

NEVADA SECTION – SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT
WINTER BUSINESS MEETING
UNCE, HUMBOLDT COUNTY CONFERENCE ROOM
WINNEMUCCA, NEVADA
DECEMBER 15, 2011

MINUTES

Present:

Jerry Annis	Jim Linebaugh
Stacy Belshaw	Gary McCuin, Executive VP
Ann Bollinger, Secretary	Heather Mobley, President
Michele Clark	Génie MontBlanc
Leta Collard	Sarah Noelle
Ken Conley	Patti Novak-Echenique
Jeremy Drew	Barry Perryman
Charlene Duncan	BJ Raymond, Zone 3 Council Repr.
Steve Foster	Sam Sanders
Erica Freese, Treasurer	Brad Schultz
Mark Freese, Zone 4 Council Repr.	Pat Shaver
Courtney Ghiglieri	Tamzen Stringham
Don Henderson	John Swanson
Cheri Howell	Sherm Swanson
Chris Jasmine, President-Elect	Cub Wolfe
Kory Kulinsky	Tracey Jean Wolfe
Ryan Leary, Zone 5 Council Repr.	

The meeting was called to order at 8:45 a.m. by President-Elect Chris Jasmine. A quorum was present.

Introductions

Led by President Heather Mobley.

Approval of Minutes

Gary made a motion, seconded by Ken for approval of the minutes as written. Motion carried. The minutes will be available on the section's website.

Interim Minutes, read by Heather. On October 14, Heather received a request from Lovina Roselle for a donation to the Western National Rangeland Career Development Event, a FFA career exploration event designed to connect youth with rangeland professionals. This rangeland education event was held in Brigham City, Utah on November 7-8, 2011. Chris and Ken suggested a Gold Donation of \$500. Heather inquired with the Section Council who, on Oct 25,

voted in favor and it was approved. Ryan made a motion, seconded by Don for approval of the minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report

Erica discussed the following topics:

- The Ameriprise Money Market and Bank of America accounts have been closed. The checking and savings accounts are with Wells Fargo.
- The savings account had \$2,587.95 in the 2007 Meeting Fund. She requested approval to move this amount into the General Fund. Gary asked about the need for liquidity. Erica commented that the checking account can usually cover immediate requests and expenses, and then it can be reimbursed from the appropriate line items. Don inquired if section is willing to plan another national meeting. If so, this money could be used. Ken made a motion, seconded by Steve to move this money into the general fund. Motion carried.
- Erica stated that monies paid to the Range Club since 2009 have come out of the General Fund. She inquired if this needed to be changed and taken out of the Endowment Fund. Brad commented that it has come from various accounts, and the general fund is okay. The Youth Fund is usually used for range camp.
- The Finance Committee held a meeting in November. They proposed the treasurer to act as ex-officio chair and the members include the EVP, President-Elect, and a representative from each of the Youth Activities, Scholarship, and Endowment Committees (the chair or designee). Heather suggested that Kathryn Dyer be involved as she will be coordinating the finances for range camp. Ryan asked about appropriate number to function. Erica said the committee will discuss items but decisions will be made by the Executive Council. Don said the bylaws allow the president to appoint Committee Chairs. Heather suggested the various committees may also appoint their own chair. Don inquired about investment advisors including outside assistance, but did not suggest a specific person or company. Gary emphasized Brad due to his expertise, and maybe John McLain. Jim and Heather agreed. Jim informed the section that Fidelity has offices in Reno. Brad accepted the opportunity to serve on the committee. Tamzen suggested professional advisor, especially with the amount of money. Chris asked the committee to research costs for an advisor. Jim will work with Brad and committee. Heather asked the committee to meet prior to the summer meeting and bring a report. Jim said the Finance Committee will be added to the handbook.
- Erica would like to receive budget requests for range camp, youth forum, and others by October 1st for following calendar year. There is no budget yet for 2012. Gary developed a budget for range camp last year. He also suggested calculating a per head cost estimate for range camp. Chris will work with Kathryn. Don recommended the Finance Committee to contact other committees and inquire about their budget needs, with a deadline.

- Erica recommended a finance audit – to be conducted by a Section member selected by the President. Audits will be conducted either on an annual or bi-annual basis, but at least every other year. Review should include an analysis of income and expenditures. An outside audit could be authorized by the President, if deemed necessary after the internal review. Brad and Jim recommended someone who doesn't serve on the Finance Committee. For outside assistance, Tamzen suggested the CABNR's Chief Financial Officer.
- Upon request at the summer business meeting, Erica researched the possibility of a paypal account. She reported there was no monthly fee but a cost per transaction of 2.2% + \$0.30. Heather confirmed paypal can accept government credit cards. The parent society has a system to facilitate payments for section meetings. However, the cost is \$200 per meeting so it may not be cost effective for the section's smaller meetings. Chris supported the paypal account, especially if there is no cost to the section. Jim made a motion, seconded by Ryan to look into the paypal account again and if feasible, to set it up. Motion carried.
- Gary made a motion, seconded by Ryan to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Committee and Officer Reports

Website Editor

Steve reported the new adopted bylaws are online, under the documents tab. It is an ongoing process to keep the website updated.

Newsletter and *The Progressive Rancher*

Maggie was not present. Gary reported for her and read a list of ideas (topics and authors) for next year in *The Progressive Rancher*. Maggie is always looking for authors. Don inquired about NDOW submitting an article about the sagegrouse ruling, and Mark recommended FWS. Gary suggested an article about the Partners in Conservation program and related wildlife opportunities through NDOW or FWS, as well as an article about the pinyon-juniper projects with the Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition.

Heather shared Maggie's request for a summary of the technical session of the meeting for the next section newsletter, and Chris offered.

Awards

Cub announced that several awards would be presented at the evening's banquet, all except Nevada Young Range Professional and Nevada Sustained Achievement. He's very pleased with their appearance and will display them on the table for all to see. He noted the average cost of \$500-\$600 per year but anticipates increased budget due to production costs and number of recipients. Cub provided a copy of the awards' descriptions. He has kept a list of all past award recipients. Cub doesn't have much info on the recipients to write an article. Heather inquired about the development of a nomination form. Cub uses the SRM form sent each year in April with Rangelands. He also agreed to post the form and award descriptions on the section website to facilitate the nomination process. Jim asked about parent society awards and suggested the

nomination of Chuck Salisbury. Don offered to assist in this nomination for outstanding achievement. Tamzen would like to see more recognition for our young professionals. Jim recommended some special recognition for Gary McCuin too.

Bylaws

Don reported that following the summer business meeting, changes were made to the draft bylaws and the final version provided to Ann for the members' vote. Ann stated that Gary McCuin sent an email via Google Groups on November 2nd requesting members to review the proposed changes to the bylaws and to vote whether to approve. She added that Maggie Orr also informed members via email and the section newsletter. In total, 29 members responded by November 16, 2011 – 28 for approval and 1 did not. The bylaws were approved and adopted based on a majority of votes casted by section members. Gary will work with Ann regarding how and when to submit them to the Nevada Secretary of State.

Handbook

Don and the committee are starting the revision process. The last review and revision was in October 1993 and only a pdf copy seems to be available. Don is working with the team at Resource Concepts Inc. to re-type it into a word document prior to the editing. Heather asked for special thanks and applause for all the work completed by Don and the committee.

Endowment

Erica announced that three donations were received in Les McKenzie's memory, and Rick had sent thank you cards. Jim encouraged more donations. Les's wife requested and received donors' information to send a personal thank you card, though the response wasn't as quick as she would have liked.

Historian

Heather reported on the appointment of Gerry Miller, who expressed interest in this position.

Membership

Tracy was not present, but she provided the attached report.. Heather reported the increase in membership and some issues with Allen Press have been resolved.

Mentorship

Heather reported on the last two students who had accepted mentorship opportunities. One was interested in working with the USFS and the other was interested in wild horse and burro programs. This semester, another two students were interested and both were in attendance at the business meeting. Michelle Clark is interested in weeds, range management, and research. She just graduated and is looking for opportunities. Stacy Belshaw is interested in range and riparian management and she will graduate in May 2012. Heather has also attended UNR Student Club meetings and has helped with mock interviews. Chris has visited with students at Great Basin College and plans on future visits as well.

Don asked if Heather can develop descriptions. Heather has written draft requirements for mentoring. She inquired if students need to be currently enrolled or if recent graduates are acceptable. She suggested review and advisement on OPM requirements, a willingness to assist

with resume and job application, and opportunities to shadow other professionals. Mentors should encourage participation in various meetings and events. Also they should assist with a ride, room, introductions, etc. Heather asked if there should be a minimum or maximum timeframe and whether there should be an evaluation form. Chris suggested keeping informal for now. BJ stated USFS R5 in California has a strong mentor program and offered to provide more information. The parent society may also be in the process of writing guidelines.

Nominations

The election results were announced. Ryan Leary was elected for President Elect; and Ryan Shane, Barbara, and Mark were re-elected as their Zone Council Representatives.

Producer Affairs

Ken had nothing to report.

Public Affairs

Brad had nothing to report, and he would like to step down from the committee.

Scholarship

Jim asked if Sherm would continue with the scholarship program. Gary added that this was a joint position with Tracy Shane. It was unclear if the scholarship(s) is available to GBC students, and Jim suggested it should be clearly stated. Barry supported the scholarship opportunity for all students. Jim inquired if the scholarship could extend to internships.

Student Affairs

Michelle and Stacy reported for the UNR Range Club. The range club was tentatively defunct because recruitment was low, but now there are eight members. Five members are attending the SRM meeting in Spokane and will be participating in the various student contests. They have money but would like to save some for spring activities including a guest speaker. They thanked all those who helped with mock interviews. Barry added that UNR combined the range part of the Forest and Rangeland Management Major with the range livestock production part of the Animal Science Major to form a new interdepartmental Rangeland Ecology and Management Major approved by the UNSHE Board of Regents last June.

Barry provided several suggestions to recruit high school students into range programs. He suggested the development of a series of videos and he encouraged members to visit their local high schools. Jim inquired about the 2+2 program, and Barry replied that the first student just graduated. Some students finish their first years at GBC but then, concerned with the status of UNR programs, transfer to out-of-state schools. Ann knows one teacher at Sparks High School who is open to guest speakers.

EVP

Gary reported that he is changing employment so the section needs to find a new cook for range camp and new EVP. He will assist with the transition. Any suggestions for cooks should be sent to Chris or Kathryn. Jim inquired if a stipend would help. Cub knows someone but he would want to be paid. Erica said program fees could be increased to cover the cost. In the past, camp fees were split approximately 50/50 from donations/sponsorships and direct payment. The

current fee is \$180 per person. Heather asked for a deadline to find a cook, at least for an interim position. Rick and Maggie may help but they don't want to organize. Mark asked for a written job description and offered to send out the announcement. Gary suggested a deadline of February 29th and will develop the job description.

Gary will remain as the EVP until January 31st. He said a new or young member could fill the position but its ideal for someone with section history and knowledge. Heather read the job description. Jim reminded that the President can appoint. In the past, benefits included a minimal stipend and reimbursement for expenses incurred while attending the annual meeting. However, neither Chuck nor Gary accepted a stipend or reimbursement. Jim made a motion, seconded by Don to approve \$1,000 in the budget for annual meeting costs. Discussion continued. Barry expressed the need to make money if the section will be paying these costs. Tamzen stated that if the EVP is required to attend the annual meeting and the Parent Society Advisory Council meetings, then the section should cover the costs. Patti said federal employees could only accept payment if they attended the annual meeting on their personal time. Ryan made the motion, seconded by Ann to approve up to \$2,000 for the annual meeting. Heather asked for the vote – 12 approved, 3 opposed. Motion carried.

Barry stated that if there's a "salary," there shouldn't be a conflict of interest. However, if it's a "salary," the section would need to issue a 1099 for tax purposes. The section should review reimbursement possibilities. Gary recommended payment from the General Fund. He added that the Endowment Fund is for special projects. Jim suggested using the Endowment Fund, if additional funding is needed.

Zone Council Reports

Zone 1. Ryan Shane was not present, but he provided the attached report.

Zone 3. BJ Raymond didn't have anything to report.

Zone 4. Mark Freese didn't have anything to report.

Zone 5. Ryan Leary thanked Mark Freese for drafting a letter for zone council representatives to use in the recruitment of new members and the successful enrollment of one new member. Ryan said BLM employees can have their membership reimbursed. Heather announced the election of Ryan as the new President-Elect. Heather nominated Courtney Ghiglieri as the new Zone Council Representative and asked for vote. Motion carried.

Old Business

Letter for Zone Council Representatives

Heather thanked Mark for his time and drafting a letter for zone council representatives to use in the recruitment of new members.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. for the lunch break and afternoon workshop.

The business meeting resumed and was called to order at 4:40 p.m. by President-Elect Chris Jasmine. A quorum was present.

New Business

Section role in the Interagency Ecological Site / State and Transition Model Workshop

Ryan informed members about a series of workshops regarding ecological sites / state and transition models to be conducted by NRCS. A field-based workshop will be scheduled in Nevada, possibly Reno, for June 4-6, 2012. She explained the purpose is to learn and understand the progression of various sites and implications for management. She proposed the scheduling of the Nevada Section summer meeting to correspond with the workshop and inquired about the section's interest to assistance with hospitality i.e. organize dinner(s), provide breaks or socials (costs to be covered in the registration fee). While the workshop itself would not be a money-making opportunity for the section, it could be an opportunity to recruit new members. Erica mentioned the possibility of hosting a no-host bar or raffle. Pat Shaver from NRCS Portland spoke about the pilot project in Las Cruces and partnership between NRCS, BLM, and USFS. Due to the positive response, NRCS received funding to host five workshops nationwide. The workshops will be limited to approximately 40 participants and generally attended by local agency personnel. Tamzen explained they are working out the details. Don made a motion, seconded by BJ to support the workshop in coordination with section summer meeting. Motion carried.

SRM Annual Meeting in Reno in 2017

Chris has received requests from the Parent Society and RSCVA to submit a bid to host the SRM Annual Meeting in Reno in 2017. Utah would like to host the meeting in St. George, but the parent society says they don't have the facilities. Arizona might be interested in a joint section meeting here – because Phoenix and Tucson are too expensive. Barry said the Northern Great Plains isn't interested in a joint section meeting here. If a bid isn't submitted by the Nevada Section, it is likely the International Mountain Section will submit a bid and be selected. Chris stated that the 2016 Annual Meeting will be held in Sacramento. Don shared his surprise on the desire to hold back-to-back meetings at such close locations. Tamzen reminded the section that the Parent Society would like to select four permanent locations, and one includes Reno. Heather expressed that those who vote in favor of an Annual Meeting in Reno will be expected to help with the planning. Jim stated that if the Nevada Section enters into joint section meeting, our section should receive a share of the proceeds.

In response to questions: There is a person who helps from the Parent Society. RSCVA helped with the hotel but not much else. The planning starts two years prior and includes a lot of work especially with the finances and tours.

Jeremy made a motion, seconded by Gary to not bid for 2017 and discuss options for 2018 with other sections at Annual Meeting in Spokane. Motion carried.

Donation to the SRM Horse Symposium

Erica, with others, developed a Horse Symposium for the Annual Meeting in Spokane and she requested a sponsorship from the Nevada Section to help pay travel costs for the speakers

(coming from Canada, Australia, etc). She said the symposium will include presentations on current research (much on the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge), and a summary will be written. Erica has received \$2,000 but is seeking a total of \$5,000. There will be a speaker from BLM but they haven't provided sponsorship. Sam expressed need to keep subject in the forefront. Kent made a motion, seconded by Ken to approve a \$1,000 donation. Don suggested that Erica contact the pipeline project to request a donation. Because the donation would be given to the Parent Society, it would be non-refundable. The motion was amended to approve a \$1,000 donation based on need – if \$5,000 is not raised from other sources. Motion carried. Gary suggested sharing the symposium information with Jess Peterson to publicize in Washington D.C.

Donation to the SRM Riparian Rancher Forum

Heather was contacted by Sandra Wyman to see if the Nevada Section could make a donation and help pay costs for Duane Coombs to attend the SRM Annual Meeting. Duane will be the only Nevada rancher to speak in the Riparian Rancher Forum. Barry reminded members that Duane has donated much of his time and the saddle to the section. Heather acknowledged the incredible opportunity to share success stories from Nevada. Jim made a motion, seconded by Ken to approve a \$500 donation from the Endowment Fund. Motion carried.

UNR Range Club

Tamzen reported eight students in the range club – five students are seniors, five students are attending the SRM Annual Meeting. At the beginning of the semester, they had less than \$1,000 in the bank account. Now they have over \$6,000. They want to plan a ranch tour and other activities. In preparation of SRM, they saved money on airfare by purchasing tickets during the Black Friday Sale on Southwest Airlines. Tamzen made a motion, seconded by Jeremy to approve a \$1,500 donation from the Youth Fund to help the UNR students attend the SRM Annual Meeting. Motion carried.

Western National Rangeland Career Development Event

As previously reported, the Section Council had approved a \$500 donation to the FFA career exploration event for November 2011. Heather explained this was the third annual event and she anticipates a future request.

Don and Jim expressed the need to budget for all expenses, including donations. Brad had developed the fiscal year to follow the calendar year – with the idea that all requests would be considered at the winter meeting. Barry suggested a budget summary to easily view all income and expenses. Likewise, BJ requested a summary of all funding requests to be discussed with the Treasurer's report.

The Western National Rangeland Career Development Event expense isn't anticipated until after summer meeting. Ann made a motion, seconded by Don to wait until the summer meeting in June to approve this donation – and after a review of all approved expenses. Chris agreed to work with the Treasurer on preparation of the budget for the summer meeting.

Nevada Section Winter Meeting 2012-2013

Cub suggested a joint meeting and awards banquet in the Carson Valley with the Nevada Chapter of the Wildlife Society and sagegrouse working groups. This could be a money-making opportunity for the section. Cub discussed the presentation of eight agency awards, and he should be able to raise money for the awards at an approximate cost of \$100 each. Jim asked if any other members had suggestions for the winter meeting. Heather said there was a suggestion for joint meeting with the Nevada Cattlemen's Association. Don made a motion, seconded by Cub to explore the possibility of holding the next winter meeting in the Carson Valley with the Nevada Chapter of the Wildlife Society. Motion carried.

Letter of Support

Maggie sent a message requesting a letter of support for the Lincoln County Conservation District. The Conservation District is seeking funds to replace a CCC-built erosion control structure. It will be a collaborative project so they are seeking letters from relevant supporters. SRM would be useful for a scientific perspective as the protected ground is a combination of farm ground and rangeland. It was discussed and all agreed. Don commented that the Public Affairs Committee should address these requests. Sherm is the chair and the materials were given to him.

UNR Main Station Farm

Ann reported on the latest news regarding the farm. Within the last six months, one 400+ acre parcel was divided into two parcels – one of which is 104± acres and lies adjacent to McCarran Blvd. Next, this parcel was annexed by the City of Reno. After annexation, this parcel was out of compliance with current zoning. The current zoning allows for a Planned Unit Development (PUD) or Open Space. UNR and Interim-President Marc Johnson hired a consulting firm to design a PUD, which was reviewed and approved by a 3-2 vote of the Planning Commission on November 2. Three people filed appeals. The proposal was scheduled to be heard at the Reno City Council on December 14, but Marc Johnson requested a continuance. Still, over 100 members of the public attended the meeting and some spoke on the public record. All opposed the project for one reason or another. The City Council advised Marc Johnson to hold town hall meetings and discuss the proposal prior to bringing it back, probably within the next 3-6 months.

Barry made the motion, seconded by Ken to adjourn at 6:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Bollinger
January 13, 2012

SRM Membership Report
Winter Meeting - 12/15/11
Tracy Shane

Membership is currently (12/2/11) at 184 members. This is pretty good considering everything that has happened with Allen Press taking over membership this last year. Wow, I had no idea what I was taking on with volunteering as membership chair during this major transition period! National SRM sent several letters and emails to expired members reminding them to join up again. Also, I was highly encouraged to send a letter to all the expired members of our section to try and get them to join again. I will admit, that by the time we finally understood the magnitude of the membership problem, and I was encouraged by our section leadership and the national leadership to start sending out letters, I was busy nesting for my second child. I didn't get the letters out before I had Gracie, and I still haven't sent the letters out.

Since that time, SRM now sends out different membership reports almost every month. They are still a work in progress. Just this month the new report breaks out members of the NV section who are also members of other sections into a separate tab in the Excel worksheet. I almost miscounted the number of members we have because of this. We also just found out that some people who were members of two sections or were previously a member of another section lost their section membership with us during the transition to Allen Press. If anyone ever wants to see the Nevada membership report, they can do so by logging into the members webpage. Click on member resources on the left. Once there you can click on section reports in the upper right corner and then select Nevada. You'll get the most up-to-date report there in an Excel file.

Another problem is that my computer needed a full re-install this week, so I can't tell you how we are doing on membership this year compared to before last year. One year ago we had 161 members, so we are up 23 members. I can't tell how many expired members we may have lost though with this Allen Press takeover. I have figured out that once you are off from your original pay date for SRM, they consider you as expired, even if it has been less than 1 year since your last payment date. So say, 2 years ago, you paid your dues 6 months late. Now you pay annually from that date, but SRM considers you as expired for 6 months of each year. This makes my job a little bit confusing. It makes it hard to tell Gary whether or not to remove people from the Google Groups list. As of the latest report, 40 members are "expired," but only seven members are more than one month late on their renewals. We have 17 new members since Dec. 1 2010.

Another membership issue that we've been trying to line out is the communication between me and the EVP for adding new members to the Google Groups list. I am finally starting to figure out how to know we have added new members to the section and then email their contact information to Maggie for the newsletter and to Gary for inviting them to Google Groups. I need to edit the new member letter that I send out to explain the Google Groups list serve so that they'll accept Gary's invitations.

Thank you for your patience with my long learning curve in this position. Hopefully we can have a better feel for the membership situation come the summer meeting.



SRM

SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT

Nevada Section

December 14, 2011

SRM Nevada Section Board and Membership
Nevada Section Winter Meeting
Winnemucca, Nevada

Dear Board Members and Membership:

Below are the details of my Council report for the 2011 Winter Meeting.

- The State of the Economy in Elko County is Strong due to mining and ranching interests. Trickle down impacts have residential and commercial development expanding at healthy rates.
- Mines are expanding, permitting, and opening new facilities at record pace. By their own reports, 600-1000 mining jobs will be added to the local economy every year for the foreseeable future. This does not include spin off industries that provide support and services to mines and mine workers.
- Large scale land purchases have been picking up for a few years. Ranches are again being purchased by mines for mining, mitigation and other purposes. Wealthy investors are also purchasing ranches and other lands as investment safe houses. As the economy remains healthy and growing, some ranches are being purchased for commercial and residential development. A large amount of checkerboard lands across Nevada are scheduled to be purchased by an out of state buyer.
- The wild horse sanctuary project of Ms. Picken's is still in development. She has been doing some marketing at local schools. Clay said they are doing well, gaining weight as they graze across over 4,000 acres of private ground and will soon be receiving hay. Since the horses arrived in June he has had very little problem with them escaping the BLM regulation fencing. "To date, we have had only two escapees and getting them back in was as easy as opening a gate and pointing them towards it". "Since the Warm Creek Ranch and its grazing allotments do not contain a Herd Management Area, it may not fit the criteria of an eco-sanctuary. If so, then the "Paiutes" will simply stay put. With its three new pivots and other substantial improvements, they feel that the ranch will adequately handle these horses." "The Spruce Ranch is owned by the Saving America's Mustangs Foundation, which has submitted a proposal to the BLM for an eco-sanctuary. Horses supplied by the BLM would graze both the ranch's public grazing allotment and private ground." "This proposal is under review. When the BLM review team recently visited the ranch, Clay described talk centered around making this plan work and defining the most sensible way to manage the horses and the resources. Both Clay and Ms. Pickens said the details are up to the BLM. All they can do is wait to see if the results are something the Saving America's Mustangs Foundation can live with." You can read more here: http://grayjaypress.com/PDFs/Update_on_the_Mustang_Monument.pdf . The Elko County Commission has adimately apposed the sanctuary, although the City of Wendover welcomes the idea based on the ecotourism economic benefits.

- Wildfire on the range continues to be a political hot potatoe. During a lightning bust following by dry winds, 210,000 acres burned in Eureka and Elko Counties in a matter of five days. This is later in the season than normal, leaving ranchers and politicians fired up about reducing the amount of fire on the range. Not even the 300 foot bare strip of soil along the pipeline construction area stopped the fire. A fire forum is being sponsored by the Elko County to address the issue and will likely be held next fall. NDOW and BLM are actively rehabbing lands. NDOW is looking to award \$250,000 in funding request for \$500,000 total project cost. NDOW funding, mitigation funding and Reno NBU funds are all being used to match Ruby Pipeline Mitigation dollars in reseeded mostly private rangelands for watershed stabilization and habitat improvement using species like sagebrush and yarrow. Some drill seeding will occur as part of the project that covers approximately 23,000 acres. Newmont is partnering with BLM at the cost of 1 million to perform rehab efforts on their private lands so that a watershed approach can be used. BLM is drilling 17,000 acres as well as performing a lot of aerial seeding for sagegrouse and mule deer habitat. Weed treatment on burned areas next year are planned for hoary cress around Tuscarora and Scotch thistle around Indian Creek. BLM Drill seeding contracts start this week. BLM performed in house seedings on all other smaller fires. January contracts for aerial seeding of sagebrush will also be implemented.
- BLM has also been implementing some cheatgrass control and sagegrouse habitat improvement projects. The Owyhee Bluffs and Izzenhood project areas were seeded over a plateau treatment. The projects seek to replace cheatgrass with perennial native and non-native grasses and forbs. They are also attempting to reestablish Wyoming sagebrush. Success is being found with spring application of Journey treatments, though Plateau treatments may have been negatively impacted by rain and a litter layer. Truax drill allowed Siberian wheatgrass to successfully establish, especially in areas with a large amount of bare ground that was treated with pre-emergent herbicide.
- One of two ranches in Elko County managed through a CRM-type of process is being litigated by Western Watersheds. The permit renewal on the Hubbard Vinyard Allotment is in the process of being appealed. Advocates for the CRM approach acknowledge the amount of progress in natural resource health and recovery on the two ranches, as well as the accompanying improvements in agriculture production since its inception. They find it hard to believe there is contrary evidence to serve as a foundation for the appeal.
- USFS's Travel Management Plan continues to be a standoff between the Elko County Commission and the USFS. Congressman Amodei has gotten involved, who is on the House Natural Resources Committee, hopes to arrange a field hearing through the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, spokesman Brian Baluta said last week. Amodei's letter also asked Higgins to put the record of decision on the plan for Elko County on hold until after the hearing. V Amodei's letter followed a hearing the subcommittee held last week in Washington, where County Commissioner Dahl testified on the Travel Management Plan. Commissioners also said they would like to see the rangers who worked on the travel plan come to the Amodei hearing. Former Mountain City District Ranger Tom Montoya took another Forest Service posting a few months ago, and Ruby Mountains and Jarbidge District Ranger Gar Abbas is on a temporary assignment in southern Nevada.

Sincerely,

Ryan S. Shane
Zone I Councilman, Nevada Section SRM

Ryan S. Shane
Zone I Councilman

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