

# RANGELAND NEWS



TO FOSTER ADVANCEMENT IN THE  
SCIENCE AND ART OF RANGELAND  
MANAGEMENT

NEVADA SECTION – SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT

November 2010

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(see map on last page for zones)

## CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF NEVADA YOUTH RANGE CAMP

### PRESIDENTS'S PONDERS

Ken Visser

Congratulations to Duane Coombs, Ray Hendrix and the Smith Creek Ranch for winning the Bureau of Land Management's 2010 National Stewardship Award! Duane (past president of the NV Section) and ranch owner Ray Hendrix have been working over a decade to implement objective-based management actions on central Nevada's Smith Creek ranch and associated public lands grazing allotment. The NV Section had its summer tour there in 2007. I am sure that Duane would be the first to tell you that getting recognition is welcomed and appreciated, but the most satisfying reward is conducting a gainful enterprise while seeing and experiencing the positive on-the-ground responses to thoughtfully planned and executed pro-active management.

At the same time, it should be recognized that there are many management successes in Nevada, and that a tip of hat is deserved by all the researchers and extension specialists, past and present, who have contributed to the knowledge base and the practicum (for lack of a better word) regarding

sustainable grazing management practices in Great Basin rangelands that have been put to good use by Duane and others.

I saw many Nevada Section SRM members in attendance at a September cheatgrass and medusahead workshop held at the Nugget in Sparks. This workshop is part of outreach conducted by Ecologically Based Invasive Plant Management (EBIPM) Area-Wide project organized by the USDA Agricultural Research Service in Burns, Oregon. The Area-Wide project has the participation and involvement of ranchers, other agriculturalists, land management agencies and western universities (including UNR). Particularly intriguing was the presentation by Dr. Robert Sheley regarding the ecological model he and his colleagues have developed to help practitioners address the causes rather than the symptoms of invasive plant spread. I encourage you to “spread the word” regarding this project and the management tools and concepts that it is providing and to make the effort to attend a workshop if one becomes available in your area. See and explore: <http://www.ebipm.org/>. Recently the Nevada Section was contacted by the parent society and strongly urged to put in a bid to host the 2015 national meeting in Reno. Four Reno hotels put in competitive bids for 2015 in response to the parent society’s solicitation. The Reno–Sparks Convention and Visitor Authority contacted yours truly and offered assistance in accordance with their mission should we have decided to host. We reluctantly decided not to bid for 2015 – but the time is now to engage in serious discussion regarding when we will be putting in a bid and this will be a business item topic at the Winter Meeting.

Earlier this year, we had to make some decisions regarding Section leadership positions. Our president-elect, Kevin Piper, took a position at Cal Poly and our secretary, Ed Ryan, found that he was over-committed and unable to carry out his SRM duties. At our summer, meeting, membership elected Heather Mobley as president-elect and Ann Bollinger as secretary and this action was ratified by the Board shortly thereafter. Congratulations and thanks to both for stepping up to serve.

See you at the Winter Meeting!

## **WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!**

**Jeanne Higgins**, USDA-Forest Service, Sparks NV, [jhiggins@fs.fed.us](mailto:jhiggins@fs.fed.us)

**Jessica Esenarro**, USDA-NRCS, Minden, NV, [sport\\_chick87@hotmail.com](mailto:sport_chick87@hotmail.com)

**Jason Martin**, USDA-NRCS, Winnemucca, NV [Jason.martin@nv.usda.gov](mailto:Jason.martin@nv.usda.gov)

**Dan & Diana Van Norman**, Tuscarora, NV [blueskydvn@gmail.com](mailto:blueskydvn@gmail.com)

**Allen Moody**, UNR student, [allen.moody@nv.usda.gov](mailto:allen.moody@nv.usda.gov)

**Lesley R. Morris**, USDA-ARS, Reno, NV [lesleymorris@gmail.com](mailto:lesleymorris@gmail.com)

## **ELECTIONS**

Editor’s Opinion: I suppose it may seem silly to some to post the biographies of candidates when only one is running for a position, but if nothing else, I find it encouraging to better know the strong slate of grounded, motivated and young (!) candidates we have about to go to work for rangelands in Nevada. And to you candidates, go forth and do great things! Thank you for being willing to serve.

**President Elect:** Hello, my name is **Chris Jasmine** and I wanted to introduce myself to all of the SRM members in Nevada. I am the 6<sup>th</sup> generation of my family to make Nevada my home, and my entire life has been spent in this great state. I have lived and worked in Reno, Ely, and most recently Spring Creek. I currently live there with my wife Jaime and my daughter Adaven. When my wife and I are not at work, we are heavily involved in bow hunting and target archery throughout Nevada and beyond.

I received a degree in Natural Resource Management from UNR, and have focused my professional career on private lands conservation for the past 10 years. Most of my career was spent

with the Natural Resource Conservation Service, but I am now employed with the US Fish and Wildlife Service where I run the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, a voluntary private lands habitat conservation program.

I have served on many boards of non-profit organizations including a current position as a board member for the Nevada Bow Hunters Association. I believe being involved in non-profit organizations, whether for bow hunters or rangeland professionals, is an important part of giving back to our local Nevada community. I therefore appreciate the opportunity to serve SRM in Nevada.

**Zone II: (reinstatement) Boyd Hatch:** A little about me: I grew up in Cedar City, Utah on a ranch and farm. We raised alfalfa, sheep and cattle. I really enjoyed working at the ranch on Cedar Mountain and in our hay fields in the valley, and honestly wish I could still be doing that today. From age 12, I worked at the local livestock market sorting livestock and taking care of the animals and the grounds until I left for college. I always had an interest in a career in Rangeland Management. I started my education at Southern Utah University, and completed my degree in Rangeland Management from Utah State University out of Logan, Utah in 2002. During college, I was active in the SRM and competed in Plant ID, Speech Contest, and the URME (Undergraduate Range Management Examination). I continued working with the Utah section of the SRM with student affairs, coordinating local competitions between the College and University SRM groups at our annual meetings. In 1999 I was hired by the Forest Service to conduct studies monitoring vegetation on the Dixie and Fishlake National Forests, and in 2001 received a permanent position as a Rangeland Management Specialist on the Fishlake National Forest on the Fillmore Ranger District. During that time I was proud to receive the award from the Utah Section of the SRM for "Outstanding Young Range Professional". I moved to northern Nevada with my wife and children in 2007, and work as a Supervisory Rangeland Management Specialist/Natural Resource Officer on the Humboldt –Toiyabe National Forest, Santa Rosa Ranger District. I work with local ranchers in managing their grazing allotments. I am responsible for many other range related resources such as noxious weed eradication and control, wildlife habitat improvement projects, watershed protection projects, etc...I enjoy working with, and plan to be actively engaged in supporting, the Nevada Section of the SRM in furthering public education and understanding the importance of rangelands resources.

**Zone IV: Mark Freese** grew up in the small town of Jordan Valley, Oregon where I spent time hunting, fishing, and helping friends with their ranching chores, among other outdoor activities. Spending much of my time outdoors generated my interest into pursuing a career in natural resource management. As such, I attended and received my Bachelor of Science (BS) degree from Oregon State University in Natural Resources with an option in policy that emphasized management and a minor in Fisheries and Wildlife. Directly following my BS, I pursued a Masters of Science (MS) degree in Rangeland Ecology and Management from Oregon State University. Through my MS degree, I gained research experience completing a thesis linking greater sage-grouse habitat use and suitability across spatiotemporal scales in central Oregon. Following graduation in the spring of 2009, I moved to Ely, Nevada and worked for the Bureau of Land Management as a Rangeland Management Specialist. In this job experience, I applied the skills learned through my formal education and gained practical experience working with private land owners. This job was very satisfying; however, I wanted to be closer to my wife who was located Reno. After 13 months of commuting between Reno and Ely, I acquired a job in Reno with the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW). I currently work as a habitat biologist reviewing land use plans and projects within NDOW's western region.

**Zone V: (reinstatement)** For those of you who don't know me, my name is **Jeremy Drew**. On a professional basis I am a Resource Specialist and Engineer Intern at Resource Concepts, Inc. I've been with RCI for about five and a half years now, and have learned a ton under the tutelage of Mr. McLain and Co. In my off time I hold down several unpaid positions serving as the President of the

Northern Nevada Chapter of Safari Club, and as a Board Member of the Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife. I've been involved in SRM as the Wildlife Habitat Committee Chair. As you may have concluded at this point I love to hunt and I'm passionate about wildlife. However, I'm also a 4<sup>th</sup> generation native Nevadan with a farming and ranching family history. I feel that the resource challenges that this state faces are bigger than any one interest group can tackle alone. As such I see SRM serving as a bridge between various interests in order to do what's best for the resources of Nevada. I appreciate your time and consideration.

**Zone VI:** (reinstatement) My name is **Jake Tibbitts** and I was born and raised in Blackfoot, Idaho where my family owns and operates a feedlot and ranching operation. I received both my undergraduate and graduate education at Idaho State University where I studied biology (undergraduate) and GIS and remote sensing to manage and monitor rangeland resources (graduate). I live in Eureka where I have the responsibilities, challenges, and privileges of being the Eureka County Natural Resource Manager. In this position I help keep the County informed and connected to a wide range of natural resource issues including anything relating to public land, range management, air space, wild horses, wildlife, grazing allotments, mining, and recreation. I serve on the State Land Use Planning Advisory Council, the local Forest Service Resource Advisory Council, and I am just finishing my tenure as the Zone 6 Councilman for the Section. I have a deep personal and professional interest and love for the science of range management and I feel that it is imperative that we manage our range resources, farms, ranches, and rural lifestyles in a manner that keeps our society and economy sound and strong in addition to sustaining the resource. I became a member of SRM in graduate school and have maintained my membership ever since.

**Zone VII: Justin Feeman:** I recently moved to Nevada to work with the NRCS as a Range Conservationist in the Caliente Field Office. I was raised in eastern Tennessee, where my father, a land manager for the Tennessee Valley Authority, instilled in me at an early age the importance of work with ecosystems as a whole. I attended Oregon State University where I received a B.S. in Agriculture Economics with a minor in Rangeland Ecology in June of 2008. While attending OSU I did seasonal work for the US Forest Service in Idaho and Wyoming as a trail crew member and foreman. During my senior year of college and the following summer I worked with Tamzen Stringham, Erica Freese, and many other gifted researchers on projects in central and southern Oregon, concluding the summer with Jack Alexander and Synergy collecting Ecological Site Data in Montana. The following summer I was back with Synergy on a wide scope of field work in many areas of the West, again blessed to work with a number of extremely talented men and women. When not working range work I have returned to Tennessee to be with my friends and family working at a native wildflower nursery or whatever I could find to pay the bills.

I was delighted to be accepted by NRCS in Caliente, and come to Nevada with great humility and a desire to expand my understanding of rangeland systems to the southern Great Basin and the Mojave Desert. As a councilman, I would gain greater insight into the issues facing the area and enhance my ability to serve southern Nevada. I would be happy to be the Zone 7 Council member. (Justin promised he will rejoin SRM as soon as his finances allow. Signed: Maggie, who recruited him)

**ELECTION PROCESS:** You will receive a separate email ballot to which you should reply to Ken Conley at [bkconley@gmail.com](mailto:bkconley@gmail.com) by January 1. All members may vote for all Zone positions per the Section Constitution. Officer ship will change immediately following the International meeting in Billings.

**REMEMBER TO VOTE AND REGISTER FOR THE WINTER MEETING**

## **WINTER MEETING – ELKO, JANUARY 14, 2010**

Heather Mobley, President-Elect

It's that time of year again folks; time to save the date for our Nevada Section SRM Winter Meeting. This year we'll be meeting in Elko on Friday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at the California National Historic Trail Interpretive Center. This year's subject will be centered on BEHAVE, an acronym for Behavioral Education for Humans, Animals, Vegetation and Ecosystem Management. To be even more specific, "BEHAVE is a research and outreach program aimed at understanding the principles that govern diet and habitat selection." (BEHAVE website 2010) Many of our members are already familiar with BEHAVE and are excited to see it on the program this year but some of you may be curious about what's involved. So I encourage you to visit the website at <http://www.behave.net/> and to come to our meeting armed with all your questions and curiosity. It will be a short program, so plan on being in Elko by 10am and plan to stay on after the program for a top notch Dutch oven dinner and entertainment to boot. Somewhere in that time, we invite you to join our Section Business Meeting, the more the merrier. We plan to have the video for Duane Coombs' award presentation to show. Stay tuned for more details and for registration information, but don't forget to *save that date*.

## **2010 RANGE CAMP**

### **A Nevada Youth Range Camp Experience**

**Jessica Lawson, Trail Boss winner**

This past June, I had the wonderful opportunity to attend Nevada Youth Range Camp held at Big Creek Campground outside of Austin, Nevada. I did not know what I was getting into when I applied, but I must say that for me, going to Range Camp was one of the most important decisions I made this summer.

By the end of the first day, between my personal conversations and the group games we played, I had met other kids from all around Nevada and even one from Oregon, too. It was thrilling to talk to others who love hunting, fishing and experiencing Nevada just as much as I do. We also met the different counselors and jumped straight into our learning with plant identification. With just an evening stroll around camp, we were introduced to different grasses, shrubs and forbs. I had been all over Nevada hunting, fishing, rock hounding, camping and exploring and I never paused to think about the plants! I only ever really cared to watch and learn about the animals! And now I was amazed at all the different grasses growing within a ten foot radius. So began my fascination with plants though I went to Range Camp with my mind firmly set on majoring in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation at the University of Nevada, Reno.

The next two days were filled with fun and learning, as we spent the majority of the day at different stations throughout Big Creek and the surrounding areas. Each of these stations opened my eyes to things I merely passed up before. I have always been fascinated by rocks, but had merely glassed over the soil. Now, I can identify whether the soil is a loamy sand or a sandy loam, along with guessing the soil characteristics by what plants grow in that area. In the Sagebrush Rangelands Investigation, not only did we learn about and perform a line intercept in both a sagebrush steppe environment and a sagebrush semi-desert environment, but we also learned about different types of sagebrush, sagebrush communities and wildfires. We performed two more line intercepts in the Woodlands Investigation and learned about the different phases of woodland succession and wild fires. In the Stream Investigation, we learned how to classify streams, their Proper Functioning Condition (PFC), measure water quality and dissolved oxygen and even find squirming fresh water bugs. Unfortunately, this is only a small glimpse into each one of the different stations, and coupled with this learning, we had fun and met some wonderful counselors.

Back at Camp, while our amazing cooks prepared our delicious fare for the night, we had time to socialize fish or walk around. Throughout the week, some special evening programs were offered and I fondly remember sitting transfixed as Dean Tonnena talked about the Lifeways of Great Basin Native Americans and showed off some of the baskets he has made out of willow, Kent McAdoo explained primitive archery and let us oooh and aaah over his works of art. Rick Orr demonstrated some fly fishing techniques and eagerly shared his knowledge about this sport. We also learned land navigation and how to use a lensatic compass. This lesson was tested one night in the middle of a vast stretch of sagebrush under a bright moon. In our groups, using pacing methods and a set of coordinates we all worked hard to end up somewhere in the vicinity of a small neon flag.

At Camp, I spent a lot of time talking to the counselors and volunteers, who patiently listened to and answered my many questions about their college routes and their careers today. These conversations were priceless and helped me get a feel for all of the options that were open to me. I now have a better idea of what I want to do and where I want to go with my college education.

On Wednesday, we packed into the buses and took a trip to Smith Creek Ranch. After receiving a tour of the ranch and fish hatchery, we set about completing a conservation project. The ranch owners had received a grant to rebuild a stream in the hills beyond the Smith Creek Ranch and this winter they had set about rebuilding the stream to create a more effective riparian environment. So, we set about collecting local willow branches and loading them up in buckets of water in the back of the trucks, in order to transport and then plant them along the barren reconstructed stream. We also planted a truck load of local Nebraska Sedges along the stream. By the end of the project, we were muddy and tired, but quite content with our work. I had never before participated in a conservation project; now, I am eagerly looking into volunteering for organizations like Nevada Bighorns Unlimited to ensure the success of wildlife in Nevada. That evening our program consisted of a presentation put on by Larry Johnson, the president of the Nevada Bighorns Unlimited. I found this absolutely fascinating. I have attended a few NBU annual dinners and knew a little about what this organization does, but I learned much more this evening. After the presentation, I was delighted to have the opportunity to spend some time talking to Larry Johnson about the success of the Nevada Bighorns Unlimited on reinstating big game throughout Nevada, possibly volunteering on big game relocation projects, guzzler projects and simply, the scenic landscapes of Nevada.

Thursday we continued our plant identification and wildlife investigations, received a Snowtel site tour and had a scavenger hunt on our hike back to camp. On Friday, our plant knowledge was put to the test and we participated in a Coordinated Resource Management Simulation which opened our eyes to the difficulties of satisfying different groups that have an interest in a certain area of rangeland. We prepared for the arrival of some parents who came to attend the end of the week Camp Fire Feed. We received certificates upon completion of the Nevada Youth Range Camp and different awards were given out to the different groups. And, to put icing on the cake, this year was the fiftieth anniversary of the Nevada Youth Range Camp.

My mom attended the Friday festivities and couldn't believe her ears when she heard me talking about how fascinating plants were and how exciting it would be to pursue a Masters in botany and maybe after that get a PhD in the same field. Before I knew it, it was time to pack up and head home. I couldn't believe how fast the week went. For me, attending Range Camp was one of the best things I did this summer to further guide me down the path to my future. I can't begin to describe how this camp changed my idea of what I truly want to do with my life. I never knew how fascinating and essential plants are to any ecosystem. And now I have a field guide of wildflowers that I carry with me everywhere I go. Not only did my fascination with plants turn into a love affair, but I walked away from Range Camp with a wealth of information too deep to describe. For me, Range Camp opened my eyes to so many different things; this truly was an incredible opportunity and a very fun one too!

I would like to take a moment to thank all of the people involved with Range Camp. I would like to thank Dean Tonnena, Kent McAdoo, and Rick Orr for sharing their knowledge and passion with us. I would like to thank Gary McCuin and Rick and Maggie Orr, our wonderful cooks. I would like to thank Steve Foster, Brad Schultz, Kyler McCarrel, Heather Mobley, Brien Park, Kent McAdoo, Ryan Shane

and Sherman Swanson for all of their time and for sharing their knowledge with us. I would also like to thank Nevada Bighorns Unlimited, Nevada Conservation Districts, Nevada Society for Range Management and Nevada Wildlife Federation for being financial sponsors of NYRC. I would like to thank the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Nevada Division of Forestry, Nevada Division of Conservation Districts, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and Nevada Department of Wildlife for contributing resources to NYRC. Nevada youth would not have this wonderful opportunity if it wasn't for you and all of the generous sponsors. Thank you!

**A Big Thanks to Clover Valley Conservation District**  
**Lewis Mendive, Top Hand, representing Nevada at the Billings meeting**  
Letter to the editor of the *Elko Daily Free Press*, 7/25/10

I had the opportunity to participate in the Nevada Youth Range Camp, thanks to Clover Valley Conservation District. They sponsored my week-long stay in central Nevada near Austin. I and 23 other students learned about plant identification, the importance of sagebrush, and also how to access the productivity of Nevada streams, woodlands and soils.

Toward the end of the week we took a field trip to the Smith Creek Ranch to reintroduce sedges and willows into a recovering stream area a half mile long. The area had a very few plants and was vulnerable to washouts. However, our conservation project greatly increased the health of the stream. After the day of hard work we took a much needed shower.

On the last day of camp we had tests on what we had learned in the past week. After the tests (they were short) each group had to come up with a conservation plan for a mine coming in the Big Creek Watershed. After the simulation specifics were given, each group had to try to make the most reasonable plan and explain the plan to the county commissioners. I was one of the commissioners. Later that night family and friends came out to join the campers and share the camp's last meal with the campers and everyone who made the camp possible. Following the awesome dinner we had the award ceremony. The awards were based on leadership and the tests taken earlier that day. My cousin Selina Bailey and I were chosen to give a speech on any range issue at the High School Range Convention in Billings, Montana next February.

I would like to thank the Clover Valley Conservation District again for sponsoring my trip. I had a blast at range camp and would encourage any high school student that is interested to attend the 51<sup>st</sup> range camp next year.

**Email of thanks** received by James Gatzke in July 2010: Dear Mr. Gatzke,

Our son attended Range Camp in 1995 or 1996. He enjoyed it so much, and was inspired by it to take his high school studies even more seriously, then earned a B.S. in Rangeland Resources from the University of Idaho in 2001. Subsequently he worked for the State of Idaho Department of Lands for 5 years, then in 2007 accepted a position with the State of Arizona Dept. of Lands where he is the Rangeland Resource Manager for the state lands in the northwestern third of Arizona, several million acres, supporting his wife and their two beloved little children.

So I just want to say thank you, you all are doing a great thing by holding the Range Camp. Regards, Caroline

**Two experiences at 2010 Camp:** a woman came into Camp one afternoon and told several staff that her family was camped in the Canyon and her son had attended Range Camp the year before. He was "too cool" to come a second year but he was enthusiastically identifying plants and more and talking non-stop about his experiences and she wanted to say, "Keep up the good work."

A young man, who had attended Camp the year before, was first in the long line for dinner Friday night. He went through the line getting a respectable amount of food, and then carefully waited until

all had been through once. He went back through and heaped his plate, stating he had learned the year before to not take too much the first time. More than rangeland science is taught and learned at Range Camp!

**Thank you to all who have ever participated or helped in any way at Range Camp.**

Photos and more information are available at  
<http://nevada.rangelands.org/Range%20Camp.html>

### UNR RANGE CLUB

The Range Club is gearing up for the 2011 SRM meeting in Billings. Currently, there are 11 students planning on attending and competing in the various activities. To help raise money for our trip, we were given the opportunity to build two fences for an ARS research project in October. One fence is located at the Falen Ranch in Orovada and the second is in Kings River Valley. Along with the fencing project, we are selling rifle raffle tickets for a Remington .243. Our plant team and URME contestants are studying hard, while our display board team is looking to create another first place board. Come visit us in our booth in Billings!

### NOTE NEW SECTION WEBSITE

Thanks to Steve Foster, Nevada Section website has been moved to the SRM [www.rangelands.org](http://www.rangelands.org) website where you can select "Nevada" under Sections or go directly to <http://nevada.rangelands.org/> Submissions go to Steve Foster at [fosters@unce.unr.edu](mailto:fosters@unce.unr.edu) with "For the website" in the subject line.

