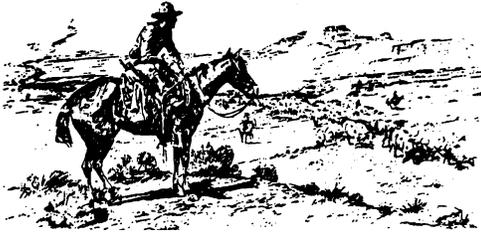


# RANGELAND NEWS



TO FOSTER ADVANCEMENT IN THE  
SCIENCE AND ART OF RANGELAND  
MANAGEMENT

NEVADA SECTION – SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT

November 2011

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<http://nevada.rangelands.org/>

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indicate “for the website”

Zone 1: Ryan Shane, [RSShane@frontiernet.net](mailto:RSShane@frontiernet.net)

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Zone 7: Justin Feeman, [justin.feeman@nv.usda.gov](mailto:justin.feeman@nv.usda.gov)

Zone 2: Boyd Hatch, [bhatch@fs.fed.us](mailto:bhatch@fs.fed.us)

Zone 4: Mark Freese, [markfreese@ndow.org](mailto:markfreese@ndow.org)

Zone 6: Jake Tibbitts, [natresmgr@eurekanv.org](mailto:natresmgr@eurekanv.org)

(see map on last page for zones)

**TIME'S A'WASTING! DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER FOR THE  
DECEMBER SECTION MEETING, VOTE ON THE BY-LAWS REVISION, AND  
READ THE MINUTES OF THE SUMMER BUSINESS MEETING..... FIND  
THEM ALL ON THE HOME PAGE AT:**

<http://nevada.rangelands.org/>

**VOTE FOR SECTION LEADERSHIP: BIOS AND VOTING INFO ON PAGE 5**

## PRESIDENT'S PONDERS

Heather Mobley

Hello Membership, I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate our President-Elect, Chris Jasmine, for a successful summer meeting. Chris brought us a breath of fresh air this year and invited speakers to address the lesser covered topic of the Truckee River and Pyramid Lake Systems. This summer's meeting turned out to be the perfect setting to address the future of the Nevada Section. Two challenges that our section faces were put to the attendees as food for thought with hopes that they would think of feedback for solutions to these challenges. Now I would like to share those challenges with the rest of our membership.

The first of the two challenges is the recent decline in section membership. After a short comparison between our old and new rosters, it became apparent that, while we still gained new members, many former members were not renewing. The result was an overall decline in membership numbers of the section. Coupled with this is our second challenge of the need for new folks to step up and consider taking on leadership roles within the section. Performing section maintenance and business can be a daunting task when left to few but when shared it can also be rewarding and fun. The bare minimum does not really require much but like anything in life; what you put into it is what you will get out of it, which brings me to the wise words of a fellow member.

Recently I was approached by our Executive VP, Gary McCuin, who told me that I needed to get the following message out to the section membership: "SRM is an opportunity to affect the issues that we, Natural Resource Managers/Enthusiasts', find important and are not able to successfully affect through our workplace. So....why not call upon the Nevada Section to help affect those issues." The advice was derived from a discussion about why many Nevada range professionals are opting to not participate as members in our section.

So given Gary's message and the two challenges that we face, I have developed a Call to Action for our members. The call has three parts, the first of which is **recruitment**. Bear with me; I suggest that members strive to recruit/renew at least one member this year. If we could each recruit one member, we could double our outreach, and that is huge. Not sure who to ask? A good start would be to look at the Membership Roster ([http://nevada.rangelands.org/documents/NVMembers\\_by\\_zone\\_4-20-11.xls](http://nevada.rangelands.org/documents/NVMembers_by_zone_4-20-11.xls)) on our website to see who members are in your zone and I'll bet you'll immediately recognize at least one person who is missing. The zone map can also be found on our website at <http://nevada.rangelands.org/documents/page%208%20Zone%20Map.pdf>. It is my hope to persuade the section members at our next winter business meeting to provide an incentive to members who acquire a gift for recruiting. If you wish to weigh in on this discussion, why not join us? We'll try to make it a painless experience.

The second part of my Call to Action is to consider **volunteering** to help lead the section. We can start you out small or get both your feet wet, it's up to you. Every year we have an election for officers; if that's your interest or if you have an issue close to your heart, please consider whether the section can help you to further your cause. It never hurts to ask and chances are someone else will share your interest. If volunteering is not for you but you have just the person in mind, why not encourage *them* to get involved, even if it's just to refer them to another member who can help.

The last part of my Call to Action is to **provide feedback** to us as to what we can do to attract new members or retain and renew current members. If something is missing in what we do, let us know so we can change if we need to. Some questions to keep in mind are "How can we appeal to various age groups?" or "Are we providing enough opportunities to learn?" or "Are we having enough fun?" All comments will help. Mail comments to either [caparocap@yahoo.com](mailto:caparocap@yahoo.com) or PO Box 3153, Tonopah, NV 89049. All comments *will remain anonymous* and will be typed up for the sections review at the winter business meeting on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Comments are welcome any time but if you wish to have your comments read at this year's winter business meeting please submit them by November 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!**

Ashlee Younie, Reno, UNR Student, [snowywillows1@gmail.com](mailto:snowywillows1@gmail.com)  
Joshua Vittori, Reno, JBR Environmental Consultants Inc, [jvittori@jbrenv.com](mailto:jvittori@jbrenv.com)

Elizabeth Leger, Reno, UNR, [eleger@cabnr.unr.edu](mailto:eleger@cabnr.unr.edu)  
Bernard Petersen, Las Vegas, SNWA, 702 862-3713

## **WINTER MEETING - DECEMBER 15 & 16, WINNEMUCCA**

### ***Ecological Site Descriptions for Major Land Resource Area 24:***

#### ***Implications for Management***

Chris Jasmine

Wow! It is hard to believe that it is already time to start thinking about the Winter Meeting. It seems like it was only yesterday that we had our Summer Meeting in Reno. Hopefully you all had a great field season and got all your field work done prior to the upcoming winter. This year's meeting is being held a little bit earlier because the parent societies meeting is slightly earlier this year and we wanted to make sure our meeting was far enough ahead of time so people could spread out their travel to make both. We picked Winnemucca as a meeting place mainly because it fits in with the subject matter of the workshop. The physical location of the meeting will be at the Humboldt County Cooperative Extension Meeting Room (Fair Grounds).

The attached agenda goes into more detail about the workshop associated with the Winter Meeting, but in a nutshell Tamzen Stringham and Patti Novak have set up an exciting whirlwind tour of Ecological Site Descriptions, State and Transition Models, and their implications for management. This informational workshop will be centered on MLRA 24; however, the concepts discussed will be beneficial regardless of the MLRA you work in. It should be a great opportunity for all of us to expand our knowledge of ESD's beyond what we already know. Lastly, the workshop has been approved for 8 CEU's so you can receive CEU credit for attending.

As with all of our Winter Meetings we are holding a business meeting in conjunction with this workshop. The business meeting will be held on Thursday morning and we always encourage the membership to come and give their input. Remember, the Nevada Section of is YOUR organization and YOUR input is greatly needed.

Next, the Winter Meeting would not be complete without an awards banquet. This year's dinner and banquet will be very similar to past years, with our yearly awards, some presentations, and of course Dutch oven cooking! A few members of the Curlews will be providing the cooking and as always the food should be great!!

Lastly, the current executive committee has been focusing very hard on cleaning up and reorganizing our committee structure within the Nevada Section SRM. It has been a challenging process but we truly feel that we have made positive steps forward that will greatly improve the success of our organization. With that being said, we feel that the Winter Meeting is a great opportunity for our committee chairs to hold committee meetings if need be. There are several committees that have already scheduled meetings for the night before the business meeting (December 14<sup>th</sup>). So, committee chairs should use this opportunity to meet with their committees and get some business taken care of.

As always call or email if you have any questions or concerns regarding the upcoming meeting. Please send meeting/banquet/workshop questions to Chris Jasmine 775-738-8431 ext. 131 and any payment or registration questions to Erica Freese 775-784-6798.

#### December 15<sup>th</sup>: Thursday

8:30 am to noon: NV Section SRM Business Meeting

Noon to 1:00 pm: Lunch

1:00 pm to 5:15 pm: Workshop

1:00 to 1:30 Introduction to the Workshop and Update on Interagency Ecological Site Description Handbook

1:30 to 2:00 Ecological Site Descriptions: basic concepts, background and applications – Pat Shaver

2:00 to 2:45 Soil survey mapping concepts and use of soil surveys – John Fisher

Break 2:45 to 3:00

3:00 to 4:00 How to identify a site and the use of Web Soil Survey – Patti Novak-Echenique

4:00 to 4:45 Development of state-and-transition models (STM's): Disturbance Response Groups for MLRA 24 – Tamzen Stringham

4:45 to 5:15 Discussion

6 pm to 9 pm: Awards Dinner

December 16<sup>th</sup>: Friday

8 am to 12:30 pm: Workshop

8:00 to 8:20 Overview of MLRA 24 and 25: Defining Characteristics – Paul Blackburn

8:20 to 9:00 Loamy 5-8 vs. Loamy 8-10 – Erica Freese and Paul Blackburn

9:00 to 9:30 How to identify states and phases of a site – Tamzen Stringham

9:30 to 10:15 Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health relationship to STM's, assessments and grazing management – Pat Shaver

Break 10:15 to 10:30

10:30 to 11:00 Results of management applications within the context of STM's in MLRA 24 – John Swanson

11:00 to 11:30 Using STM's for wildlife management – Kent McAdoo

11:30 to 11:50 Private sector use of STM's: Why they are important and how they are being used – Gary Back

11:50 to 12:30 – Discussion

**REGISTRATION FOR WINTER 2011 MEETING – Winnemucca, NV – December 15-16<sup>th</sup>**

There are three options for Registration. Options 1 & 2 are recommended so an accurate head count can be made for the Thursday night Banquet:

1. **Email** registration form to Erica Freese at: [efreese@cabnr.unr.edu](mailto:efreese@cabnr.unr.edu) and bring payment with you to the meeting.
2. **Mail** registration form with payment included to Erica Freese at: 8905 Little Creek Rd., Reno , NV 89508
3. Register and pay at the door. (This method is not recommended since it will be difficult to get an accurate head count for the Banquet).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact at: \_\_\_\_\_

(Email address or phone)

If you need a receipt please check here

Students (includes banquet) (#) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 SRM members (includes banquet) (#) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$45 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Non-SRM members (includes banquet) (#) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$60 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 WORKSHOP ONLY (#) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$40 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 BANQUET ONLY (#) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20 = \_\_\_\_\_  
Total \$ = \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to “NV SRM”**

If you have questions or concerns please call:

Chris Jasmine: 775-340-2714

Or Erica Freese: 775-784-6798

## ELECTIONS

Thank you to all the candidates for stepping up to work for managing rangelands in Nevada. Past President Ken Visser suggested we re-run the biographies on the Zone Council members who are continuing their service for those who are unfamiliar with their story.

**TO VOTE: send an email to Ken Visser at [Kenneth\\_Visser@blm.gov](mailto:Kenneth_Visser@blm.gov)**

### Ryan Leary – President Elect

**Education:**

M.S. Rangeland Ecology and Management, OSU, Corvallis, OR 2008

MBA, Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL 2002

B.A., Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA 1972

**Job Experience:**

**Public Sector**

- Range Management Specialist – Carson City District, 2008 to present
- Graduate Research Assistant, OSU, Corvallis, OR 2006-2008

**Private Sector**

- Financial Systems Designer – Chicago, IL 1989-2005
- Programmer/Analyst – Chicago, IL 1981-1988
- Community Organizer- Chicago, IL 1977-1980
- Lobbyist – Washington DC, 1976-1980
- Campaign Worker – Brooklyn, NY 1973-1975

SRM Member since 2006

### Ryan Shane – Re-upping for Zone 1

Starting in 1878, my family has depended upon and valued the natural resources of this state. My daily life has included the use and management of natural resources to meet landowner/manager objectives from a very young age. Helping on neighboring family farms and ranches was normal on early mornings, afternoons and weekends in my youth. Extra-curricular activities also engaged me in

wildlife and habitat aspects of natural resource management. Aside from personal interests, I sought a deeper connection with natural resources by pursuing a professional connection with them. I began my college career earning an AA with an emphasis in environmental science at Western Nevada Community College. Joining SRM in 2003 gave me a head start in my studies and professional career. Then I earned dual bachelors in rangeland management and Forestry University of Nevada, Reno in 2004. With the help of UNR faculty, fellow students and the Nevada Section, I supported the reinstatement of the UNR Range Club and served as President. In 2008, I graduated UNR with a Masters in Natural Resource and Environmental Science. During my college career, I started with an internship at a local consulting firm, eventually becoming a natural resource and GIS specialist. I consulted full time for five years between two main firms and subcontracted for an additional two years with several others on projects in Nevada, California, Utah and Idaho. I have served as SRM Nevada Zone 1 councilman since 2007. Since 2008, I have worked for the Nevada Division of Forestry in Elko, Nevada where I manage voluntary forestry, rangeland, and watershed improvement planning and implementation programs on private and select public lands. I have assisted with the Nevada Youth Range Camp for several years. Being a part of SRM has provided me with an educational, practical application, and peer supported forum for the use, management, and conservation of natural resources. As always, it would be an honor to serve those whom contribute to and enjoy the benefits of our great society.

### **Barbara Raymond – Re-upping for Zone 3**

I was raised in Sacramento, Lake Tahoe and Colusa where my family had a rice farm and hunting club. I started working for the Forest Service in Nevada in 1975. I enjoyed many seasons as a packer in what is now known as the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness. During this time, I returned to UNR to earn a degree in range management. After graduation I was asked to work in Austin, Nevada. My memories of that country – a hub of successful range practices will last a life-time. This is my 19<sup>th</sup> year as the District Range Conservationist on the Big Valley Ranger District, Modoc National Forest. It has been a good decision to work on a District as I retain the autonomy to have plenty of time in the field with challenges to understand rangeland ecology ongoing. The town I live in has one store, one church, one gas station and about 500 people when everyone has visitors. I enjoy golf, fishing, music, gardens and wood heat.

### **Mark Freese – Re-upping for Zone 4**

I 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.

## **THE PROGRESSIVE RANCHER PROJECT**

Maggie Orr

Nevada Section continues to provide high quality articles to *The Progressive Rancher* magazine in an effort to connect the science of rangeland management with practitioners on the ground. This year Kent McAdoo completed his series on Weed Management with an article on seeding considerations, Duane Coombs outlined his thoughts on how things actually get done on the ground, and Kathy Voth offered her insights on training cows to eat weeds and thereby reducing costs and increasing profits with an update on her training in Ruby Valley. After our January 2011 meeting on BEHAVE we showcased the website and borrowed an article on the dangers of ignoring variation in animals and landscapes and alternatively the benefits to be had from recognizing them, and Summer Olsen of Utah State University wrote an introductory article on SageSTEP research being conducted. You can see all the articles we have submitted on the Section website at

At this writing, I do not have an author for any articles in 2012. My first deadline is January 3. I appreciate the thoughtful responses to my request for input on a series of articles on water issues; Jake Tibbitts and I understand the concerns many of you expressed and will proceed cautiously. We believe this is a topic that must be addressed, but we don't know exactly how or by whom yet. Until then, I seek other topics of interest to producers on the ground. Please send any offers to author or suggestions to me at [sideoatsg@yahoo.com](mailto:sideoatsg@yahoo.com). I hope with your help we can continue this good work.

### **2011 SUMMER TOUR REVIEW**

Chris Jasmine

The Nevada Section summer tour and business meeting were a great success. We missed seeing those members that were not able to attend, but the tour was filled with some new faces that will hopefully become members of our organization in the future.

The tour this year was centered on the Truckee River and Pyramid Lake systems. The field portion of the tour was located along the river on properties owned by both the Bureau of Land Management and The Nature Conservancy. The Truckee River in this area is similar to many rivers in the West. The biggest similarity is the degradation of these systems that occurred in the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in the name of "flood control". During this time the Truckee was straightened and deepened in many reaches to try and reduce flood potential through both agriculture and residential areas along the Truckee Meadows. This straightening and deepening of the river set it up for degradation. When wet years occurred soon after the alteration of the system, the river degraded quickly, forever changing the hydrology. When you combine the changes in hydrology with invasive weeds such as tall whitetop, you can begin to understand the condition of many reaches of the Truckee River.

The degraded state of this system is what led to The Nature Conservancy beginning restoration work along the river. Initially TNC purchased property along the Truckee and the BLM followed soon after by purchasing some adjoining properties. The linking of these properties together, along with TNC's restoration experience, led to the restoration work that is occurring along the Truckee today.

To date the BLM and TNC have partnered to complete restoration of several miles of the Truckee River. Restoration activities have revolved around returning portions of the river to historic channels and by filling in many of the artificial channels. As part of the channel restoration, work was also completed to raise the level of the river with submerged rock structures in the river. These submerged structures were installed to help raise the water level in the river and to assist the riparian vegetation in re-establishment by returning some amount of hydrologic function. Once the river is reconnected to its floodplain the tall whitetop can be treated and native vegetation can begin to be reestablished.

Overall, the project locations we visited on the tour looked really good. TNC has more work planned and reestablishing the vegetation and controlling tall whitetop will continue into the future. If you would like to see more information about TNC's Truckee River restoration visit the following web page:

<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/nevada/placesweprotect/truckee-river-project.xml>

The afternoon sessions for the summer tour included discussions that directly related to the field portion of the tour. First thing in the afternoon we listened to a great presentation about the new concepts for Riparian Ecological Site Descriptions. The riparian ESD's are quite a bit different than the upland ESD's that most of us are used to. Riparian systems are much more variable than uplands in their ability to establish different plant communities and in their ability to shift those communities around. Hydrology is one of the biggest driving factors in riparian ESD's. Therefore a uniquely different concept is needed to accurately define these riparian ESD's. To learn more about these new concepts visit the following link or contact Tamzen Stringham:

<http://www.progressiverancher.com/Resources/riparian-RANGELANDS-D-10-00085.pdf>

Our next discussion centered on the newest control methods for tall whitetop. As we all know tall whitetop is and will continue to be one of the toughest weeds to control. Due to many of the plants physical characteristics, control will always be difficult. However, with the correct implementation of a wide variety of tactics it can be managed at levels that will allow desirable vegetation to become established. There are two important things to remember when it comes to tall whitetop. First, early detection and treatment is the most successful tactic at controlling the weed. Secondly, once established management of the weed will need to occur every year to control it for the long term. For more information about tall whitetop control visit the following page or call Brad Schultz.

<http://www.unce.unr.edu/programs/sites/tallwhitetop/>

The third presentation of the day was done by the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe. Pyramid Lake is the terminus of the Truckee River and therefore the tribe is very involved with management of the Truckee River system. The PLPT is currently involved with many projects along the river as well as in the uplands around Pyramid Lake. Current projects occurring along the river include whitetop and salt cedar control projects, water quality monitoring, and Prime and Unique Farmland protection. For more information about the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribes Environmental Department visit the following link or contact John Mosley.

<http://www.plpt.nsn.us/environmental/index.htm>

Lastly, we enjoyed a great presentation by the US Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the important fishery resources with in the Pyramid Lake, Truckee River, and Lake Tahoe systems. This discussion was centered on the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout and the Cui-ui. Both of these fish species occur in this system and both declined in numbers with the past degradation of the Truckee River system. Since the time of this modification to the system, the USFWS has helped re-establish healthy populations of these fish species. Recovery work has included fish passage issues, in stream habitat restoration, fish hatchery operations, intensive inventory and monitoring, as well as other recovery actions. To date the native fish are doing much better than when they were listed in the 1970's, but there is still a lot more work to do. For more information about these true Great Basin fish visit the following links.

Cui-ui: <http://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=E001>

LCT: <http://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=E00Y>

Lahontan National Fish Hatchery: <http://www.fws.gov/lahontannfhc/>

**LES MCKENZIE, we will miss you.**

## **GBC AGGIES**

Brandon Teppo was awarded an undergraduate research scholarship from EPSCoR. This is Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research. He will be studying the effects of grazing at approximately 15 sites in Nevada, looking at vegetative cover and possibly biomass trends over 65 years from when the grazing exclosures were established. Dr. Barry Perryman and Tracy Shane will be his mentors through this process. Brandon is a student at GBC and will graduate in spring of 2012 with his bachelor's in natural resources.

On May 26 Tracy Shane was able to report: "GBC has finished it's Curricular Review process and President Diekans has accepted their recommendations. The Curricular Review Committee decided that they did not want to cut any programs at this time (vertical cuts) and instead identified three tenured faculty positions that were horizontal cuts within departments. This means that the GBC Agriculture program is safe until the next time GBC must undergo the curricular review process. This could be as early as 2013, but if financial conditions in the state level off or improve then maybe it could be much further down the road.

Thank you to all of you who sent in letters of support for the program. The committee expressed great interest in all the feedback that they received regarding the program. We have been warned though that we do need to continue doing everything possible to increase enrollment in the GBC Agriculture Program so that the program is not at risk in the future. I would appreciate any new ideas or help from all of you in completing that endeavor. Thanks again, and I'm so happy to be reporting good news at this time."

## **2011 SUMMER BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

\* During the July meeting, the Bylaws were reviewed, discussed, and, with minor changes (now completed), approved by those at the business meeting. **REMEMBER TO VOTE BY NOVEMBER 15 ON THE BY-LAWS REVISION.** Ballot available on the website listed below.

\* There was significant discussion about the website and how to add accept payment for membership and donations, as well as adding videos, social media, and/or other fun and interesting links.

\* Kathryn Dyer, now employed at the BLM Carson City Field Office, has become the new Range Camp coordinator. Thank you Kathryn!

The full Minutes of the business meeting can be found on the website at <http://nevada.rangelands.org/>.

**See you at the winter meeting in Winnemucca  
In December!**

