

RANGELAND

NEWS

TO FOSTER ADVANCEMENT IN THE
SCIENCE AND ART OF RANGELAND
MANAGEMENT



NEVADA SECTION – SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT

March 2019

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(see map on last page for zones)

Editor's Note: I apologize for the lack of newsletters in 2018; I am ready for 2019; this one is long but I hope worth waiting for. Any corrections or suggestions, please send them along to me, thanks. Don't forget to regularly check out the NvSRM website at <http://nevada.rangelands.org/>. Thanks to Dan Harmon for his work on the website.

PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS

Maria Ryan

Happy Spring, SRM Members!

With the winter we've had followed by a wet spring, it looks like the range across Nevada will be in amazing shape this year! Of course, I'm a bit sick of the mud, but we really can't complain. Calves and lambs will have great starts with the flush of forage we'll be seeing really soon. That's if everyone makes it through calving and lambing. Across the state, I keep hearing about terrible calving and lambing circumstances like folks have never or hardly ever seen before. All I can say is hang in there. Once we get the little ones up and running, it promises to be a

great year on the range. These banner years are what really drive change and improvement on the range, so take advantage and take care of your resources.

And then there's the potential that with the great forage production we're expecting to see, we're expecting a big fire season. Research just published out of the Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Station in Burns showed that spring and fall grazing at 40-50 percent utilization levels decreased the probability of ignition experimental plots by 170-220 percent over ungrazed plots! With the BLM's increased focus on flexibility, this may be ranchers' opportunity to get out early and grazing those non-native grasses such as cheatgrass and red brome down south.

On another note, this is the Year of the Member for SRM. I encourage all of you to talk membership to your colleagues and friends. There is much happening at the national, international and state levels which will be interesting and exciting! We need all of you – new members and those who are die-hard SRMers to jump in and help out. We need your voices and ideas of how to take advantage of current range and political conditions to move our Society and care of the range resources forward. Of course, there are downsides to some of the political circumstances we're experiencing. We've been losing ground over the past few years with the huge fires we're seeing and the inability to fight them and rehabilitate them. Federal agency budgets are declining when we need them headed in the other direction. We especially need young professionals to join up. SRM had instituted a new Young Professionals membership level at a discounted rate for those folks who have been out of college for less than five years. Sign up! We need you.

Finally, Dan Harmon in Reno has taken over our outreach and education booth this year since I'm busy with President activities. There are many youth-oriented activities – mostly in western Nevada where the bulk of our membership lives and works. PLEASE contact Dan at Daniel.Harmon@ars.usda.gov to see where you can help out. These events for kids are a great way to introduce them to the outdoors and the environment, get their parents knowledgeable about Range Camp, and steer them towards a career in Range. Besides that, the kiddos are a hoot! Please give Dan a hand.

Happy Trails and Happy Spring!
Maria Ryan, President NvSRM

The "President's Ponders" that almost wasn't – Rixey Jenkins, written 5/22/18

The annual meeting (the 2018 International Meeting) is over and I hope you had a blast connecting with your fellow members and attending the technical sessions and social events. We welcomed over 1400 attendees and I want to extend my thanks and congratulations to our 2018 annual meeting planning committee led by Mark Freese and Ryan Shane. The 2018 annual meeting was exceptional and it would not have happened without the dedication of the planning committee over the last couple of years.

The plenary session, tours and offering of technical sessions was outstanding. Sherm Swanson organized an excellent Celebration of Life for Kent McAdoo and Allen Torell honoring the lives of these two gentlemen and the impacts they had on their families, friends and the field of rangeland management.

It was great to see some Section members receiving honor awards. John McClain received the well-deserved WR Chapline Land Stewardship award for his accomplishments and contributions in the application of the art and science of range management. Don Henderson received the fellow award in recognition of his exceptional service to SRM and in advancing the art and science of range management.

Congratulations to Barry Perryman on his election to the Board of Directors for the Parent Society and The UNR range club won the university chapter display contest and Lewis Mendive brought home 3rd place in the extemporaneous public speaking contest.

As I sat through the advisory council meeting, it was obvious that the Nevada Section is on the right track. Several Sections are no longer active and many are facing dwindling membership numbers. Things are looking good for the Nevada Section. Membership is up, finances were good before the annual meeting and we'll see a nice profit from hosting the annual meeting. Charlie Clements led an effort over the last year with the finance committee to reorganize our investments to increase our returns and interest and put us in position to be awarding scholarships again. We also received a large donation to our scholarship fund from the Nugget. I hope to build on Charlie's work and see the Section awarding a scholarship or two this winter.

Take care this summer and get out and enjoy Nevada's rangelands.
Rixey Jenkins from last year, now Past President

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Trina Johnson, Membership Chair

Initial SRM Begin Date of 60 years: Al Steninger

Initial SRM Begin date of 20 Years: Gary McCuin, Edward Petersen, Kirk Davies, W. Alan Schroeder

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Members Showing an Initial SRM Begin Date of December 2018-January 2019
(If you are not a new member, SRM has the wrong date in their system.)

Chris Jasmine	Alyssa Badertscher	Ronald Kay	Kelsey O'Neil
Beatrice A. Wade	Sarah Kidd	Charles Redd	Joseph Domer
Anna Estill	Blake Duncan	Desiderio Zamudio	Thomas Hilken
Trevor Carter	Molly Reil	Dustin Ward	Jeno Faretto
Kaylie Machutta	Sadie Leyba	Rebecca Palush	Joel Donalson
Scott Dickson			

Trina reports that as of February 5, 2019, 110 NvSRM members have let their membership lapse. Please renew if you have not already or give us feedback on why you don't wish to renew or what you would like to see changed to keep your interest. Please contact Trina Johnson at Trina.Johnson@nv.usda.gov if your name is incorrect on the list above or you have feedback.

SRM at large has been working hard to recruit new members, retain existing members and reinstate those who have lapsed; Past President Barry Irving called 2018 "The Year of the Member." The Annual Report shared at the Annual Meeting in Minneapolis states SRM membership has been on a slow and steady incline for the past three years; there was a 300+ membership gain last year; In 2018, SRM's membership was at 2,534. Check out the Annual Report at <http://rangelands.org/newsletters/>. And remember, now your membership ALWAYS EXPIRES on December 31st!

AWARDS

Dr. Robert Blank was presented the **Nevada Sustained Achievement Award** at the Winter Meeting in December 2018. Bob initially worked for USDA Soil Conservation Service mapping soils in South Dakota. Following his graduate studies Bob moved his family to Reno and started work for the USDA Agricultural Research Service in 1987. Though Bob retired in August 2018 he continues to work on soils related issues throughout the Great Basin as an Emeritus Scientist. Bob's areas of research include Great Basin pedology, plant-soil relationships of invasive plants, physio-chemical mechanisms by which perennial grasses suppress invasive annual grasses, fire ecology, and repeated photography for ecological assessment. Bob has over 200 publications throughout his career.

Charlie Clements knows Bob as an excellent Agronomist/Soils Scientist that thinks outside the box. Over the years Bob has mentored dozens of graduate students and participated in numerous professional meetings including more than two dozen Society for Range Management Annual Meetings. Bob has guest lectured numerous classes at the University of Nevada as well as providing hands-on knowledge of laboratory equipment and procedures and conducted numerous field trips. Bob also presented many times at the Nevada Section-Society for Range Management field tours and winter meetings. Bob truly loves to educate young minds in a work environment as well as social environment. Bob's continued passion for Soils Science as it relates to Range Management and his continued effort is mentoring students for over 30 years in Nevada is recognized and appreciated by the Nevada Section for such continued service.

Nevada Section also awarded the **Great Basin Award** to Ely BLM previous Supervisory Range Lead, **Chris Mayer**. Chris devoted his entire career to creating and maintaining great working relationships with local ranchers and staff within the BLM to improve rangeland management in Tonopah, Gerlach, Paradise/Denio and still continuing in Ely. His single-minded focus was to implement processes and procedures on the ground that improve efficiency and use the latest scientific research. Chris' management and staff have found him consistently professional, positive, and always looking to create solutions that are common sense. Chris works harder every day of his career of over 40 years and he has created a training ground for new rangeland management specialists which has spread his influence throughout the BLM. Some of Chris' accomplishments at Ely BLM:

- Yearly field monitoring workshops since 2000
- Several field tours – latest summer 2018
- Developed Standards Determination Document to evaluate Rangeland Health and implemented the Term Permit Renewal (TPR) process for the District
- Fully processed 118 TPRs (grazing permits) – the most in the BLM
- Set AML for horses and livestock for District (1990s)
- Issues Decision for Desert Tortoise Habitat in Tule Desert
- Implemented use of Ecological Site Descriptions and State and Transition Models in evaluating rangeland health
- Developed and implemented monitoring scheduling tools
- Lead author on range for the Ely District Resource Management Plan (RMP) from 2005-2008
- Developed successful relationships with ranchers (permittees) so that cooperative monitoring and Allotment Management Plans (AMP) were truly cooperative

Chris Mayer's ongoing legacy is his total commitment to the best rangeland management possible within the confines of the situation and his understanding and never-compromising commitment to work by building relationships. Chris never stops striving for great. He was in the trenches for 42 years, beginning his career mapping soils/describing ESDs on the Tonopah District for three years with Jim Linebaugh and Chuck Saulisbury, long time members of the Nevada Section.

A testimony to Chris's work on the ground with ranchers was given by Gracian Uhalde of John Uhalde and Sons in eastern Nevada. The Uhalde operations is a 5-generation cattle and sheep operation running 150 miles north to south in the Ely District. Gracian said of his 25 years of working with Chris, "He is a rare treasure. His standards are impeccable, his knowledge immense. Chris has always made decisions based on what's best for the land, and that always guaranteed you could take that to the bank." Section members recognized his exceptional contributions to Nevada with a well-deserved standing ovation.

Ryan Shane and Mark Freese received **Annual Meeting Co-Chair Awards** for their excellent work leading our planning committee to produce an exception SRM Annual Meeting in 2018. We heard nothing but praises from members on how well the meeting went. Both of these men made huge sacrifices in time and energy to make the meeting a success spending numerous nights away from their families to ensure the planning committee had the support and information needed to execute their duties. A huge thanks to both of them, from all of us in the Nevada Section.

AMPC Co-Chair Award
is presented to
Mark Freese / Ryan Shane
by the Nevada Section Society for Range Management
for his dedicated service to the Section as Co-Chair of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee
for the 71st Annual Society for Range Management Meeting
Empowerment through Applied Science
December 2018

Rixey Jenkins was awarded the **President's Award**; unfortunately (or fortunately), he was occupied with a wild horse gather at Cold Creek. Thanks, Rixey for your leadership of the Nevada Section in 2018.

Thomas Warren of Elko received an **Outstanding Achievement Award for Research/Academia** at the Society for Range Management's 72nd Annual Meeting, Technical Training and Trade Show in Minneapolis. For a full article and photo see https://elkodaily.com/business/elkoan-receives-stewardship-award-from-range-management-society/article_5fca8d13-ab39-5b6b-8721-7456bc52d694.html

UNR RANGE CLUB

The UNR Range Club is just winding down a fantastic year. We returned back from SRM in Minneapolis where we had nine undergraduate and several grad students representing UNR. Students competed in the Undergraduate Rangeland Management Exam, plant identification, extemporaneous speaking and research posters. As well as competing the students went to many workshops, research presentations and professional forums. Many students also gained certificates at the meeting such as NEPA training. The club elected a new

officer team and the officers are Sarah Johnson as president, Joey Domer as VP. Anna Colbert as the secretary and Blake Duncan as the treasurer; these students all have at least two more years at UNR. This spring the club is attending Science in the Sagebrush, a camp that teaches students soil, vegetation, and management practices in Sagebrush Steppe ecosystems. The club will also be going out to the Gund Ranch to congratulate the graduating students in May. Last summer all the Club graduates got range-related jobs. There are 30 members in range club with 20 core active members. They have been working on promotional outreach items and giveaways such as food etc. to increase member involvement at meetings and events. Contact the UNR Range Club at unrrangeclub@gmail.com.

PREVIOUS NEVADA SECTION TOUR AND MEETING REPORTS

2018 Winter Meeting - Landscapes, Ranchers and Agencies – Changing Dynamics

The 2018 Winter Meeting continued the Outcome-based Grazing theme begun at the summer tour. Meeting at NDOW in Reno, presentations focused on changing dynamics with ranchers involved in the BLM Outcome Based Grazing (OBG) program; three different ranches working in the program discussed their participation and how OBG is changing their operational dynamics. BLM Rangeland Management Specialists working with those ranchers offered administration and monitoring information particular to each ranch's goals and allotments. These are highlights from Maggie Orr's notes.

Kathryn Dyer, State Range Lead for BLM, and Duane Coombs of Intermountain Joint Venture provided background.

- Kathryn is going to take over the OBG program nationally and BLM will hire a new State Range Lead
- OBG is based on the idea, “don't tell us how to do it; tell us what you want to see and we will figure it out”
- Existing Allotment Management Plans lack defined objectives and follow-up; an AMP + defined objectives + monitoring = OBG
- Public scoping will begin in March for a BLM state-wide targeted grazing EA for all but the desert zone
- BLM wants to develop voluntary, cooperative partnerships to get done what is needed and make ranches more economically and ecologically sound; a holistic approach.
- BLM Instruction Memorandum 2018 -109 embeds flexibility in livestock grazing; an AMP or equivalent, objectives and a monitoring plan must be built into at least one alternative in the term permit renewal
- The 11 OBG demonstration projects have contributed to national policy; Nevada is cutting edge right now
- 4-inch stubble height is an “annual use indicator,” not a goal
- Duane said balancing the amount of water and feed available is how to decide how much to turn out; the feed that is where and when you need it the most is your most valuable feed

Willow Ranch, Battle Mountain District – Russell Fitzwater (3F) and Sam Ault (BLM)

- Located on Bean Flat between Austin and Eureka
- Fitzwater said OBG offers a “new lease on a ranching life” and he appreciates working together
- There is a problem with wild horses coming off the USFS herd territory
- Barry Perryman said there needs to be plans for the wet years as those are the pivotal years that drive ecological change; we have drought plans but no wet plans. Kathryn said the targeted grazing EA may help as it will be based on disturbance response groups and ecological states

- A challenge in the Mount Lewis Field Office is that most NEPA is mining oriented; BLM staff have to learn a new language

Horseshoe Ranch / Scott's Gulch – Chris Jasmine (Elko Land and Livestock) and John Mitchell (BLM)

- Located south of Beowawe
- They are in a perpetuating cheatgrass/burn cycle and want to change how they use the area by changing timing and numbers and implementing seeding behind grazing, utilizing the cattle to break up the cheatgrass mat
- Looking to graze Scott's Gulch in fall/early spring to reduce the fire risk and standing litter. They will herbicide fallow and drill seed.
- They are trying to take it to a seeded state of what will be successful such as Siberian wheatgrass or Crested wheatgrass, seeking the most competitive rehabilitation possible
- They will use remote sensing of Greg Simonds and are also improving the private ground with irrigation
- "Capturing the site" is the most important thing in the Great Basin; doing so gives them more options and creates a domino effect for their management
- Barry said we should always plan for 100 years, not 20 years

John Uhalde & Company – Chris Mayer (BLM) (see write-up on Chris under Awards on page 3)

- Located north to south, west of Ely (part was the location of the 2018 Summer Tour)
- In 2008 they used adaptive management and wrote the terms based on the permittee; they have tested the system for 10 years and are now looking at range improvement projects
- Communication and developing relationships are critical to management as there is common use, unauthorized use and wild horses are moving south into Butte Valley
- Animal health is the goal and objective, to maintain current potential; the wild horse program needs a budget for range improvement projects
- A huge question is how to be efficient in monitoring; how to decide what to monitor, how much and when?
- Three federal Acts butt heads in Butte Valley: Taylor Grazing Act, Wild Horse and Burro Act and Threatened and Endangered Species Act. And because of problems, BLM is "hanging out" on the Federal Land Management and Policy Act because they aren't meeting multiple use and sustained yield. Chris says, "My job is to make sure the terms of FLPMA are being met. We need a model for the future so staff new to BLM know what to do."
- Sometimes due to personalities the rancher and the range con have to learn how to talk to each other; take the time
- Every time BLM writes a plan there is a risk of protests; BLM is operating under the 1995 regulations as the 2006 regs have been enjoined and they cannot use them
- They are doing monitoring to demonstrate need for a wild horse gather; science and the ground need to get closer together – "we need the power of the group." Next year BLM will prioritize wild horse gathers on OBG projects

Duane summarized that any time something is changed there is going to be a risk to the producer as there will be things that go wrong. There is additional accountability when a ranch signs up. A pilot project is something new; a demonstration project doesn't do anything new, it just uses all the laws and tools available. All of this is in the current regulations which gives some cover to managers.

Chris Jasmine reported on the horrifying statistics of the Martin Fire. He said Tamzen Stringham's group has brought "the why" to what to do where which has really helped in the follow up work. The Owyhee Wall was 23,134 acres of non-native plantings on the southwest side to stop cheatgrass from entering the Owyhee Desert...however, 846,000 acres burned in two years in three fires – the Four Seasons Complex, Martin and South Sugarloaf. Chris said, "we are falling behind" and he hopes these fires will open eyes that we have to be proactive before and after fire.

2018 Summer Meeting – OBG – Balancing Rangeland Management in Theory and Practice

The Progressive Rancher Article by Dan Harmon, Maria Ryan and Cody Coombs

The Nevada Section of the Society for Range Management held its annual summer tour on July 13th 2018 in Ely, Nevada. Those in attendance included Nevada producers, participants from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U. S. Forest Service, Nevada Association of Conservation Districts and USDA, Agricultural Research Service-Reno Unit. The first field stop was at Piscovich Summit overlook. After brief introductions Chris Mayer, Assistant Field Manager, BLM Bristlecone Field Office, explained the tour's focus would be on the BLM's new outcome-based grazing program, fuels reduction and tree removal programs, and at-risk plant communities such as winterfat (white sage). He described some of the issues unique to the Ely District on a day to day basis as well as the historical perspective. He explained the BLM's grazing permit renewal process (term permit renewals) and short and long-term monitoring that goes along with the renewal process.

Mindy Seal, Field Manager, BLM Bristlecone Field Office, then discussed the BLM pilot project Outcome-based Grazing Program. Five of the eleven producer operations that were chosen to be evaluated for the pilot project are in Nevada. They are the Winecup-Gamble Ranch, the Elko Land and Livestock Company, the Willow Ranch, the Smith Creek Ranch, and John Uhalde and Company (Ely District BLM). The eleven demonstration projects in six states are designed to provide BLM managers and grazing permit holders greater flexibility. The flexibility under outcome-based grazing authorizations, first announced in September 2017, will demonstrate management practices that BLM managers and livestock operators can use to respond to changing, on-the-ground conditions such as wildfires, high moisture years, or drought. This initiative aims to demonstrate that permitted livestock grazing on public lands can operate under a less rigid framework than is commonly used. Mindy Seal explained that even though the pilot project is not that different from what their office currently does, she is excited for the outcomes that may lead to increased flexibility of grazing permits. She emphasized that even though the project may be focused on livestock grazing, these are multiple-use sustained yield lands and all aspects are considered which can pose some real challenges in this process. She also stated the BLM is always looking for solutions to challenges and the best way to do that is to bring together a diverse group of people and added that field tours such as the Society for Range Management-Nevada Section summer tours are an excellent avenue for this outreach. Mindy recently met with Michael Courtney, the new Nevada BLM Acting State Director, and toured a lot of their allotments discussing some of the challenges. Mindy emphasized the impact of fires; the Martin Fire north of Winnemucca, Nevada, had just burned over 400,000 acres. This was the largest single fire in Nevada history. She explained that while the primary focus is stopping the fire to protect homes, ranching and mining operations, it also benefits wildlife, recreation and native plant communities.

The next presenters were Gracian and his son John Uhalde. The John Uhalde and Company operation spans thirteen allotments across nearly half a million public land acres including sheep and cattle. The authorized active use for the operation is 22,560 AUMs. They run approximately 2000+ sheep and 600+ cattle. The late John Uhalde, a French Basque immigrant founded the John Uhalde and Company in the late 1890s, and is now being

managed by third and fourth generation family members. Gracian explained that times have changed, and they need to change with them. "This was a heck of an operation in the 50's, but now we are trying to make the millennial leap to ensure the sustainability of the operation". He told the group that this year was one of the driest he has seen in a long time. "It is the forgotten land when it comes to precipitation this year". He explained that they signed up for the Outcome-based Grazing pilot program because he wanted to shed light on the "elephant" in the room, feral horses. Three of the five operations chosen in Nevada have horse problems with well over carrying capacity. "If this pilot project fails (OBG) it's because we can't manage the horses", Gracian stated. Gracian explained that he has a great relationship with his local Ely BLM office and the BLM folks echoed that. They stated that Gracian stops by often just to check in and keep good communication open between his operation and the BLM, which is key to making this all work. He finished by saying his goal is to leave a sustainable operation to his children so that they have opportunities for choices when it comes to their livelihood. He then pointed out a nearby dilapidated homestead no more than a couple hundred square feet that was falling over. "They (the homesteaders) didn't have choices" Gracian said, "they just had to worry about feeding wood in that fire all winter and maybe making a little moonshine now and then to help too."

The group then asked questions concerning the new pilot program. Jerry Annis, a producer who runs cattle in the Battle Mountain district, asked Gracian what he thought his added time commitment would be to this project. Jerry expressed that the added time commitment was a concern for him and that's why he chose not to sign up for consideration for the pilot program. Gracian stated that there was going to be some extra time involved, he recently drove to Reno to take part in a webinar meeting, which is hard to do. "This is a family operation, we don't have 20 employees." His one concern was that the lack of people with a range background being hired by the BLM would make this collaborative effort more difficult, adding to his time requirement. Dan Harmon with USDA Agricultural Research Service asked what are specific "outcomes" the BLM is hoping to get from this program? The BLM and the Uhaldes have not yet defined any specific "outcomes" or "goals" other than increased flexibility. Dan expressed his concern that without having defined outcomes such as reduced fine fuels or desired densities of plant groups, evaluation of the program and monitoring could be difficult. John Uhalde stated one of his goals is reducing fine fuels from cheatgrass. For instance, in wetter years when cheatgrass fuels grow tremendously, he hopes to have the flexibility to increase grazing to knock those fuels back. During wetter years he would like to graze the cheatgrass in late spring through May and into June when it's heading out to reduce fuels and seed production. His current permit system does not allow for that and often stocking rates are too low to be effective. The topic of targeted grazing fuel breaks was brought up. John thought it might require too many water developments to concentrate animals along a fire break and for fall grazing too many supplements making it unrealistic. In regards to water developments, haying and supplements, John thought it was best to "match the cow to the environment instead of trying to match the environment to the cow".

The next stop on the tour was the Combs Creek Restoration Project. This project was headed up by Cody Coombs, Fuels Program Manager, BLM Bristlecone Field Office. Initiated in 2014 a total of 5,519 acres have been treated. Treatments primarily focused on hand thinning and mastication to reduce tree cover and increase the understory vigor. Tree cover was reduced from 12% to 1%, shrub cover 27% to 14% and the grass/forb component increased from 2% to 12%. The goals of the project were to improve habitat for sage-grouse, mule deer, and other wildlife as well as prevent the risk of large, uncontrollable wildfires. This was just one of many projects that Cody works on in his district with 20,000 acres already treated this year. All of that experience has given him some valuable practical knowledge. Cody explained that the biggest issue with tree removal is the risk of cheatgrass conversion. The annual exotic grass reduces native plant recruitment and produces tremendous fuel loads increasing the fire risk when the goal is to reduce fire risk. He avoids this risk by prioritizing efforts

where the risk is lower. He explained limestone derived soils have less cheatgrass than volcanic andesite derived soils, similar to north versus south facing slopes. The lack of competing perennial grasses in the understory of phase 2 and 3 P-J encroachment allows cheatgrass invasion and seeding of perennial grasses is required on about 60% of his projects. Seeded treatment areas are broadcasted (~12lbs/acre) with a diverse mix (10 species at the Combs Creek project) with each species at a fairly low rate (<2lbs/acre). Dan Harmon with USDA-ARS commented that with his experience of rangeland rehabilitation seeding, even great performers such as crested wheatgrass are difficult to establish at effective densities with less than 4lbs/acre drill seeded. Broadcast seeding are actually suggested to have higher seeding rates than rangeland drill or no-till drill methods. Cody emphasized that perennials are released from tree removal and that they are not always reliant on seeding efforts. He prefers to do seedings on top of snow to reduce the ground disturbance and decreases the risk of cheatgrass invasion. Cody explained the most cost-effective removal method is with an Ely chain, but that hand thinning can be under \$100/acre cost. He described his technique for mastication and stated it took less than 3 minutes to masticate medium sized trees. "Sometimes my favorite place to be is in that equipment cab, it's very calming." Combs finished by stating "it's not just about sage-grouse habitat improvements or livestock improvements, if you benefit one you benefit the other."

The third stop on the tour was in southern Butte Valley, a site dominated by winterfat. This site is a fall/winter allotment for the John Uhalde and Company operation. John Uhalde explained that while they manage to preserve the winterfat by rotating seasonal use and resting, the feral horses are year-round use and destroying the habitat. Chris Mayer stated that the horse population was about 1,400 animals - over 3 times the AUM levels. He explained that the BLM desperately wants to reduce that herd number, but their hands are tied in the matter. "Until Congress changes the way we can operate the horses will continue to have devastating effects on the habitat." John Uhalde followed by stating "It's not a horse problem, it's a people problem."



Maria Ryan, Ely BLM, discussed the Ecological Site Description (ESD) for the winterfat communities in the area and how the BLM is using the State and Transition Models in their analysis of this watershed. Eastern Nevada has unique areas that are dominated by winterfat and are very large. Winterfat is associated with silty soils such as the one in this stop. The winterfat community where the group stood had a good mixture of winterfat and native grasses. Maria pointed out that the winterfat communities to the north of this site were being impacted by the wild horses and asked the group to look at the winterfat communities as the group travelled north to the next stop. The native perennial grasses are being lost as the winterfat grazing impacts are increasing and it's very obvious that the non-native invasive halogeton is taking over these communities. Maria pointed out that the USDA ARS has several exclosures in eastern Nevada where they are trying to establish native plants in areas formerly dominated by Winterfat in silty soils, but through the years and many efforts ARS has had very little success in re-establishing winterfat or finding something that can replace it. These sites are now considered sensitive. The group discussed possible short-term solutions to reduce the habitat damage from feral horses such as fencing or seeding "food plots" with crested wheatgrass or forage kochia to reduce the pressure put on native plants like winterfat, because once winterfat is lost from the plant community it is very difficult if not impossible to restore.

The final stop was an old wildfire site on the west side of south Butte Valley. A wildfire had burned 307 acres in 2001 and the BLM decided to let the area rehabilitate naturally since there was a good understory before the fire and very little cheatgrass noted. Native perennial grasses are now well established; however, year-round grazing impacts by wild horses were apparent with current utilization being approximately 90 percent. The Uhalde's again discussed concerns about the horse impacts.

The Nevada Section summer field tours provides the opportunity of camaraderie and respect, of learning from each other. As Mindy Seal stated at the start of the day, "It's going to take a diverse group of people to find solutions to our problems and we are all responsible for the stewardship of these rangelands we love so much."

2017 Winter Meeting – Monitoring Nevada's Rangelands

Rixey Jenkins

Sherm Swanson, Rangeland Ecology and Management faculty and Riparian Extension Specialist, University of Nevada, Reno, kicked off the symposium with an update of the upcoming 3rd edition of the Nevada Rangeland Monitoring Handbook. Sherm pointed out the importance of conducting proper and efficient monitoring to meet management objectives. Sherm gave us a good refresher on the differences between short-term and long-term monitoring and the importance of establishing good objectives. He also highlighted the changes in the 3rd edition including a new section on the various scales (e.g., landscape or site specific) of monitoring and the appropriate use of data collected at varying scales and the expanded discussion on statistical analysis of data.

Gary McCuin, Eureka County Extension Educator, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, gave a great talk on the Rancher's Monitoring Guide and cooperative monitoring agreements. Gary gave us an update on the status of the cooperative monitoring MOUs between BLM, Forest Service and Nevada Cattlemen's Association. Gary discussed the importance of monitoring to improve management as well as resource conditions. He also discussed the importance of cooperative monitoring agreements in helping agencies and producers maintain communication and accountability and build trust in rangeland monitoring efforts.

Dave Voth, Rangeland Health Coordinator, Nevada Department of Agriculture, gave us an overview of NDA's new Rangeland Monitoring App. It's an app that can be run on your phone and is based on the Rancher's Monitoring

Guide. It allows you to establish monitoring sites, take and record photos for photo monitoring and collect utilization and streambank stability data.

Ron Cerri, Rebel Creek Ranch, Orovada, NV, gave an excellent talk on the importance of rangeland monitoring from a producer's perspective. Ron is a fourth-generation rancher and was able to give us a history of the area and the changes that he has seen take place over the years. We heard about changes in the landscape as well as the change in mindset from getting maximum production from the land to taking care of the land so that it is productive for future generations.

For the afternoon portion, Andy Starostka, Fisheries Biologist, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Reno, NV, gave a presentation on the USFWS perspective on monitoring and its importance for conservation of listed species. Kathryn Dyer, BLM NV State Range Program Lead, talked about the BLM's outcome based grazing pilot project and the projects that will be taking place in Nevada. Sherm Swanson gave a presentation on use of the Grazing Response Index. We wrapped the presentations with a short discussion of cooperative monitoring agreements with BLM and the Forest Service. We concluded the day with an awards ceremony and a great Basque dinner at the Martin Hotel.

RANGE CAMPERS DECLARE NYRC THE BEST !!!

Maggie Orr

The 57th Nevada Youth Range Camp was another success in 2018. Trailboss winners, the academic leads, were Hailey Reil from White Pine County, with runner-up Jenó Farreto from Carson City. The Big Buckaroo, selected by the 26 campers, is Cade Crookshanks of Douglas County. An outstanding, 30-minute video done by Golden Productions is available at <http://nevadarangelands.org/documentaries/>. It is well worth the time to watch it and share with high schools in your area. Every year I ask involved campers to write up their experiences for me. This year I also had the fun of interviewing a returning camper from the 1961, the very first, Range Camp! His interview follows the student writings. Both Jenó and Hailey did a great job presenting and participating in the High School Youth Forum in Minneapolis in February. Hailey's topic was "Western Water Developments," and Jenó's was "The Impact of Cheatgrass in the Great Basin."

The price of Range Camp has been raised to \$225. Nevada Bighorns Unlimited – Midas Chapter donated a beautiful new storage trailer and Nevada State Parks purchased four large pop-up canopies that made set-up easier in the kitchen area. Nevada Bighorns Unlimited – Reno Chapter donated their usual incredible steaks for Wednesday's dinner. Thanks to all who helped and to Smith Creek Ranch for hosting us.

By Jenó Faretto

This summer I attended the Nevada Youth Range Camp. It broadened my horizons and opened my mind to career paths that I had never thought about before. The information that I learned while attending the camp will help me throughout my life. I feel so blessed to have gone to this camp and I will forever be grateful for having been given the opportunity to expand my education.



1 Liam tracking sage grouse

One of the most important things I learned at Range Camp was how different plant types relate to wildlife and cattle. Something that interested me was the varying protein content of the plants throughout the year. For example, in the spring the grass protein content is high whereas in the fall the content is low. However, when the grass protein content gets low, the sagebrush and bitterbrush content is high all the way through winter. This helps the cattle and wildlife to receive protein consistently throughout the year.

I enjoyed learning about the solutions to combatting the cheat grass problem in Nevada. Cheat grass is an invasive species native to Asia, Europe, and Africa. Cheat grass is an issue because it grows faster and earlier than native plants and gives the native plants a disadvantage. It also burns much faster and hotter compared to the plants that were originally present in the area. These fast and hot fires can manipulate the soil structure and can prevent native plants from growing back after a fire has taken place. The most effective way to control cheat grass is grazing cattle and other livestock animals to prevent the cheat grass from invading other native plants. Learning about how to combat cheat grass will benefit me and future generations.

Nevada Youth Range Camp is the most educational camp that I have ever attended. I learned many things about plants, livestock, and wildlife that can benefit me in the future. I would encourage many others to attend this camp. It was one of the best experiences of my life.



By Taylor Reynolds

I had a great time at range camp both this year and last. I personally feel like my three favorite activities were the night compass, the stream investigation, and the soil research, in that order. I fully plan on going next year as well. I learned a lot about range land and its management as well as the vegetation and wildlife that inhabit it. I can honestly say that the Nevada youth range camp is one of the main reasons why I plan on entering range management as a career choice. All of the counsellors were amazing and the camaraderie that was built between me and all of my fellow youth at range camp just made it that much better. I can honestly say that out of all of the camps I've been to Nevada

youth range camp is by far the best. Thank you.

Don Young, 1961 Range Camp Camper; interview with Maggie Orr at 2018 camp

Don's family came to Mormon Station in 1862 before Nevada was a state. In 1961, when he was 14 years old living in Carson City, the UNCE agent Eldon Moore invited him to the first ever Range Camp in Nevada. Don remembers 15 other boys from Lovelock, Winnemucca, White Pine and Elko Counties; there was no one there from south of Tonopah. The Lions Club sponsored Don.

They arrived at Kingston in a Forest Service station wagon with a pickup loaded with gear following behind. There they set up surplus World War II army tents and slept five to a tent. They cooked their food in big cast iron skillets over four campfires in a row; everyone took a turn cooking. Don had a mess kit his Dad had had in World War II, but they did use paper plates. They had ice chests and canned food, eating what Don called "good food;" thick hamburgers, chicken, hot dogs, biscuits in tin foil ovens. They washed the dishes in the stream.

Range Camp started as a blank slate. He remembers the names of Bill from Cooperative Extension, and Jack Artz and Zapatini who was a supervisor with the Forest Service; Artz and Zapatini gave the classes along with staff from NDOW and BLM. They would talk about what to show the campers that day, then as the day progressed, they would call time out and discuss what they were missing, what direction to follow and what to teach; they seized teachable moments and got the kids' attention for something they wanted to expand upon. Sometimes they told the kids to take a break and splash in the creek while they strategized. After dinner everyone would talk about what they learned; everyone had input, even the kids. They were trying to decide what they needed to teach and they watched what the kids were interested in. They modified things and got deeper into each subject as the week went along, covering lots of subjects.

Time was limited to Sunday to Saturday, but after the first day they went from four-five subjects to nine to twenty subjects all by working together on developing it. Everyone was connected, each one different but a team; it worked out so beautifully and they didn't have to talk, they just did it and got it done well, anyone could have been replaced with anyone else. Don said being a team like that was the best feeling. Most of the kids were in 4-H or FFA or Boy Scouts and they took what they learned back to those organizations. As an adult Don taught 4-H classes in forestry, wildlife, range and soils.

Don's favorite time was when they worked on projects with the BLM; three BLM staff came out at different times. They gauged water flow, did plant identification and NDOW brought mammals to show the kids. Some of the most fun he had was with a kid named Ed Harris. Ed was blind but the other kids worked with him all the time so he could identify 10 plants with his fingertips and the other kids would tell him colors. He was ready to do anything anyone else did so he did plant ID and animal ID by the shape and texture of the fur; the only thing he couldn't differentiate were fish. Ed was also the leader when they dug fire line; wielding a Pulaski, they would tell him how many steps to go in what direction and he worked hard, making it fun for all.



Observation was the main thing Don learned at Range Camp; it would later save his life in Vietnam. The instructors would show the kids something and then ask questions: if it was deer tracks, was it a doe or buck and how much did it weigh, what was that bird, how many in the herd or how many and what kind of birds or tracks did you see, look at the holes in the stream bank, who lives there and who else has been visiting...it really made them start to observe everything around them and Don said they got to where they saw things that they only realized later in conversation they had seen and recognized; Don thought, "this is fantastic, I didn't see it, I just knew it was there!"

They learned to observe what was different. Don joined the Navy at 17 in May 1964 to obtain GI benefits for college, a few months later came the Gulf of Tonkin incident and Don went to war as a cryptologist, breaking codes and getting coded messages. Even though he was in the Navy sometimes he had to go "in country" to keep the field equipment in repair or change codes; the 7th Marines were his protection. One time as were they were walking Don noticed tree leaves that didn't look natural as they were all exactly the same height and size. That was his first fire fight, but they were more prepared because of his warning. Another time they were walking

along a ridge above rice paddies; Don motioned for the Sergeant to come and look, the third paddy on the right had a trail down the middle of it. The Viet Cong had crawled in to get the Americans, but the tables were turned.

Don came back to Nevada Youth Range Camp in 2018, spending the whole week and participating in all the activities. He says Camp has changed from a water management to rangeland management emphasis, but otherwise it has not changed much. He really likes the way the instructors and counselors answer all the questions asked. He had wanted to come back in 1962 but he was told that others needed the opportunity. Don said, "It was special for me then and it is special to me now. My granddaughter who is 13 now wants to come."

HOPE ON THE RANGE BOOTH

From the Summer Business Meeting Minutes

Hope on the Range booth attended 2 events in so far this year: Capital City Farm Days, and Nevada Outdoor Experience. Both events were focused on youth involvement. The section purchased \$700 of new promotional outreach items including 2 new booth banners, logo water bottles, a kid's coloring page with Nevada state animals and plants along with state facts, SRM logo football stress balls, and stickers. Hopefully we can attend UNR Ag day another youth outreach event in September. We will also be attending the NV Cattlemen's meeting in Winnemucca in November, and the Grazing Lands Coalition meeting in Reno in December.

MINNEAPOLIS INTERNATIONAL MEETING

President Elect Dave Voth said, "I think despite a looming shutdown, a polar vortex, and an exotic location like Minneapolis; Nevada was well represented in many facets of SRM throughout the entire conference. This is the first SRM convention that I got to attend without any chores. I was amazed at the diversity and expertise that went into every session I attended." Maggie Orr had a great time talking with students and making new friends and renewing longstanding friendships. Kaelie Pena, who was a counselor at Range Camp last summer utilized a Young Professionals Conclave scholarship to attend and participate.

You can watch the 2018 Year in Review <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gqgTuLEI-GQ&feature=youtu.be> created by SRM. More information on the meeting is available on the website at <http://rangelands.org/>.

NEWS AND NOTES

Nevada Creeks and Communities trainings:

PFC Assessment for Integrated Riparian Management – May 21-23 Community Hall, **Orovada, NV** (East on Rock Creek Rd ¼ mile on left) Day 1 emphasizes classroom instruction on PFC assessment. Day 2 is field assessment. Day 3 (AM) applies integrated riparian management to what we assessed. This class is open to all!

PFC Assessment field coaching – Kings River Ranch May 24 and May 28-31. Class participants are welcome to come along for PFC assessment PFC assessment skill building as the Team and BLM ID Team conduct PFC assessment of Kings River and tributary streams

Riparian Multiple Indicator Monitoring – Prineville, Oregon, May 20-24th, 2019; and Richfield Utah, June 10-14, 2019. NV This National Riparian Service Team class compliments qualitative PFC assessment with quantitative monitoring. **Contact Steve Smith, sjsmith@blm.gov**

For PFC class signup or questions, contact: Sherman Swanson (775-784-4057) email (sswanson@cabnr.unr.edu) with Name, Affiliation, Address, Phone, e-mail, Interest, discipline, role or area of expertise.

For reference materials go to <http://www.cabnr.unr.edu/swanson/Extension/PFCTeam.aspx>

Email Change for Agency Employees:

SRM was recently notified that there will be changes to the email format for many agency employees. If you have not already done so, please log in to you member record (<https://srm.allenpress.com/srm/MEMBERSHIP.aspx>) and update your information, or you can contact Allen Press directly for assistance (membership@rangelands.org). If you'd like your corresponding member login ID changed as well, you must contact Allen Press (membership@rangelands.org) directly as this does not automatically change with an email change. Contact Vicky if you have questions (vtrujillo@rangelands.org)

Patti Novak-Echenique shares thoughts from the book of poems "Grazing the Fire" (Wolverine Farm Publishing, Fort Collins, CO) that she found at the Society for Range Management Annual Conference in Minneapolis. As Patti said, not everyone reads scientific papers but poems are another way to reach out to the general public about rangelands. Here's a couple of Patti's favorite poems that remind us of the resilience of Nevada's rangelands and the people who care for them.

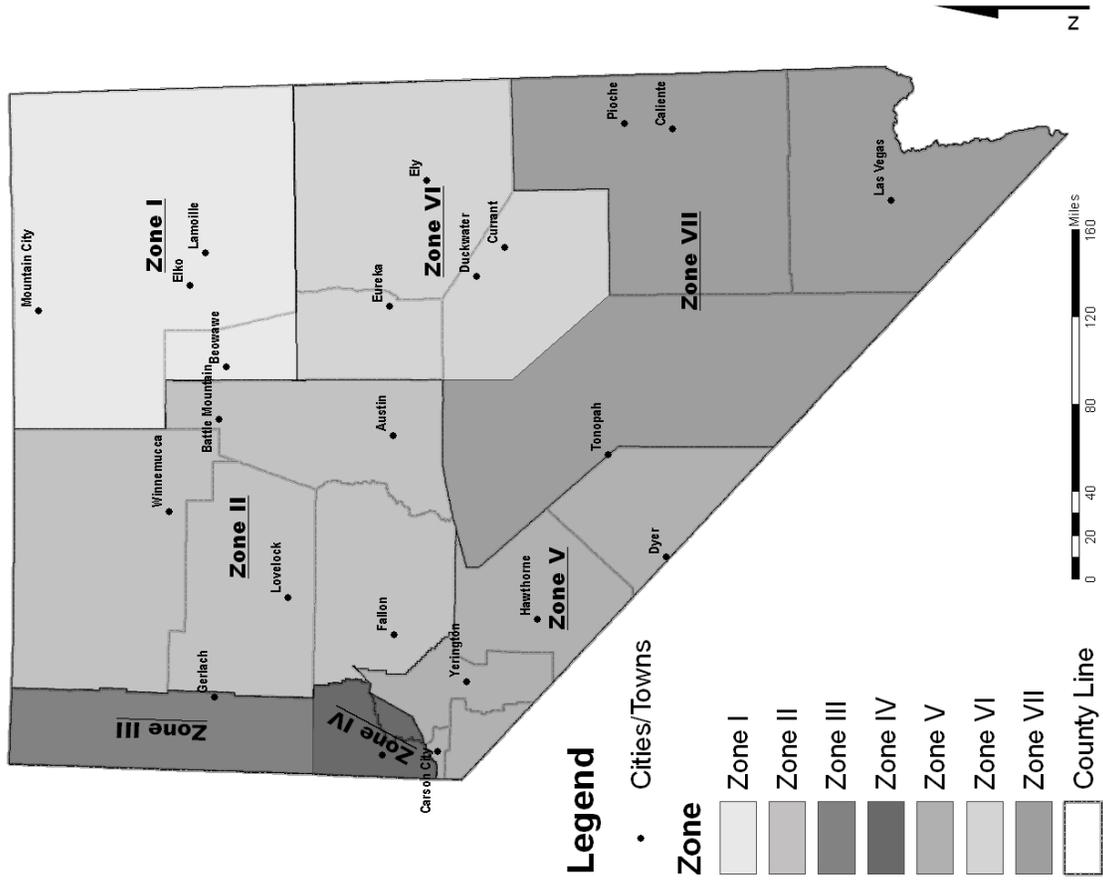
"Life After Fire" By Retta Bruegger

Early avid sprouters
Rapid recovery follows flame
Rabbitbrush returns bunchgrass bounce
Unburned and buried sagebrush
Seeds wrestle, wring recovery
Waiting waiting.

"Some Years You Live Like a Coyote" By Terri Schulz

She has dirt in her blood, waiting for the next monsoon
She spends time in the saddle, fixing fences and gathering strays
She scrimps during hard times, cutting expenses where no fat exists
She passes on cultural knowledge, how to brand and read the range
She believes ranching is life, not a job
She lives like a coyote, reliance and perseverance her friends

Nevada SRM Section Zones



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