly a once in a life time experience. I learned so many interesting things about some of the nation's most diversified rangelands, made many new friends, and presented my thoughts on a topic that is fascinating to me. I want to thank everyone that made participating in the High School Youth Forum possible; it was a week that I know I will never forget. Thank you!

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA STUDENT PLACES FIRST AT INTERNATIONAL SRM MEETING

By Lewis Mendive (past Trail Boss winner at Range Camp)

This year I had the privilege of attending the SRM annual meeting in Corpus Christi with the University of Nevada-Reno Range Club. I am a sophomore at UNR majoring in Rangeland Ecology and Management and have been a member of the Range Club since last year. I wanted to go to Corpus Christi to network with professionals in the field of rangeland science and compete as a collegiate member of SRM. Because this was my first time attending an annual meeting since high school for the Youth Range Forum (in Billings) I wanted to get my feet wet with as many competitions as I could. When we arrived in Texas I was registered for URME, the plant ID contest, and extemporaneous speaking. I soon realized that I have a lot more work to do before I reach my goal of scoring in the top ten percent of URME and placing in the plants contest but I was fortunate enough to tie for first place in extemporaneous speaking. It was a great experience and I could not have done it without

the help of our range club advisor, Tamzen Stringham, and the rest of the club rooting me on. I also would like to thank the Nevada Section of SRM, the UNR Gund Ranch, and everyone who bought a rifle raffle ticket for helping us raise funds so that we could attend the meeting. I plan on competing again next year in Saint George and can't wait to see where my career will go by being associated with the SRM.

Patti Novak-Echenique Named NRCS Rangeland Management Specialist of the Year

Patti Novak-Echenique, State Rangeland Management Specialist with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) – Nevada, received the agency's highest honor in her profession – Rangeland Management Specialist of the Year for 2015. Patti received the award on February 3, 2016, at the NRCS training session in conjunction with the annual Society for Range Management (SRM) meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Patti was recognized for her enthusiasm and commitment to the range profession; for providing training and mentoring of college students in rangeland inventories; her many years of work on soil surveys and ecological site development; for being instrumental in developing state and transition models for ecological sites in Nevada; for training landowners and NRCS employees in applying rangeland inventorying and monitoring methods and the application of rangeland conservation practices through workshops and one-on-one assistance; working with partnership agencies, organizations and universities; for being an active member in professional societies and her many presentations at national meetings.

Patti has served as the NRCS State Rangeland Management Specialist in Nevada since 2006. Prior to that she served as a Natural Resource Specialist in the Nevada NRCS state office, a NRCS Grassland Specialist in northern Illinois, a NRCS Area Range Specialist in southern California, and a Range and Wildlife Specialist for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power in Bishop, California.

Patti is a Certified Professional in Range Management with the Society for Range Management. She has held positions with the Nevada, California, and North Central Sections of SRM. She is also on the Executive Council of the California-Nevada chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

2015 SECTION AWARDS

PRESIDENT'S AWARD – RYAN SHANE

PRESIDENT'S AWARD – RYAN LEARY

SUSTAINED ACHIEVEMENT TO NEVADA SECTION – MAGGIE ORR

THANK YOU for your work for rangelands!

2016 AWARDS NOMINATIONS REQUESTED

Meaghan says, "It's never too early to send in your nominations for the 2016 Nevada SRM Awards Ceremony! This year's Awards Chair is Zone 2 Council Member Meagan Carter. Keep your eyes peeled for the nomination forms coming soon to everyone's email, or feel free to call Meagan at 775-964-2671 to get a head start on

nominating our hardworking friends and colleagues. Nomination Forms may be sent to meagancarter@fs.fed.us or Meagan Carter, P.O. Box 292, Austin, NV 89310. Thanks and have a great summer season!”

HONORING NvSRM MEMBERS – 50+ YEARS WITH SRM!

JOHN MCLAIN

John McLain joined SRM in 1956 while a student at Montana State University; he worked in eastern Montana for the Soil Conservation Service and started the first Montana/North Dakota Youth Range Camp. He transferred to Minden, Nevada in 1974 and described his first impressions of Nevada as “Baptism by Fire.” He was instantly struck by the beauty of the mountain ranges and started range trail rides that kept going for 25 years. It was a great opportunity for families, ranchers, and government agency officials to meet, look at rangelands and have discussions.

The best thing about his early range career was the smaller amount of bureaucracy; all the agencies had smaller staffs and so more work but less paperwork! Working on horseback was common in the agencies. John is a firm believer that proper rangeland management is accomplished by actually seeing it and sharing that connection with all parties. Riding horseback was a great way for everyone to connect and actually solve problems. It allowed everyone to get on the same page and discuss range conditions, plan changes, and educate/train each other on monitoring and planning.

In July 1978 John and two others formed Resource Concepts, Inc; John still leads RCI in Carson City today.

John most appreciates the people of NvSRM and their commitment to continue to work and influence activities on rangelands. He feels SRM’s ability to navigate sensitive subjects and find balance among differing views really makes SRM a great avenue for rangeland advocacy. The achievement John is most proud of is being president of SRM. It was an unexpected honor and a real challenge. During that time the first international meeting was held off the mainland in Hawaii. It was almost a disaster but the hotel industry pulled together and made it happen. John has received many awards over the years and is always willing to advise and support anyone working for rangelands.

NEWS AND NOTES

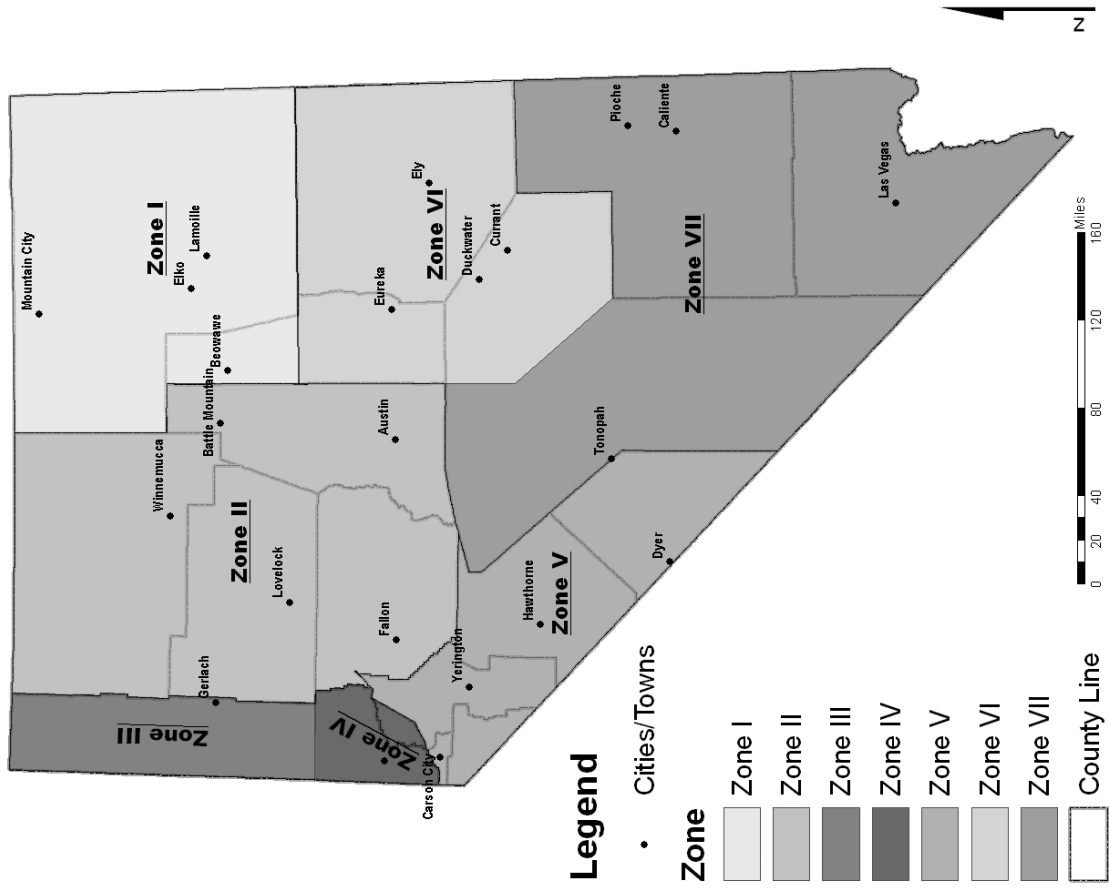
**Draft Minutes for the January 2016 NvSRM Business Meeting online at the Section website: <http://nevada.rangelands.org/index.html>

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.

** National Riparian Service Team Riparian Grazing Management training in Ely on July 26-28.

**Bi-State Traditional Ecological Knowledge Summit, *“Planning from a Broader Perspective,”* June 28-30, free registration, Stewart Indian School Gym, Carson City, NV; any questions/information: TEKSummit2016@gmail.com or 775 687-8333.

Nevada SRM Section Zones



Trina Johnson

978 Glenrock Dr Unit 52

Incline Village NV 89451