

June 2024

RANGELAND



NEWS

Society For Range Management



Meet the Pres-Elect

Kaelie Pena



I hold a B.S. in Rangeland Resource Science from Humboldt State University and am currently working on my M.S. in Environmental Science through University of Idaho. In 2016, I started my range career with the U.S. Forest Service as a Pathways Intern on the Bridgeport Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest and for the last three years have been a Range Specialist on the Salmon-Cobalt Ranger District of the Salmon-Challis National Forest in Idaho. I am excited to be making the move to Nevada after accepting a position with Pheasants Forever as the State Coordinator, where I will be managing partnerships between multiple groups and agencies and identifying conservation, restoration, and outreach/education opportunities. I have served in leadership positions with SRM Student Conclave and Young Professionals Conclave, and was awarded the SRM 'Young Professional Conclave Outstanding Early Career' Award in 2022. I am excited to get back to the Nevada Section and hope to be able to engage Section members and provide meaningful resources and opportunities to those across the state!



Hopin' for the Best this Spring!

Greetings and Happy Spring, NV SRM! One of the many things I love about my life is that both my family's lifestyle and my job enable me to travel all over the great state of Nevada and see the fantastic variety of rangelands we have. This spring, our daughter's rodeos have taken us on round-trips from our home in Elko to Pahrump, Vegas, Fernley, Fallon (twice) and Reno. Work has had me all over northern Nevada and also down to Lincoln County for a fantastic tour (huge thank-you to Maggie and Rick Orr) where Great Basin rangelands meld with the Mojave rangelands flavored with some Sonoran influence. The signs of spring are everywhere...and so far, they look more like a lamb than a lion! Rivers and streams are swelling or swollen, but seem to be fairly well-behaved...so far.

Except for when I'm out of town, I drive across the Humboldt River usually twice per day. It has been rolling along, rising consistently and flowing into side channels. In places - water has spread out over the floodplains, rehydrating that big ol' sponge on either side of the channel. One of my federal agency friends and colleagues who monitors it closely, informed me that we are in pretty good shape for soil moisture across NE NV. There is still a good amount of snow on many of the mountains...let's all keep hopin' that it comes off at a reasonable rate. A rancher friend and colleague north of Elko, mentioned that he and his family have gotten nervous about flood waters a few times already this spring...but so far - so good! Here's to hopin' that continues!

More of my agency colleagues and friends have been meeting with permittees making plans for the coming year. Crickets are out...and "cricket calls" are flooding into Extension offices. Recently, a 4th generation Great Basin Native shared with me stories of pronghorn and cattle "running around crazy" as the crickets crawled all over them. He also reported losing 2 calves as a result of this.

President Ponders



Paul Meiman- University Nevada Reno
Extension Associate Professor, Rangeland
Livestock/Wildlife Interactions, State Specialist

Little critters are bouncing playfully around rangelands and meadows, figuring out how to keep their legs under their bodies...and their bodies headed in the "desired" direction...according to some form of a plan that none of us would likely recognize or understand. Ranchers have been busy keeping little critters with their moms and out of various types of danger...a full-time job. In my case, I've been trying to keep a bottle-baby goat kid off of the end tables, kitchen counter or anything else she can jump on. Let me assure you all...there is a LONG list of GOOD reasons NOT to have goats as house pets! Luckily for me...Lucky (the goat kid) is mostly moved out of the house!



President Ponders cont.

Hopin' for the Best this Spring!

A wide variety of colors from a cadre of annual plants combine with the grays and greens from perennial plants painting the landscape with further signs of spring. With some good, and some not-so-good...we're all hopin' for a favorable year on Nevada rangelands – and for NV SRM.

Speaking of NV SRM, we are excited and very pleased to welcome Kaelie Pena as President Elect and Maggie Orr as Secretary! A huge thank-you from the entire section to both of you! Kaelie is working on plans for a summer tour and meeting. She and I have talked a few times already and we will keep you posted. Dan Harmon, Don Henderson and I have been working on getting the Section Handbook converted into a digital document and updated to be consistent the Section's updated bylaws. Dan has also stepped up to fill the gap and get newsletters out as we look for someone to serve as Newsletter Editor. Thanks Dan! We are hopin' that one of you fine folks would be willing to serve in this capacity, please let one of us know if you are.

Last, but certainly not least...another huge thank-you to our 2024 Sparks Annual Meeting Co-Chairs, Meghan and Melany for a job very well done! Happy Spring, everyone! I'll close by revealing the source of my inspiration for this article – some words of wisdom from a great song by the late Ben Bullington (a Montana country doctor, great musician and philosopher) ... "Here's to Hopin'..." Here's to hopin' for a lot of things ...a good year for the plants and animals of rangelands (including humans) ...and not too much smoke, dust or crickets!

Paul Meiman- 2024 NVSRM President



NVSRM High School Youth Forum



My name is Anna Shane (photo right) and I was born in Elko, Nevada, but currently reside in Carson City. During the summer of 2023, I attended the Nevada SRM Youth Range Camp for the first time as a camper. I knew what to generally expect, but the overall education and experience I received while connecting with the rangeland was incredible. Throughout my time at camp, I worked hard to keep up with the more experienced campers, eventually leading me to become the 2023 Runner-up Trail Boss.

As runner-up, I was selected to represent Nevada SRM in the International Youth Range Forum Speech Contest. The topic I picked to speak on was Disease Transmission in Wild and Domestic Sheep on Nevada Rangelands for the 2024 SRM High School Youth Forum. I love raising domestic sheep for the Nevada Junior Livestock Show each year, so I thought it would be interesting to look at the wild sheep side too, and came up with the idea of disease transmission. Leading up to and during the 2024 High School Youth Forum, I learned a lot about my topic and the other participants' topics. Aside from the presentations for HSYF, the field tour and symposiums we attended were a great learning experience for the other participants as well as myself. It provided a great opportunity for everyone in the HSYF to learn about Nevada's rangelands..

I'm Kathlyn Smith (photo left) from Spring Creek, Nevada. I am a senior at Spring Creek High School. I am the 2024-2025 Nevada FFA State Vice President and I am planning on becoming an Agriculture Teacher with a minor in Rangeland Management. I have gone to Range Camp for the past two years and have had a wonderful time both years. The friends that I have made make the experience ten times better. During my time with the High School Youth Forum I was able to meet and make lots of new friends that have the same interests as I do.

I think it is so amazing to have young people come together to share different things that are happening in the area that they live. My presentation was about Green Energy and how it affects the Rangeland. I was very interested in this because I am a very outdoor person and depending on how this new kind of energy affects the land is how it's going to affect the future. I am so thankful that I got to go and I hope that the kids in the future love the experience as much as I did.





NVSRM Range Camp



Ethan Mower, camp director with Kathlyn Smith, 2023 Trail Boss and Anna Shane 2024 runner up at the 2024 international SRM meeting in Sparks NV.

Range Camp 2023 was a big success, overcoming continued challenges with changing sites. Range Camp moved in 2022 from Smith Creek Ranch to Eastern Nevada at the Timber Creek Campground in the Schell Creek Range. This move went off without a hitch and the site was beautiful, albeit a little cold at times with an elevation of almost 9,000 ft! 2023 was a banner snow year which forced the move to an adjacent site at Berry Creek. The site performed admirably and may well be the sort of permanent home for camp. We always have great sponsors for Range Camp. Donations from groups such as the Fraternity for Desert Bighorn Sheep, The Nugget Resort, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Eureka, Lincoln, and Elko Conservation Districts, and others make it possible to put the camp on. Not enough can be said for the people who make it run, not the least of whom are Rick and Maggie Orr who have to be going on their 20th year (or something) of volunteering at camp!

Range Camp is one of the hallmark activities for Nevada SRM, and word has continued to circulate about the quality of instruction given. Many attendees in recent years have leveraged experience and knowledge gained at camp for employment at different conservation agencies and organizations around the state. Please keep spreading the word about Range Camp and consider volunteering yourself!

For more information on NVSRM Range Camp contact: Ethan Mower emower@parks.nv.gov





Grace McAndrews , Range Club President

The University of Nevada (UNR) Reno Range Club has been bustling with activity, offering students in Range Management as well as other disciplines opportunities to develop leadership skills and foster a vibrant community at UNR. This past spring semester, the club made its mark by attending the Society for Range Management conference, Science in the SageBrush, and hosting a booth at the Wild Sheep Foundation Conference providing students with invaluable networking opportunities and the chance to compete alongside peers and professionals.



As we embark on the new semester, the club is excited to welcome a fresh slate of officers, ensuring a full team dedicated to our mission. With a focus on productivity, we're gearing up for an eventful fall semester, aiming to expand our presence across campus. Collaborating with other on-campus clubs, we're planning exciting initiatives such as a fall semester BBQ and a on-campus film event.

Looking ahead, we're preparing for student competitions at the 2025 SRM conference, solidifying our commitment within Range Management. With enthusiasm and dedication, we're ready to make this upcoming semester one to remember, further establishing our club as a cornerstone of student life at UNR.



**College of Agriculture,
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AGRICULTURE, VETERINARY & RANGELAND SCIENCES

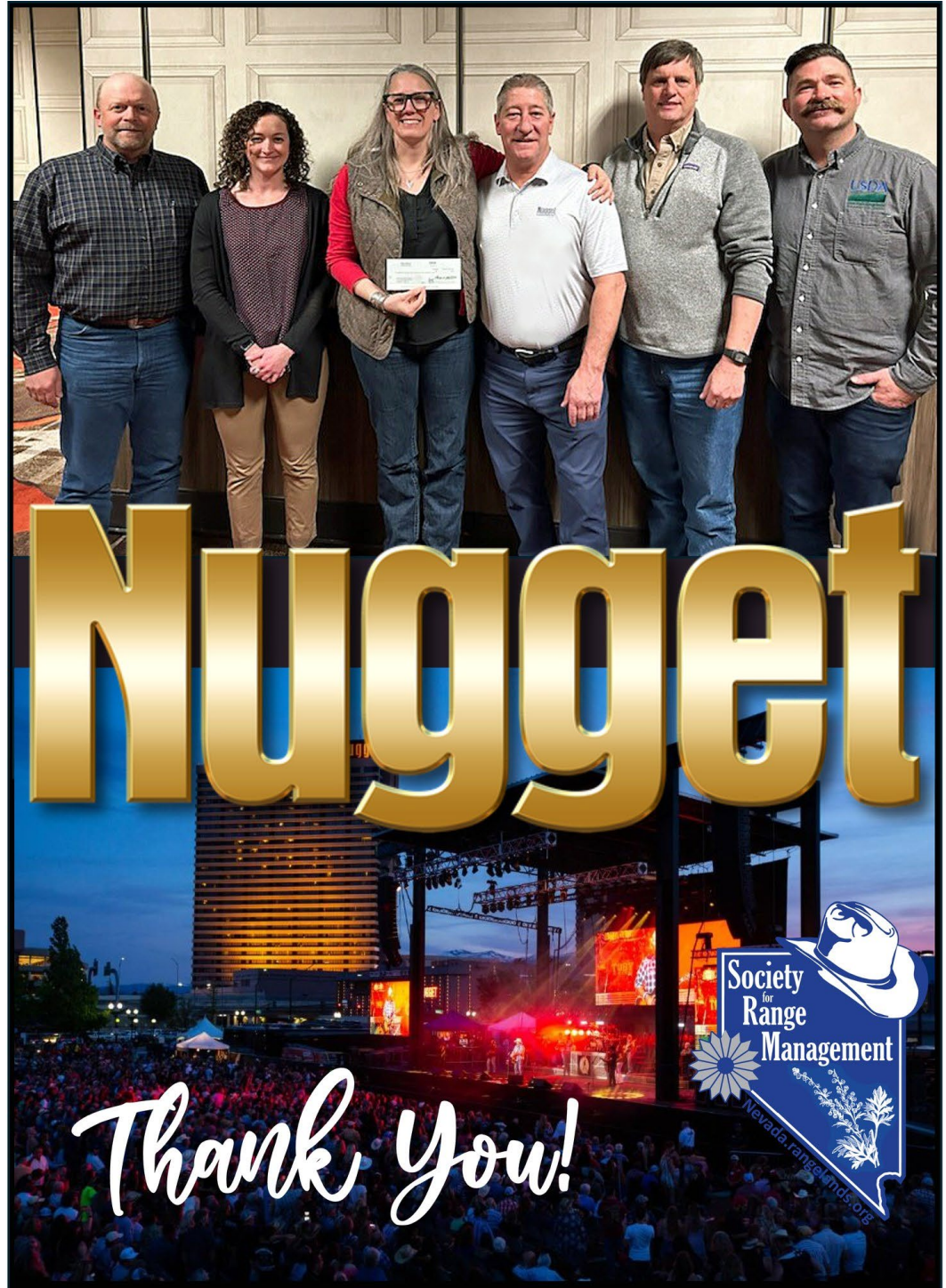


Thank you to Greg Weinbender and all the great folks at The Nugget for their generous contribution to the Nevada section SRM scholarship fund after an amazing annual meeting in February!

"It was a great meeting with over 1600 attendees from a variety of rangeland professions," newly installed SRM president Dr. Karen Hickman said.

"This meeting certainly provided an excellent opportunity for attendees, both in person and virtual, to learn more about the science and art of rangeland management. And as with previous SRM Annual Meetings, it's always great to catch up with old friends and meet new ones."

Society for Range Management



Thank You Maggie!

The Nevada Section SRM would like to give a heartfelt thank you to Maggie Orr who has been active in the section in so many roles and has very kindly agreed to a term as Secretary. 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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