

RANGELAND



NEWS

Society For Range Management

President Ponders

As my time as the NVSRM president comes to a close, I think about what the Society For Range Management (SRM) or range management in general means to me. I started working in range management research when I was 24 years old, I am now 47. My first SRM meeting was in Casper Wyoming in the early 2000's and from that first meeting I knew this is where I wanted to be. I have so much admiration for the "cowboys" who know and live on the land. I myself am not a cowboy by any means. I've never even ridden a horse, I can't name three country music songs and as my friend and mentor Charlie Clements likes to point out, I only own 3 long sleeve button-down shirts that resemble picnic table-cloths more than western shirts. But none of that matters with SRM.



This society welcomes all. What matters most is just caring. Caring for the land, the animals, the plants and the families that have lived there for generations. A cowboy to me is someone who is courteous and kind and honest and would give you the "picnic table" shirt off their back if you needed it. I think we can all strive to be that person. That is what the Trail Boss represents to me. So as I turn the page to past-president I thank all of you for the friendships I've gained through SRM and I welcome Meghan Brown, the 2023 NVSRM president. I am not going anywhere, but you will all be happy to receive less emails from me, as I can fill an inbox with questions and reminders faster than anyone. Thanks NVSRM, I'll see you on the range!

Dan Harmon 2022 NVSRM President



Meet the New NVSRM Pres-Elect

Paul Meiman- University Nevada Reno Extension

Associate Professor, Rangeland Livestock/Wildlife Interactions, State Specialist



Meiman joined Cooperative Extension and the Department of Agriculture, Veterinary and Rangeland Sciences UNR in the fall of 2019. He is an Associate Professor of Rangeland Ecology and Management and the state Extension Specialist for Rangeland Livestock/Wildlife Interactions. Meiman is based in Elko, Nevada where he lives with his wife and daughter. Soon after arriving in Nevada, Meiman and colleagues initiated a project to study the use of virtual fencing on cattle grazing rangelands at 2 ranches in northeastern Nevada. Virtual fencing replaces physical boundaries with GPS-enabled collars that deliver sound cues and electric pulses to manage animal distribution.

Last year, he initiated a large-scale study to evaluate the effectiveness of aerial applications of a new, pre-emergent herbicide (indaziflam) for reducing cheatgrass abundance while minimizing the impacts to other plants in the plant community. Prior to moving to Nevada, Meiman was a member of the Forest and Rangeland Stewardship faculty at Colorado State University (2006 – 2019). Before that, he worked in a variety of positions in Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho and Oregon. His experience includes positions with the USDA Agricultural Research Service in Idaho, Colorado State University Cooperative Extension (Moffat County Extension Agent) and the University of Wyoming Department of Renewable Resources and Cooperative Extension Service (Statewide Extension Specialist for Rangeland Resources).

He has worked extensively with land, livestock and natural resource managers throughout the west. His interests are closely related to, and have been influenced by on-the-ground interactions with ranchers, land and natural resource managers. Those interests include invasive plants, plant/herbivore interactions, livestock grazing management, succession, and riparian area management. He earned B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Wyoming and a Ph.D. from Colorado State University.



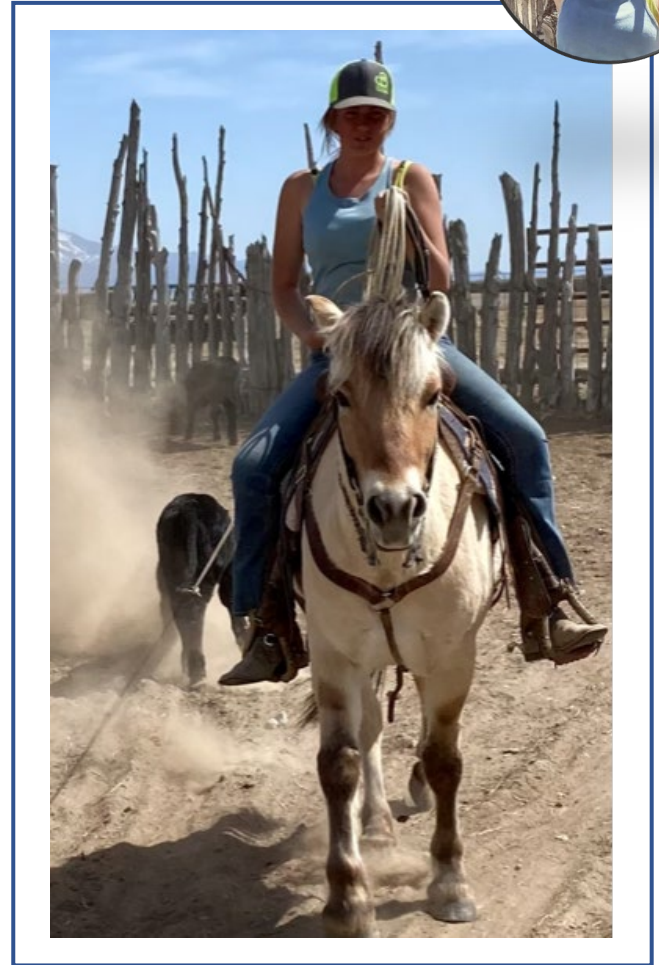
My Week At Range Camp

By: Corbi Brown



My name is Corbi Brown, and this year I went to the Nevada Youth Range Camp sanctioned by Ethan Mower. This camp lasted from June 19th – June 25th 2022. Range Camp was located at the Timber Creek campground in McGill, Nevada. Over this week, teens that participated in range camp, including myself, learned a lot about natural resources and range management. Along with being educational, this camp was a lot of fun, and I hope to be going again in future summers.

On the first day of range camp, we arrived at the campground and set up our tents and supplies to camp. After everyone arrived, all of us campers sat down and got to know each other. We did some icebreakers and everyone got a nickname. My nickname was “Diamond” because I was wearing a Diamond Mountain FFA sweatshirt. We then went over what we would be doing over the week, and the rules and chores of the camp. The campers got separated into four groups with different counselors. Then, we played some icebreaker games. After that, we sat around the campfire and Ethan played his banjo and sang us songs.



The next morning, I woke up to the sound of pots and pans hitting each other right outside of my tent. Almost every morning at the camp, Ethan came right outside of my tent and hit the pots and pans, and I yelled at him whenever he did. They were so loud, and I am not a morning person! That morning, we did a sagebrush workshop given by Gerry Miller and Gary McCuin, and a Pinyon workshop given by Cody Coombs and Shane DeForest. I learned how to find ground cover percentages of plants, rock, litter, and bare ground. I learned that varied species of sagebrush grow at different elevations. When we were done, we went back to camp and ate dinner. At the campfire that night, Sean Pitts gave an amazing presentation on White Pine history and told some interesting stories. After the presentation, we went to bed.

Once again, I woke up to the pots and pans outside of my tent. The next day, we did stream and soil investigations. That morning, my group left for the soil investigation given by Doug Merkler. We learned about how to texture soils, and much more! When we were done with the soil investigation, we went back to camp to eat lunch, did chores, then left to do the stream workshop given by Sean Vogt. We hiked up to a watershed and followed the stream back to camp. We learned all about watersheds and streams. That night, after dinner and the campfire, Doug Merkler gave a stargazing course, and we learned about the different stars, constellations, and how to find the north star. Once again, we went to sleep.



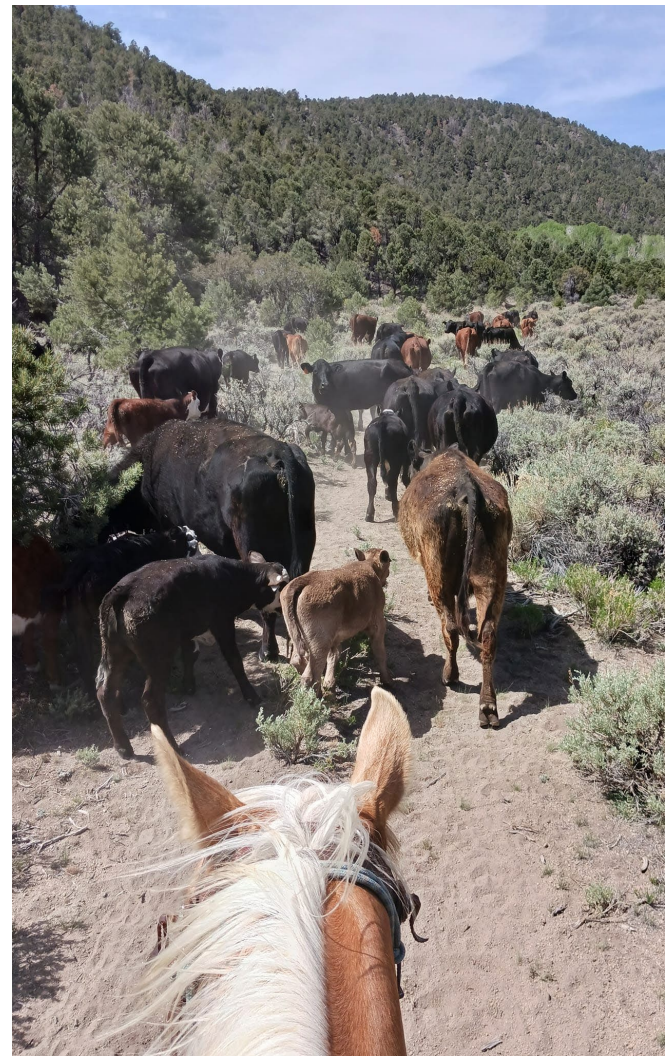
Wednesday was quite exciting! After breakfast, Lauren Williams did a conservation project. This project consisted of searching for different diseases on Aspen Trees. After lunch, we went to Kennecott Ranch for a tour. After the ranch tour, we drove in vans to the Ely pool and swam for a few hours. We got to take the first shower all week at the pool, and it felt so nice to be clean! We went back to the ranch for dinner and fishing. After dinner, we got dropped in the middle of nowhere to do a compass course. In this course, we had to follow certain degrees on the compass to find flags. We converted our paces to feet to find how many paces we needed to take in order to find the flag. Then, back to bed, ending another day.

Thursday morning, we did some different activities. One of them was counting fish in the stream by shocking them, which made them rise to the top. This project was by Chris Crookshanks. Ethan did some wildlife games, and Deanna Ackerman taught us about being a game warden. Deanna led us on a staged bear trail and taught us about looking outside of the box to find what's unusual. After lunch, we went on a hike and learned about SNOTEL. After the hike, we did a scavenger hunt. We had our last campfire social as just campers, and went back to bed.

Friday was the last full day of range camp, and the day when we took a test and received our awards. First, we took the plant test and turned in our binders that we received at the beginning of camp. After the test, we performed a Coordinated Resource Management Simulation. In this project, we were assigned different roles to play. They were the Government, Ranchers, Miners, Native Americans that owned a reservation, and wild horse advocates. In this simulation, we had to figure out how to use land that had been previously used in a certain way when a mine came onto the area. There were judges that were very opinionated (which got irritating at times, but it was realistic) and it taught us a lot about presenting and using our resources. That night was the award campfire. Ethan handed out personalized awards based on what happened at range camp, and it was really funny. My award was the "Most Graceful" because I had fallen into stinging nettle a couple days earlier (it was very painful).

After that, Ethan got the trail boss awards. Katy Smith got second runner up, I got runner up trail boss, and Hannah McCoy won trail boss! The awards came with the opportunity to go to the annual SRM International meeting in Boise to give presentations at the High Youth Range Forum. All the parents were at this campfire, and we had little skits for Ethan. That ended the last night of range camp, sadly.

The next morning finished our week at range camp. We packed up and our parents all came to take us home. Overall, range camp was really fun and I learned a lot! I am very glad I went, and I think that my range team will benefit from my experience. The staff was wonderful, and I thank them all.



[For more information about Range Camp \(link\)](#)

or contact: Ethan Mower emower@parks.nv.gov

Summer 2022 NVSRM Field Tour

What Makes a Good Riparian Habitat? Lessons From Maggie Creek

For this year's summer field tour the Nevada section of the Society for Range Management (NVSRM) had the pleasure of co-hosting the event with the ROGER (Results Orientated Grazing for Ecological Resilience) group. While there is a lot of shared membership between NVSRM and ROGER, this was their first joint meeting together. Meghan Brown, 2022 president-elect of NVSRM, organized an amazing program that was attended by producers, resource agencies, researchers from the University of Nevada Reno (UNR) and other interest groups.



This year's tour was a 2-day event (July 12-13) at Maggie Creek, a riparian area north of Carlin, Nevada, where the riparian area is decades into recovery after a history of the creek being channelized for irrigation. Maggie Creek now meanders and flows naturally creating a diverse riparian ecosystem. The primary focus of the field tour this year was Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (LCT) monitoring, though cheatgrass, fuels and fire is impossible not to discuss in any field tour in Nevada.

After a long educational day, we finished the tour with a round robin with everyone giving a brief statement of what they like best about the meeting. A common thread was the appreciation for the participation of the attendees and a feeling of stewardship concern, cooperation and collaboration from all. NVSRM would like to thank the ROGER group, the hosts and all the participants for a fun and informative field tour.

For the full article visit: [The Progressive Rancher](#)

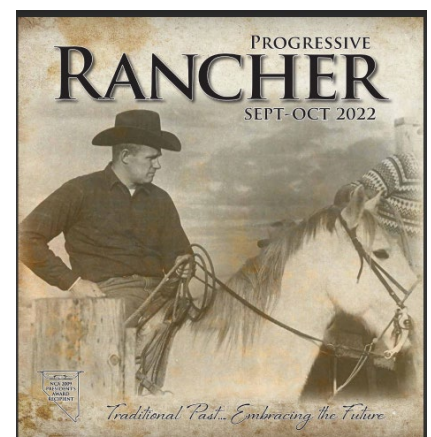
1980



2010



Maggie Creek



FREES Summit Report

Amanda Gearhart & Sherm Swanson

The Free-Roaming Equids and Ecological Sustainability (FREES) Network held their semi-annual conference October 12-14, 2022 in Saint George, UT. The FREES Network is a collaborative group based out of Utah State University but includes members from all over the nation and is committed to providing a diverse and inclusive community to tackle the wicked issue of wild horse and burro management in the United States.

The format this year was much different than in the past. The first day included traditional scientific presentations from experts on subjects such as stakeholder opinions and engagement, partnerships, sage grouse and wild horse interactions, population modeling, mountain lion diet selection, and riparian ecology. The second day, participants were grouped for participation in breakout rooms. Rooms were determined by primary association with a particular state. Represented states included Colorado, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, and a separate room for the U.S. Forest Service. Breakout rooms went through facilitated exercises, leading participants to share their perceptions of things that were going well in the WHB program and the opportunities and challenges it faces. Utilizing true scenarios and situations on Herd Management Areas (BLM land) or Wild Horse Territories (USFS land), they modeled different management and population scenarios using the beta-version of BLM's new population modeling software, PopEquus. Each room had very different dynamics. The third day, each room selected representatives to report out on the challenges and opportunities from breakout rooms.

The Nevada Breakout room had a group of about 30 at six tables. After introductions and general thoughts for optimum Free-roaming horse and burro management, we dove into the other work for the day, that is we discussed some herd management areas and then selected a couple to use with PopEquus to explore some herd management options. Pop-Equus is based on published research on the topics of population growth and fertility control effectiveness of many different methods including immunocontraception, IUD, and others. It provides output on stress to horses based on the number of horses that must be gathered and the presumed horse health in relation to appropriate management level (AML) vs population size. It also provides output on costs and presumed ecological impacts based on population size.

We selected a herd to model that had just been brought to AML and one that was considerably over AML. To run the model, we had discussions about the timing of various gathers and fertility control methods with our input for levels of effectiveness such as the percentage of horses that we thought could be darted or gathered. Because the model was based on research and we could try different experiments, the discussions were rich and seemed to be a fine way for people with different interests to work together to explore strategies that might work.





It was noted in our room and in the report back session from other rooms that all modeled strategies led to the need to gather and remove animals at times, that fertility control can be useful for multiple objectives, and that it is more effective at population sizes that are close to AML.

One of the big factors driving costs was the cost of continued off-range holding after gathering and there was some discussion of that cost not relating to a specific herd so much as to the national approach and funding. At AML nationally, no more horses would be unadoptable even as the need to gather continues, especially with fertility control methods. This would reduce the costs predicted from individual herd management options.

Interestingly when the session was nearly over it was noted that AML had been assumed discussed as a useful and essential concept. When this was pointed out there was a bit of discussion about some disagreement about AML for certain herds,

Sadly, it was pointed out by some that other states may have to get their populations under control before there will be an ability to get Nevada BLM and Forest Service herds to AML.

Despite past controversial Summit events, this Summit had a very different feel. Participants were more collaborative, willing to share concerns and successes. While there was no silver bullet solution proposed, overall, relationships and collaborations were pursued by participants and valued more than solutions.

Also, the [attached paper](#) was provided to people at the Nevada SRM table and at the FREES Registration Desk. Some of these concepts will be presented by the Nevada Section SRM Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Committee at the 2023 International SRM Meeting in Boise.

For more information on the Free Roaming Equids and Ecosystem Sustainability Group [Click Link](#)



Nevada Section SRM in Action

A report on a Two-day Summit on a Rangeland Policy Center



By, Don Henderson



In March 2022, the UNR College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources (CABNR) hosted a two-day Summit in Fallon , Nevada, to gain inputs and explore the topics on the need for and the opportunities and challenges associated with establishing a rangeland policy center in Nevada. Thirty-eight participants were invited to contribute their thoughts and expertise at the Summit. Invited guests were mostly from Nevada, but perspectives from Washington, DC, Idaho, and Oregon were also included. Don Henderson represented the Nevada Section SRM.

Relying on group facilitation, the resulting Summit discussions were wide-ranging and exhaustive. Numerous consensus recommendations were developed by the group, but no firm commitments were reached. It was obvious from the content of the discussions that further strategic information and its careful consideration would be needed before such a concept could be readily advanced in Nevada.

If further information on the Summit is desired, please contact Don Henderson at don@rci-nv.com.



EXTENSION
College of Agriculture,
Biotechnology & Natural Resources



Society for Range Management



Updates from the 2023 Boise Meeting

It was an amazing time had by all in Boise! The Idaho section did such a great job with the program, there were hundreds of presenters throughout the week. Many of the familiar ongoing rangeland issues were covered along with new and emerging topics like virtual fencing and carbon credits that drew packed rooms. It was such a good feeling to see the SRM community back in person. The SRM staff were constantly visiting with the members everyday. Staff members like Jess Peterson and Kelly Fogarty as well as others ensured that everyone had a fun and informative experience.

The UNR Range Club placed 8th overall out of 21 teams with UNR member Elsie Childress tying for 1st place. The UNR Range Cup team also placed 4th in their contest. Great job to their Advisor Amada Gearhart and all the students who attended!

“The time I spent at the High School Youth Forum was a wonderful learning experience. Everything from the drive to get to Boise to my presentation itself, was packed full with opportunities to learn new things. I was proud to represent the Nevada section for the Society of Range Management and I really enjoyed meeting everyone who was there. I was pleasantly surprised when I heard people from Canada would be attending the meeting and it was amazing to speak with them. All of the delegates that attended the High School Youth Forum were amazing and I enjoyed exploring the Boise area with them. I am grateful to have been a part of the High School Youth Forum because it was fulfilling to know that I was part of something bigger than myself and my area. Most importantly, I enjoyed seeing how rangelands connected us all.”

Hannah McCoy 2023 NVSRM High School Youth Forum Candidate



University of Nevada, Reno

— College of —
Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources
SUSTAINABLE SCIENCE FOR LIFE.

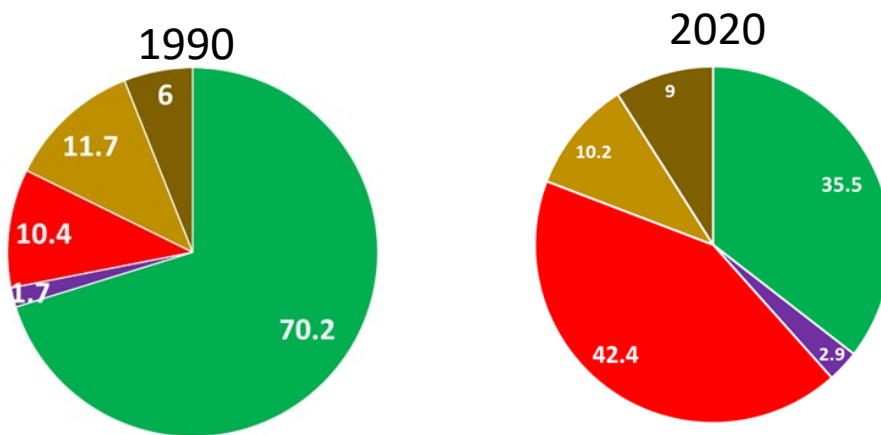


Jan 28 – Feb 01, 2024 | Sparks, Nevada

Back for More in 24!

The Society for Range Management will hold its annual International Meeting at the Nugget in Sparks Nevada Jan 28th – Feb 1st 2024. The theme will be “Change on the Range”. We chose this theme because change can mean so many different things to people. We live in an ever-changing world where sometimes change can be good and sometimes it can be bad, like the catastrophic habitat losses Nevada has suffered from cheatgrass invasion and frequent wildfires. A recent review of habitat condition (Rangeland Analysis Platform RAP) found that poor condition habitat increased from 10% in 1990 to 42% in 2020. While at the same time “good” condition habitat decreased from 70% in 1990 to 35% in 2020. According to these metrics Nevada has more “poor” condition landscapes than “good” condition now (42% vs. 35%). This alarming fact calls for action. Our current paradigm of range management isn’t working, we are losing ground, we need a change to turn the tide of habitat loss.

Please join us in 2024 and help Make Nevada Green Again !



- good condition shrub/grassland
- poor condition shrub/grassland
- juniper high cover

- intermediate condition shrub/grassland
- Juniper low-mid cover

*Data from Rangeland Analysis Platform

If you would like to volunteer to help with planning and operations for the 2024 meeting please contact

Meghan Brown m.brown@agri.nv.gov

Melany Aten maten@dcnr.nv.gov





NVACD

Nevada Association of Conservation Districts

NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Nevada Association of Conservation Districts (NvACD) is proud to support Nevada students pursuing an education in agriculture, renewable natural resources, or a related field at an accredited institution of higher learning, including vocational/technical schools. The NvACD Scholarship Committee is always impressed with the high quality of the applicants that we receive; it makes the decision both rewarding and challenging to choose among the Nevada students. The application process is open now and closes April 15, 2023. The application and all information can be found at <https://www.nvacd.org/>.

Last year NvACD distributed \$7,500 in scholarships. Much of this funding comes from the NvACD Sportsmen's Raffle conducted each year with prizes from Gunworld and Archery in Elko drawn October 1-30. Only 500 tickets are sold and winning tickets go back in for another chance. All information is available at <https://www.nvacd.org/>. Great prizes for a great cause! 30 chances for only \$100!

Conservation Districts (CDs) have the responsibility to understand the resource concerns in their area and to find solutions to those concerns by working with landowners, producers, agencies and groups, building relationships with partners and providing the nexus to work across ownership boundaries. One of the greatest contributions of this little known but powerful resource in Nevada is the unrivaled authority and opportunity to meld funding for projects from multiple agencies and landowners. CDs are directed by locally elected volunteer residents and were founded, along with 3,000 CDs nationally, in 1937 on the philosophy that conservation decisions should be made at the local level with a focus on voluntary, incentive-based actions.

NvACD will continue to support youth who write to tell us, "I would like to truly thank you for your investment in my future. I sincerely appreciate your support of myself as well as other youth." Please share this announcement with students and sportsmen far and wide and partner with NvACD and CDs to grow our future and put good resource management on the ground.

If you would like to donate to the NvACD Scholarship Fund, any amount is appreciated. There is a donation tab on the NvACD website, or you may contact Adriane Tibbitts at treasurer@nvacd.org.

Thank You Maggie!

The Nevada Section SRM would like to give a heartfelt thank you to Maggie Orr who has been the Newsletter Editor for many, many years. She has decided to pass the torch as she is enjoying spending time with family and grandkids. We can't thank you enough Maggie for everything you do for NVSRM!

If anyone is interested in becoming the Newsletter Editor (2 issues/year) please contact Dan at daniel.harmon@usda.gov

2023 Nevada Section Officers

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| <p>Meghan Brown President 775 340-6545 nevadabrows@gmail.com</p> | <p>Paul Meiman Pres-Elect (775) 783-7291 pmeiman@unr.edu</p> | <p>Dan Harmon Past President (775) 240-6479 (c) daniel.harmon@usda.gov</p> | <p>Dave Voth Executive VP (775) 430-2047 (c) davemvoth@gmail.com</p> |
| <p>Maria Ryan Secretary (775) 237-9304 (c) lutra.2039@yahoo.com</p> | <p>Ethan Mower Treasurer / Range Camp (980) 565-6046 (c) emower@parks.nv.gov</p> | <p>Vacant Newsletter Editor</p> | <p>Outreach Dan Harmon daniel.harmon@usda.gov Andi Porecca aporreca@humboldtweedfree.org</p> |

Zone Council

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| <p>Zone 1: Jon Griggs, jon@maggiecreek.com Zone 2: Melany Aten, maten@dcnr.nv.gov Zone 3: Genie Montblanc, emb@cabnr.unr.edu Zone 4: Meagan Carter, meagan.carter@usda.gov</p> | <p>Zone 5: Sabrina McCue, smccue@blm.gov Zone 6: AJ Flint, aflint@blm.gov Zone 7: Rick Orr, bbwheatgrass@yahoo.com (Zone Map)</p> |
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