

RANGELAND NEWS



TO FOSTER ADVANCEMENT IN THE
SCIENCE AND ART OF RANGELAND
MANAGEMENT

NEVADA SECTION – SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT

2 of 2 November 2015

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Zone 5: Rob Pearce, robert.pearce@ca.usda.gov
Zone 7: Rick Orr, bbwheatgrass@yahoo.com

Zone 2: Meagan Carter, MeaganCarter@fs.fed.us
Zone 4: Genie Montblanc, emb@cabnr.unr.edu
Zone 6: Jake Tibbitts, natresmgr@eurekanv.org
(see map on last page for zones)

PRESIDENT'S PONDERERS

Dear Section Members and Fellow Colleagues,

Timing in life can be challenging for many things, but it is up to all of us to rise above our challenges and seize the day. As I look out my office window, I see the flags at half-staff for the Paris attacks. For many, including myself, this is as emotionally powerful as the 9/11 attack given it is home to some of my family. They also endured many atrocities during the Nazi invasions in WWII. During social, political and military upheaval, there is little attention given to environmental and economic matters, especially in places reacting to attacks. As in France during WWII, the agriculture industry, economy, and infrastructure was so decimated that the Americans had to air drop food to the surviving French citizens, something my Grandmother thanks America for profusely as it kept my Uncle alive as a baby. With Veterans Day just past here in America, it is healthy for us all to realize that our soldiers have and will continue to do their duty, by signing away their lives, to keep the violence that happens every day in this world out of our streets, towns, and even rural outposts. We need to remember this daily as it allows us to fulfill our civil duty in focusing our time, energy, and thoughts on sustainable environmental conservation and agricultural practices like range management, and not just on daily survival.

You may be struggling with the link between history, politics, wars, soldiers, and rangeland management. Well, it has to do with the triple bottom line; Economic, Social, and Environmental. If what we are trying to achieve through our rangeland management and conservation missions, strategies, and actions do not address all three of these areas, they will likely be less effective, less sustainable, and possibly a complete failure. For example, stable and supportive social and political conditions allow for conservation planning, policies and laws to be passed and adhered to by the citizens and governments. They also allow for protection of the social fabric from violent attack or civil divides through inclusive representation, and preservation of human rights. Economics have to be advantageous to landowners and public land management agencies so that they can stay solvent, support costly conservation actions, and support employees and family working to conserve natural resources while harvesting goods. The environment has to be managed for sustainability of functioning ecosystems as well as diversity of uses and benefits to sustain the social and economic domains.

The areas of the Triple bottom line are not discrete; conversely, they depend on the success of each other to ensure success of a civil society woven into the fabric of a healthy ecosystem. Thankfully the Paris attacks are far from being equitable to their WWII experiences, including the disruption of environmental conservation and associated economic sectors. France will rebound as we did after 9/11. Each day moving forward, our jobs will continue to demand success in the face of threats to the triple bottom line. It is up to us to seize the day and do our best to incorporate the triple bottom line into our decisions and actions if we expect to have long-term successes in rangeland management. Unfortunately, we can expect our jobs will continue to get harder as the political and social systems are burdened with more pressing issues like terrorism.

Carpe diem,

Ryan S. Shane, President

WELCOME TO OUR NEW, AND THANKS TO OUR RENEWING MEMBERS!

Todd Adams
Robert Depaoli Jr
Sandra Li
Sayiro Nouwakpo
Spencer Smith
Stacy Greenberg
Pete Craig
Sabrina M. McCue
Tamzen K. Stringham
Ira Hansen
Doug W. Frazer
Laurel Marshall Uhalde
Kimberley A. Wolf
Mrs. Amery Sifre

Garrett Bunyard
Boyd Hatch
Wade Lieurance
Joshua Robbins
Lee Turner
Paul T. Tueller
Bill Dragt
Jim Collord
James A. Young
Gail S. Ross
Clark Joseph Guild
Therese A. Ure
Rixey R. Jenkins

Robert R. Depaoli
Katrina Leavitt
Francisca Mendive
Lisa Sims
Amanda Wartgow
Sheila B. Anderson
Ryan M. Kay
Erin V. Hourihan
Jon Griggs
Quinton J. Barr
Jacob T. Tibbitts
Pete Test
Devon K. Snyder

THE PROGRESSIVE RANCHER PROJECT

We are being read !!! TPR editor Leana Stitzel reports NvSRM articles are averaging 33,000 hits per issue! Also, the International Board of Directors requested that all the TPR articles be sent to Gary Fraiser to be linked on the Stewardship webpage. Thank you to Tye Morgan for all her great work.

ELECTIONS!

Please take a moment to vote for your Nevada Section SRM candidates! Voting Deadline is January 9th. Please submit your votes to markfreese@ndow.org, 8905 Little Creek Road, Reno, NV 89508. Just copy and paste into an email and mark your selection. Thank you. Zone map is on last page.

President Elect

X ☐ Rob Pearce
X ☐ Charlie Clements
X ☐ Nomination

Zone Council

Zone I (Elko County) ☐ Duane Combs
Zone I (Elko County) ☐ nomination

Zone III (North Washoe County) ☐ Genie Montblanc²
Zone III (North Washoe County) ☐ Jamie Abbott²
Zone III (North Washoe County) ☐ nomination

Zone IV (South Washoe County) ☐ Ty Minor
Zone IV (South Washoe County) ☐ Genie Montblanc¹
Zone IV (South Washoe County) ☐ Jamie Abbott¹
Zone IV (South Washoe County) ☐ nomination

^{1,2}= primary and secondary zone preference. Candidates receiving the most votes will receive the selection based upon their preference.

Rob Pearce (President Elect)

I am currently the District Conservationist in Bishop California, and I am running for Nevada Section President Elect. I have been a SRM member since 1990, and I am currently a member of the Nevada, CalPac, and Texas sections, and in the past I was a member of the Colorado section as well. I am also a member of the Australian Rangeland Society.

I have a Ph.D. in Rangeland Ecosystem Science from Colorado State University, and an M.S. in Range Science from Texas A&M University. My background is varied; my family had a cow calf ranch in Owens Valley until 1985, I was manager of our ranch the last two years before my parents sold the ranch; we had BLM, USFS, and LADWP leases. I have worked for the USFS as a Range Tech, worked on ranches in Montana, Nevada (Feedlot Manager at Compston Feedlot), and been a natural resource consultant in Nevada and California.

SRM has been a big part of my life for many years; I have served SRM in the following roles: Nevada SRM Section Zone 5 Board Member, 2013-current; CalPac SRM Section Director, 2014-current; California Certified Range Manager Panel Member, 2006-2013; President, CalPac Section, 2008-2009; Advisory Council SRM, 2007-2009; CalPac Section Director, 2005-2007; Cal Pac Nominations Committee Chair, 2005-2007; Associate Editor Journal of Range Management, 2000-2004; and SRM, Publications Committee 2000-2004.

While I may live in California, my work is associated with the Great Basin and eastern Sierra landscapes. My heart is in the Great Basin region. In the past I worked for RCI, in Carson City as a Range Consultant, with many projects in Nevada. In my current work we often team up with Nevada agency staff as many of our grazing allotments, and other projects, have land in both Nevada and California. Our FSA office is also in Nevada.

It would be an honor to serve as the Nevada SRM President. Thank you for your consideration.

Charlie Clements (President Elect)

I am a native Nevadan and a Rangeland Scientist with USDA-ARS in Reno, NV. I have been with the USDA-ARS Great Basin Rangeland Research Unit since 1988. I received my B.S in Wildlife Management in 1988 and my M.S. in Range Management in 1993, both from the University of Nevada. I have worked extensively on the restoration of critical shrub species like antelope bitterbrush, big sagebrush and winterfat as well as extensive research on cheatgrass ecology, control treatments, plant material testing and seeding methodologies. The majority of my work has focused on the Rehabilitation of Degraded Rangelands and Improving Sustainable Agricultural Practices and Wildlife Habitat. It is an honor to be a member of the SRM for more than 20 years.

Duane Combs (Zone Council) *bio submitted by Mark Freese*

Duane grew up the son of a cowboy in the red rock canyons of Southeastern Utah. "My love for ranching and rangelands grows with me as I learn the trade of my father and follow in his footsteps." Duane graduated from Utah State University with a degree in Range Science in 1997. After a short stint at the Dugout Ranch in Monticello Utah, he and his wife Heather moved to Nevada to manage the Smith Creek Ranch near Austin, Nevada. In January 2005 they named their daughter Desatoya, after the Desatoya Mountain Range which lies within the ranch boundaries. After nearly 20 years managing the Smith Creek Ranch, Duane is moving to Elko County to manage the IL Ranch.

Duane was awarded the Nevada Section of the Society for Range Management "Young Range Professional" award in 2003, Nevada Wildlife Federation "Soil Conservationist of the Year" award in 2005, Society for Range Management "Outstanding Young Range Professional" in 2007, along with Ray Hendrix and Smith Creek Ranch the BLM "National Rangeland Stewardship Award" in 2010, and Society for Range Management "Excellence in Range Management" award in 2011. Duane has and continues to participate in various work groups, such as Partners for Conservation, and is a role model and spokesman for successful Nevada ranching.

Genie MontBlanc (Zone Council)

Génie MontBlanc is the program coordinator for the Great Basin Fire Science Exchange, located at the University of Nevada, Reno. She works to develop direct connections between scientists and managers to make wildland fire and fuels science findings more accessible and informative for Great Basin land treatment decision-making challenges such as invasive annual grasses, piñon and juniper encroachment and expansion, declining resilience to disturbance in sage steppe ecosystems, climate change, and landscape prioritization. Recent work includes planning a field workshop series, coordinating the publication of new information syntheses and field guides, conducting informative webinars, and website design enhancements to increase access to information. Génie earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from San Francisco State University and Master of Science degrees in Biology and in Resource Economics from the University of Nevada.

Jamie Abbott (Zone Council)

Jamie Abbott grew up in the Carson Valley and is a 5th generation Nevadan. Her family was historically involved in ranching throughout northern and eastern Nevada and her grandfather, Matt Benson, taught her from a young age the importance of rangeland management and conservation in Nevada. She attended the University of Nevada Reno (UNR) and worked briefly in Beth Leger's research lab involving cheatgrass competition while getting her degree. She received her bachelor's degree from UNR in environmental sciences with coursework emphasis in rangeland ecology and plants. Jamie was hired in 2010 with the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) in the noxious

weed program. In August of 2014, she became the State Noxious Weeds Coordinator at the NDA and continues to partner and collaborate on various range improvement and invasive plant management projects across the state.

Ty Minor (Zone Council)

I am a fifth generation Nevadan. I was born and raised on a Black Angus beef cattle ranch in Dayton, Nevada. In the spring of 2016, I will graduate from University of Nevada, Reno with dual Bachelor of Science degrees in both Rangeland Ecology & Management, and Wildlife Ecology & Conservation. I have been the President for the student chapter of the Nevada section of the Society for Range Management since spring 2015. During my time as president, the club has become more involved in public outreach at agricultural and outdoorsman events. Our involvement has provided information, education, and interest on many topics about rangelands.

Nevada Section Winter Meeting – January 14-15, 2016, Elko, NV

Sage-grouse on Nevada Rangelands; Positive Management Actions Moving Forward

Schedule of Events and Meeting Agenda

WHERE: Great Basin Community College, 1500 College Pkwy, Elko, Nevada

WHEN: January 14th and 15th 2016

SOCIAL EVENT: Evening Dinner and Awards Ceremony – The Star Basque Restaurant;
Thursday, January 14th, Cocktails at 5:30pm, Dinner and Awards at 6:30pm

AGENDA

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2016

7:30am Registration – available all day long.

8:00am BLM/USFS, the EIS, ROD, LUPAs, and Other Alphabet Soup.
Mr. Raul Morales, Deputy State Director of BLM, and Mr. Bill Dunkelberger, Forest Supervisor for the Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest, will discuss the implementation of the recent Record of Decision and the nexus with completed and in progress District, and Forest, Land Use Planning efforts. There will be time for questions.

9:30am What's the State's Role in All This?
Kacey KC, Program Manager of Nevada's Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team will discuss the role of the State of Nevada, and in particular the implementation of Nevada's Conservation Credit System and how it will fit into the new way of operating on federal lands.

10:30am **NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY**

Enjoy the hospitality of our sponsors and get to know other members and introduce yourself to folks that aren't members...yet!

10:50am

Local Governments' Actions and Roles

JJ Goicoechea, DVM, Chairman of the Eureka County Commission and the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council, and Jake Tibbitts, Eureka County Natural Resources Director, President of the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts and current Supervisor on the Eureka CD, will discuss some of the actions and projects that local governments have taken and plan to implement.

Noon

Support the Future – Take a quick break, grab your lunch of sandwiches, chips and drinks out in the hallway, and return quickly to munch while enjoying the hard work of two great young leaders from *Range Camp* as they provide us with their presentations prepared for the National Meeting in Corpus Christi. All included in your registration!!

“Better by Working Together” *Katlyn Laree Uhart* is the daughter of a proud Northeast Nevada ranching couple, Domingo and Ruby Uhart. Katlyn and her family live on the Home Ranch, at the northern part of the O’Neil Basin. She has a great interest in assuring that her generation understands the importance of agriculture and healthy rangelands. Katlyn loves riding and roping and hopes to be a teacher someday. She received the *Trail Boss* award for her excellent work at Range Camp in 2015.

“Water on the Range: Going with the Flow” is the title of *Gabe Covington’s* presentation. Gabe attended Range Camp for the second time this past summer, and states he is just beginning to learn about range management. As a freshman at Carson High School this year, he is involved in numerous extra-curricular activities, many with a music theme – including being a member of the Reno Philharmonic Youth Symphony Orchestra. He’s threatening to learn the banjo for use at Range Camp in June 2016!

12:50pm

New Science on the Range—Fire, Sagebrush, PJ, and Sage-grouse

Dr. Peter Coates, preeminent researcher and scientific writer about Sage-grouse and Nevada rangelands, will present significant new research he and fellow scientists have done in the past year about the interaction of fire, sagebrush, and pinyon-juniper and how Sage-grouse react to each of these situations. Pete will introduce his much anticipated “PJ Layer,” a new, 1m resolution GIS tool that will allow scientific selection of project sites in Phase I and II PJ for treatments that will benefit the bird. This is bleeding edge science for the future – don’t miss this presentation!!

2:30pm

Habitat Needs, Risks, Riparian Grazing, and the Principles for Success

One of our long time members, Dr. Sherman Swanson of UNR, will present a culmination of work relating to sage-grouse. Sherm will synthesize information from three on-going themes: Increasingly, emphasis on sage-grouse habitat is

focused on late brood rearing habitat, which was long the focus of UNR graduate students studying under Dr. Don Klebenow. What are the habitat needs? Riparian proper functioning condition assessment has long been taught as a useful foundation for riparian area management and is recognized as a tool for assessing sage-grouse late brood rearing habitat in the Western Great Basin. What are the risks? There are many tools for riparian grazing management that should work well for sage-grouse late brood rearing habitat, although some of these may be difficult to apply with wild horses. What are the principles for success?

3:15pm **NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY**

3:40pm **Presenting NRCS' Sage-grouse Initiative 2.0**

NRCS' Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI) has successfully worked cooperatively with partners and producers across the West to put several hundred million dollars on the ground over the past five years. This is being followed by NRCS' strong conservation investment commitment into the future with the recently launched SGI 2.0 conservation effort. The SGI 2.0 commitment will continue innovatively using science to both build and expand upon the original SGI cooperative conservation investment (another \$211 million or more committed!) in strategically targeting sagebrush ecosystem conservation implementation on the ground. Invited as our panel of experts is NRCS State Wildlife Biologist for Nevada Thad Heater; Tim Griffiths, National Coordinator of SGI and now West Regional Coordinator of Working Lands for Wildlife, an NRCS Program; and Dr. Dave Naugle, SGI's Science Advisor and Professor, Wildlife Biology Program at the University of Montana, Missoula. These gentlemen will update us on the additional and ongoing conservation opportunities in SGI 2.0; proven to be one of the most effective and innovative ways to get projects done on the ground.

5:15pm Adjourn to The Star Hotel's Basque Restaurant for cocktails, dinner, awards, and fun starting at 5:30pm!!

WATCH YOUR EMAIL FOR FULL INFO AND REGISTRATION FROM TIM RUBALD

2015 SUMMER MEETING – FRENCHGLEN, OREGON

Practical Strategies from the Roaring Springs Ranch; Part 2 of 2
By Ryan Shane, Community Protection Program Coordinator, NDF

Each summer the Nevada Section of Society for Range Management offers a summer tour to consider topics important to managing Nevada's rangelands. Last August Mr. Stacy Davies, manager of the Roaring Springs Ranch of Frenchglen, Oregon led an exciting tour of strategies and discussion of practical applications to ranch management and approaches he uses when working with public land management agencies. Part 1 of this series showcased the benefits of juniper cutting, prescribed fire and improved grazing and irrigation management. This second article offers additional insights observed in the field from the optional additional field tour day.

Stop #1 - The ranch is trying alternative crops on their irrigated pivots to increase effective production of feed. They are currently experimenting with earless silage corn, which they predict will produce 7 to 8 tons per acre. They will be experimenting with swathing and baling the feed for winter feed out on their mother cow herd. They have also seeded the pivot corners with crested wheatgrass and annual cereal rye. Seed collection and reapplication is constantly occurring throughout the ranch. A commercial seed harvester uses a modified street sweeper brush attached to a trailer that is equipped with a blower and bagger system. The harvester compensates the rancher for the opportunity by providing a cut of the seed collected.

Stop #2 - The site was at the intersection of three vegetation types in an 8-10 precipitation zone; 1) crested wheatgrass, Siberian wheatgrass, and forage kochia (2-4 acres/AUM), 2) same as #1 with some Wyoming sagebrush interspersed (2-4 acres/AUM), and 3) solid Wyoming sagebrush with little or no understory (40+ acres/AUM). The difference between the seeded site with no sagebrush and the one with interspersed sagebrush was the treatment implementation. Both were double disked to incorporate as much organic material into the soil as possible and then seeded with a rangeland drill. The difference was that the seed drilling on the one with sagebrush occurred in firm, dry soils in the late fall, and the one without sagebrush occurred in the spring when soils were soft and wet. That extra amount of disking by the rangeland drill in the soft soil conditions was enough to result in mortality of all sagebrush on the site. The seeded sites have been tested by fire and they consistently resist spread of wildfires. The non-treated sagebrush site would generally be considered winter habitat by most conventional habitat models, though recent sage grouse GPS collar data indicates that there is no grouse use on the non-treated areas and all use so far has been mapped in the treated areas.

Stop #3 - The area was burned in a wildfire that started 30 miles away. Road graders are the most effective piece of wildfire suppression equipment due to the flat terrain of the valley and the speed at which the grader can construct fire line. The area was seeded with non-native wheatgrasses and forage kochia following the fire, and is used for later summer grazing where cattle gains average 1.5lbs/day/animal. Antelope from the Hart Mountain USFWS Refuge winter in the same area, as well as sage-grouse. Some patches were left unburned with dense sagebrush canopies and others where seeding was ineffective were converted to cheatgrass stands. Both of these seem to be equally ineffective for sage grouse habitat; the successful seedings seem to be the most effective habitat for the grouse and livestock production objectives.

Stop #4 - The site was a strong winterfat stand according to historical documents from the late 1800's though grazing management was not implemented until possibly 100 years after initial contact. The ranch seeks to understand the winterfat site ecological dynamics and has established studies in cooperation with Universities to implement study plots. They tried to collect and seed winterfat with little success as well as exclude livestock and small mammal grazing on plots, which have resulted in no statistical differences to this point. They did find out that livestock would travel up to 8 miles to graze winterfat in the flat terrain environment. Also, they found that the seed viability of the winterfat on the site was very low at 13%. For reference, viability in Northern and Central Nevada plants tends to be 25-30%. Many different treatments were implemented in the experimental plots, though the double disking seemed to be the most effective for re-establishing winterfat at 1 plant per square meter. Winterfat reestablishment is certainly dependent on rains in May and in a natural environment seems to be occurring at a 40-year episodic frequency according to age studies from existing plants. The site was burned 3 years ago and was seeded with bottlebrush squirreltail, while the ranch also took precautions to avoid additional damage to winterfat and saltbush shrubs. The perennial component (bottlebrush squirreltail, winterfat, saltbush) is co-dominant with annual plants that range from mustard, Lepidium, burr buttercup and others depending on climatic conditions each year. The

ranch has changed grazing from long season, low intensity that allowed cattle to choose preferred forage plants to a high intensity system forcing them to consume all species for a short period between November and March.

Stop #5 - The site is a cheatgrass invaded site where fall grazing is being implemented to reduce the cheatgrass and favor the perennials. There is tangible evidence that the strategy is working and perennial grasses co-dominate at the least. For all experiments as well as management decisions, a greater network of climate monitoring stations are needed to increase the spatial resolution of information.

HONORING NvSRM MEMBERS – 50+ YEARS WITH SRM!

Charlie Clements

Dr. James A. Young spent 43 years as a Rangeland Scientist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service in Reno, Nevada. He attended Oregon State, North Dakota and University of CA Davis and Chico State. Dr. Young is well recognized for his knowledge of Great Basin Rangelands and was acknowledged as such being awarded the U.S. Department of Agriculture Scientist of the Year, Weed Science Society of America Award of Excellence, Society for Range Management W. R. Chapline Research Award, Outstanding Achievement Award, and Fellow Award as well as Nevada Section Researcher of the Year Award. Dr. Young also received the very First Nevada Weed Management Award, which was named after him, “James A. Young Award”. Dr. Young authored and co-authored more than 700 scientific articles including numerous books such as *Cattle in the Cold Desert*, *Purshia: The Wild and Bitter Roses* and *Cheatgrass: Fire and Forage on the Range*. It is often stated that Dr. Young has probably forgotten more information on the ecology of Great Basin rangelands than most professionals in resource management will ever learn.

NEWS AND NOTES

- NvSRM wrote a letter to Nevada BLM in response to a concern from member Maggie Orr that the BLM brochure, *Go Wild Horse and Burro Watching* did not present complete information to the public. The letter stated in part, “While the purpose of this government brochure may have been to simply educate the public on how and where to enjoy wild horses and burros (WHBs) located in Nevada, the Nevada Section SRM maintains a strong belief that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) should emphasize at every opportunity the need to manage WHB populations for a thriving ecological balance and to inform the public on the adverse consequences that result, both in terms of rangeland and WHB health, when this goal is not achieved.”

- Zone Council IV, Rick Orr, attended the 2015 Summit on Public Lands in Nevada hosted by Nevada Lt. Governor Mark Hutchinson representing NvSRM. The Summit was hailed to be, “A Discussion on Strengthening Nevada's Role in the Health, Sustainability, and Management of our Public Lands.” Speaker Mike Ford stated two of the most important things needed are “timely government actions” and “active and meaningful participation in Land Use Plans.” It is up to each of us to make that happen.

- Longtime Range Camper Colt Scronce submitted this “possible Sage-grouse program?” from college:

<http://www.iflscience.com/plants-and-animals/bizarre-footage-parachuting-beavers-emerges-online>

UNR RANGE CLUB

Activities 2015

- SRM 2015 International Conference
- Science in the Sagebrush Steppe 2015
- Mock Interviews
- Gund Ranch trip in which a water trough was installed
- Roaring Springs educational ranch tour
- SRM Summer Meeting to Roaring Springs Ranch
- Hope on the Range booth at Capital City Farm days and Nevada Outdoor Experience
- CABNR Field days
- FFA Range competition set up
- Nevada and California Cattleman's convention
- On Campus fundraising through Uswirl and Panda Express
- .243 Gun Raffle

Upcoming events Spring 2016

- Nevada Section of the SRM Winter Meeting
- SRM 2016 International Conference
- Science in the Sagebrush Steppe 2016
- Mock Interviews
- Adopt-a-Space program through BLM
- Club Merchandise to be available soon

Science in the Sagebrush Steppe 2015



Gund Ranch Trip



Hope on the Range Booth



Nevada SRM Section Zones

