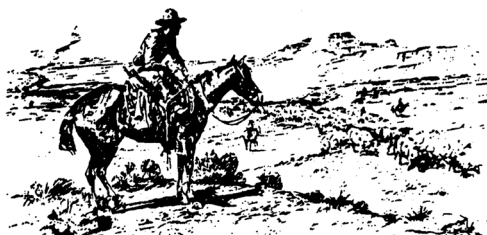


RANGELAND NEWS



NEVADA SECTION – SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT

Fall/Winter 2020-2021

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Zone 1: Jon Griggs, jon@maggiecreek.com
Zone 3: Genie Montblanc, emb@cabnr.unr.edu
Zone 5: Katrina Leavitt, klevitt@blm.gov
Zone 7: Rick Orr, bbwheatgrass@yahoo.com

Zone 2: Melany Aten, maten@dcnr.nv.gov
Zone 4: **Looking for a volunteer!**
Zone 6: Chris Mayer, daisymae222337@att.net
(see map on last page for zones)

A PRESIDENT PONDER'S

Dave Voth, NvSRM President

I attempted to write this Ponder without using the word Covid or Politics. That made for a less than interesting half a paragraph. Instead, I'm going to lean into it. There is no doubt that this year has been challenging. I feel like each Zoom meeting may be my last. I am constantly hiding my screen in order to multitask during meetings that I should be paying attention to. But despite not being able to meet in person, I have found that some communication has increased, and possibly for the better. While the upcoming International SRM Virtual Annual Meeting may be better for my liver, it will certainly not be as enjoyable as seeing old friends and making new ones. BUT, this is the year that everyone can attend. This is the year for those who don't usually travel to be able to take part in an SRM Annual Meeting. There will be no painstaking choices between which session to go to. There will be no dashing out of one room to catch the speaker of a different talk. I urge you to not only resist your virtual meeting fatigue and join the first ever Virtual Annual Meeting, but use this opportunity to get others involved in SRM.

If you have any doubt about how valuable SRM virtual meetings can be, check out the links from other sections. I have taken part in several other virtual “summer tours” and found them to be quite enjoyable.

<https://www.cssrm.org/webinars.html>

<http://casrm.rangelands.org/HTML/whatisnew.html>

<https://nevada.rangelands.org/>, see half way down the home page under [Section Summer Zoom Meeting full video](#)

Dave

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Trina Johnson, Membership Chair

Friendly reminder for everyone to renew their membership. Membership runs from January- December of every year. In December you should have received notice to renew. As of January 4, 25 people that claim Nevada as their primary membership have renewed and an additional 14 that claim Nevada as an additional state membership have renewed. 115 additional folks show up on our list as having been members in the recent past. Please, please renew your membership as soon as possible to continue to support this group we all cherish.

Best wishes to you all this new year
Trina Johnson

KENT MCADOO LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

With the very generous donations of colleagues, friends, and family, The Kent McAdoo Legacy Scholarship endowment was established with the Nevada Agricultural Foundation in memory of our beloved Kent. The first scholarship was awarded this spring to Owen Bake from Lovelock, NV. He is a Junior at the University of Nevada, Reno, majoring in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation.

Our family is deeply grateful for those who enriched Kent's life in whatever capacity they knew him. We remain grateful to each person for remembering him by contributing to student's educational endeavors in similar career choices to those of Kent. Your generosity has given us comfort and encouragement. Although our words are unable to express all that we carry in our hearts for you, please know we are thankful for your support and continued care.

Sincerely,
Cathy, Jamie & Caleb McAdoo

More information is available at <https://www.nvfb.org/articles/new-scholarship-fund-established-with-the-nevada-agricultural-foundation/>. *The Nevada Agricultural Foundation is honored to have been selected to administer the Kent McAdoo Legacy Scholarship Endowment and appreciates the opportunity to expand its scholarship program. Additional donations to this scholarship fund or others are always welcome and can be sent to the Nevada Agricultural Foundation.*

Nevada Rangeland Manager of the Year Award to Pete and Sam Mori and Family

for their demonstrated leadership, promotion and application of outstanding management principles, and overall stewardship of Nevada's Rangelands.

Nominators shared insights for the reasons the Mori Family are so deserving of this award. Jon Griggs of Maggie Creek Ranch stated, "Brothers Pete and Sam exhibit the best in conservationists with their eyes on collaboration, holistic approach, community building and trust built through positive relationships. They are 'do what they say they are going to do' kind of men and they've demonstrated time and again that they will do the right thing even at the expense of their business."

Erica Freese worked extensively with the Mori Ranch as a Conservation Credits Systems verifier on the East IL Ranch. Erica wrote, "It was apparent in the assessment of on-the-ground conditions, that the ranch property has been on an upward trajectory since the Mori's took over management. The condition of the riparian areas displayed remarkable indications of recovery and improvement... In discussing their management strategies, it was very apparent that they have a respect and understanding of the ecosystems they are responsible for, but also manage to have a profitable and sustainable livestock operation...by demonstrating excellent range management, maintaining a sustainable livestock operation, and having the patience, flexibility, and stamina to allow the livestock and the land to work together on a ranch that provides ecosystem services far beyond putting steaks on the table."

Dave Voth, NvSRM president, said, "Mori Ranches have created a business model that exemplifies rangeland management as a cornerstone of their operation. Mori Ranches is a leader in the beef industry and proof that good rangeland management can and should be profitable."

Chris Jasmine, manager of Biodiversity and Rangelands for Nevada Gold Mines concluded, "Pete and Sam Mori are the epitome of what an excellent rangeland manager should be. They work tirelessly to make daily decisions that benefit the rangeland on which they operate. These good decisions can be easily seen on their ranges, where range condition is high and wildlife abundant. The decisions they make are not always easy and often times add work and complexity to their operations, but they do it because they know it's the right thing to do. Their philosophy of grazing management is simple as well. Take care of the land today and it will take care of you tomorrow."

Rangeland Professional of the Year to Dan Harmon

for his sustained accomplishments in rangeland management, demonstrated leadership through service to the Section, and significant contributions for the betterment of Nevada's Rangelands.

Nevada Section nominates Dan Harmon for the Nevada Rangeland Professional of the Year. Dan is known for his enthusiasm, dedication, technological prowess, courage, attention to detail, ability to communicate to a variety of audiences, and his passion for rangelands; these are just a few of a much longer list of admirable attributes members listed! Everyone that was asked emphatically stated Dan deserves this recognition for his many gifts to the Section and the profession of rangeland management.

A native Nevadan from Dayton, Dan began working as a research technician at the Reno Agricultural Research Service while a student at UNR. Initially mentored for almost a decade by now retired ARS range scientist Dr. James Young in the field of germination research, he now primarily focuses on invasive weed control and the germination and establishment of desirable rangeland plants to improve rehabilitation and restoration success on Nevada rangelands. He is an innovator for seeding and spraying equipment and aggressive and effective weed control practices which include mechanical and chemical control of cheatgrass. He says he can talk for days on his thoughts on the current state of cheatgrass control and rangeland seeding efforts.

Dan shows up to a job ready to work – the seed mixes are already bagged and marked appropriately, the drill is calibrated and the tractor fueled. He does the seed drilling effectively and is knowledgeable of native and exotic plants' adaptability to a variety of climatic and soils conditions and limitations. He is a free thinker who is courageous in his willingness to try new and promote effective restoration approaches. He is always willing to think outside the box and get on the ground, always easy to get ahold of, and always ready to help. Dan takes a broad view of real-life applicable science and is a man about proving things in the field rather than academically on paper. He is a man always focused on improving the science and management of rangelands.

Dan loves to get out on field tours to share knowledge and ideas and get out with people on the ground. His passion for his profession and research shine through in the enthusiasm that he brings to every meeting, whether he's presenting or whether he is just an engaged audience member. He has assisted with many Section summer tours and was a pivotal workhorse for the Poster Session and organizing many other needs for the 2018 SRM meeting in Sparks. He cares deeply about rangeland health, restoration, wildlife habitat, and cultures dependent upon rangelands.

Not every scientist is a people person that can communicate well to a variety of audiences. Dan is one of those valuable folks that can explain the science and engage any audience. Kids seem to love what he has to say. He shares his passion in the NvSRM booth at UNR Field Day, Capitol City Farm days, the Nevada Bighorn Sheep experience, Nevada Outdoor Experience, and the Nevada Weed Management Association meeting. He writes articles for NvSRM for our *Progressive Rancher* series. He updated and manages the Section website. He participates in the SRM Restoration Committee and provides helpful comments to outside organizations such as the Nevada Native Plant Society, Nevada Department of Wildlife Habitat Division and Nevada State Department of Agriculture. He willingly shares his knowledge through correspondence or call to help anyone with a question on their project. He is gracious and funny and kind.

Dan is a mentor to the Nevada Youth Range Camp Trail Boss winners who are preparing their presentations for the High School Youth Forum at the SRM meeting. He provides the students guidance and has developed an SOP for future mentors to help future winners. One of his mentees was Katlyn Uhart who stated, "Dan was instrumental in helping me with my SRM presentation while I was in high school and provided so many thoughtful revisions that helped me take first place. That was my first step in really thinking I could make a career out of my

passion for communication surrounding public lands, and I don't think that spark would have taken hold without his help.”

“His encouragement and mentoring helped me process what I wanted to do and has stuck with me as I take my first baby steps in the ‘adult world.’ Dan has continued to be someone that I can count on to share thoughtful insight and experience when I have questions on any and all projects. His dedication is inspiring and contagious, and he deserves so much recognition for that. I can't think of anyone better for an award like this!” That is the consensus of the Section; thank you, Dan, for your energy, dedication and professional skills that you share so generously. We are honored to award you the Nevada Rangeland Professional of the Year Award.

Great Basin Award presented to Betsy Macfarlan

For over 30 years of sustained contributions to the management of rangelands, livestock, and wildlife in the Great Basin. Her efforts in restoration have led to working partnerships and coordinated resource management that have made Nevada rangelands healthy and productive for all users in this great state.

Betsy Macfarlan worked over three decades on Nevada's range, livestock, weed and wildlife issues. Her roles as Executive Director for both the Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition (ENLC) and Nevada Cattlemen's Association promoted much good stewardship and working partnerships to restore and protect dynamic and resilient ecosystems. In eastern and southern Nevada in particular, her roles in coordinated resource management and as a leader in weed management has led to local control and significant funding to spend where and when needed on a consistent, 17-year basis. The establishment and maintenance of nine Cooperative Weed Management Areas has prevented eastern Nevada weed populations from becoming widespread. We are relatively weed-free in eastern Nevada because of Betsy's continued commitment to supporting local efforts. Betsy was Past President of the Nevada Weed Management Association and Co-coordinator of the North America Invasive Species Management Association.

She has been a counselor at Nevada Youth Range Camp, taught 4-H and ENLC Great Basin Kids programs, and taken difficult planning roles for SRM meetings in Reno. As her nominator, Maria Ryan said, “Her drive, stick-to-it-ness and support had made Nevada rangelands the healthy and productive for all users of this great state.”

Service Awards:

Erica Freese for 10 years as Treasurer
Kathryn Dyer for 10 years Range Camp Director
Ann Bollinger for 10 years as Secretary

Thank you, Erica, Kathryn and Ann for your outstanding service!

RANGE CAMP CHANGES LIVES! – the adults speak

A MOMENT IN TIME THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

Shane DeForest, BLM Associate District Manager, Vale, OR

In early 1985 I was a carefree fifteen-year-old in Carson City. I was a typical Nevada native. My parents had moved the family to Carson City to pursue their careers in state government, and my brother and I had settled into the routine in Carson City which was at that time, a quiet small town. We rode bikes with the neighbor kids, and dreamed of motor cycles. We built forts, played tag football, chased girls or talked about chasing girls. Our family fished at Lahontan Reservoir, Lake Tahoe. We spent carefree weeks at Lahontan actually leading up to July 4th to claim our camp spot, and our parents would come out after work to make sure we hadn't burned anything down. We camped at Desert Creek south of Yerington, including almost every Thanksgiving. Each weekend we looked forward to a couple days of unsupervised sugar consumption, endless soda supplies, and the kind of untamed freedom for kids which is only available when you go camping. My family hunted so we made an annual pilgrimage to go sage hen and deer hunting.

The point of all of this is that I had spent most of my life in the outdoors of Nevada. I don't remember thinking much about why things were as they were in the mountains. I knew where to look for fish in the creeks, that a deer often will stop and look back before dropping into the next valley, and for some reason there was always more grass along the streams than there was in the hills. I was amazed when the cicadas came out one year in the hills behind our home in Carson City, and when I first saw a Mormon Cricket, it was just crazy how big and black and clumsy they were.

My love of hunting and fishing brought me into contact with others of my age with similar interests and one of them in particular Brian, had family members who were involved with the Ormsby Sportsmen's Association in town. One day he asked me if I wanted to go with him to this summer camp out in Austin. I remember thinking "why Austin?" But I agreed to go, and the Ormsby Sportsmen "sponsored" both Brian and my fees for the camp. I don't remember for sure how we got there, but we did get there.

My first impressions of the camp were about how many people were there. Kids were in small groups and there were adults running around doing various camp chores. The campground was typical for Nevada, a wide spot in the road next to the creek.

I think it was our first camp fire or something but the adults were introduced. I don't remember them all but I do remember two of them. Sherm Swanson and Cub Wolfe. We also were introduced to the other campers. There were campers and adults from all over the state, Gabbs, Yerington, Reno, Eureka, Elko. I don't remember the backgrounds of all of them but do remember more than one had not camped outdoors before. We were given binders and the program for the week was explained. We would be given opportunities to learn about the environment we lived in, and how it works. We would learn about maps and map reading; we would hear about the history of the area. At mid-week we would be treated to a trip to Austin to the swimming pool!

The week itself was a blur, we splashed in the creek and identified critters in the water, tramped out into the sagebrush to talk about the plants and how they are uniquely suited to the environment. We went on a scavenger hunt, AT NIGHT, using compasses. There was a lot of other stuff, but this is what is most crisp as I think about

that experience. Even after 35 years, I still have the binder of materials we were given, my notes, and several pictures of the other campers. At the end of the camp various recognition was given and I was awarded the "Trail Boss" award. Needless to say, I was embarrassed, and shocked.

Following this camp, my Trail Boss award unlocked participation in the Nevada Section of the Society for Range Management. I met John McLain and Don Henderson from Resource Concepts, and Helaine Jesse at the Cooperative Extension. With their support and sponsorship, I attended the annual SRM meeting in Elko. I was appointed as one of Nevada's representatives to the High School Youth Forum and made a presentation at the National meeting later that winter in Boise. Sherm Swanson invested several days helping me to select a topic and prepare a presentation for this speaking competition. I can still remember the cold rainy day in Reno that I spent with Sherm in his office at the University pouring over photos talking "shop" and preparing my talk. It would be my very first speech!

I travelled up to the National meeting with several graduate students from UNR, among them Abbie Josie. This would be my first time going to Boise, Idaho even. While there I went skiing for the first time, and most of all I met people who further inspired me, encouraged me, and supported me. Without knowing it my life was being rearranged and my life's work, my calling really, was being chiseled out.

When I returned, I was so jazzed about my experiences, that my friend Brian and I developed the "Nevada Outdoor Challenge" which we organized with Helaine Jesse as a weekend at the Davis Creek Campground in Washoe Valley. We begged and pleaded with parents and friends to provide the adult presence; we called the BLM in Carson City to get speakers about different subjects. We planned a trip to Price Lake to see the waste and destruction of the 1983 landslide (you can still see the remnants if you know where it is). It was to be a weekend for youth who didn't have the privilege of a week out in Central Nevada. The cost was \$25 and camp gear would be provided if needed. What joy it was to give something back! Tom Abbott of the BLM in Carson City, gave our presentation at Washoe Lake State Park. Then there was Nevada 4H camp at Lake Tahoe. There I got to share my recently acquired map reading and orienteering skills. I would return to Range Camp as an adult in the 1990s as a BLM instructor.

My experiences during that short period of time in the late 1980s, and the people I encountered, changed my life forever. After that I knew I wanted to be in natural resources (range at first then wildlife). I wanted to go to college (Texas A&M first then UNR). My passion for knowledge about the natural environment in Nevada, the Great basin, the United States grew. Everything, from archaeology to geology, range to fisheries, I loved learning about all of it! I still do. I passed my passion on to my children, (and anyone else around who would listen). They were in awe of my wisdom as children, and would grumble as teens and roll their eyes when I would see something interesting and launch into a "did you know that..." monologue and tell them about some obscure fact, like how you can tell the difference between junipers by looking at how many scales they have. Really. But they would always follow up with a question indicating they were listening and were as interested as I was.

The people that I met in that year of awakening would continue to cross my path for years and decades to come. As a result of them, and of the experiences that they enabled me to have, I chose a career in natural resources, attended the University of Nevada Reno, and have worked for the Bureau of Land Management these past thirty years. I have seen things, done things, and went places that few would ever think about in Nevada and the west. I have an appreciation for the monochromatic gray of Nevada mountains and know the wonders that lie just off

the main road and out of sight. I also realize the exquisite threat these surprisingly sensitive natural ecological systems are facing today with fires and weeds.

And all of it began with a humble invitation to go to the Big Creek Campground near Austin Nevada for this thing they called Nevada Youth Range Camp. If you have the opportunity to go to the Nevada Youth Range Camp, or to support someone so they can go, whether you are an adult or a youth, do it! You will not be disappointed. You might have your own life changed forever, or you might change someone else's life.

ADAVEN SCRONCE

Was a 4-year camper who enjoyed the experience so much she came back to help in the kitchen for many years while she was a student at Oklahoma State University. Adaven ultimately received a Master's and is now an Extension Educator in Oklahoma. In a letter last year, she relayed that she was well served by her time at Range Camp learning to not react when the boys tried to startle her with snakes, because on one of her first days at work a woman brought a snake into her office for identification in a jar with no lid. Adaven said she was able to not scream and run out of the building because of her training at Range Camp!

BETSY MACFARLAN,

Great Basin Award winner, said during her acceptance of her award that she met her husband at Range Camp 30 years ago when she was a counselor!

2020 VIRTUAL SUMMER TOUR REPORT
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Rangeland Health: Perspectives on Landscapes

Dan Harmon

The Society for Range Management Nevada section held its annual summer meeting on July 17th, 2020. Like the rest of the world, we adapted to Covid-19 concerns and the meeting was held via Zoom. We incorporated this new-world method of meeting because of our concerns for our members and the community and embraced making the best of a virtual meeting. We had already lined up a great group of presenters before the pandemic and luckily, they were more than willing to present via Zoom. While we missed the opportunity to be in the field seeing firsthand the concepts of each presentation, the expertise of the presenters and their stockpile of field photographs allowed for many real-world examples.

The theme of this year's meeting was "Rangeland Health: Perspectives on Landscapes." The field of range management is a multifaceted discipline that encompasses many aspects of land use. From a wildlife manager to a cattle operator to the recreational enthusiast, we all share common core beliefs of rangeland health, yet each of us may judge the health of the range on different specific values. While we may have a different perspective on the landscape based on our specific working fields, we are all connected by that landscape.

While coming from diverse backgrounds of specific interests, all the presenters emphasized that the key to maintaining healthy rangelands is to maintain a productive perennial grass component in the diverse plant community. Keith Barker, fire ecologist with the Carson City District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) described the benefits of fire breaks that his team focuses on developing. Removing fuels such as juniper trees and herbicide control of cheatgrass both change the fire dynamics to allow a better chance of stopping a wildfire. But ultimately,

he stressed the importance of maintaining or establishing through seeding efforts a stand of perennial grasses that will outcompete cheatgrass and keep green material on the ground to decrease fire threats.

Dr. Jeanne Chambers, senior scientist with the USDA Forest Service elaborated on the concept of perennial grass stands being resistant to cheatgrass invasion. She determined through her research that around 20% perennial grass cover is required to resist cheatgrass invasion and associated fuels. Gabe Ludwig, a representative with Bayer Environmental Sciences, described how the use of pre-emergent herbicides, that don't affect established perennial grasses but control annual grasses, can be used in situations where the perennial grass stand may fall below the 20% cover and not be competitive enough to resist cheatgrass invasion. He gave examples of the use of a newly registered herbicide Rejuvra® (indazaflam) for controlling the annual grasses to increase available soil resources and “release” the existing perennial grasses which can then increase their cover and stay greener longer in the season, decreasing wildfire threats.

Another use of pre-emergent herbicides is to control the cheatgrass competition prior to seeding perennial grasses to increase the success rate of perennial establishment. The pre-emergent herbicide is used at least 1 year prior to seeding perennials (spray in September: seed 13 months later in October minimum). Shannon Clark, a faculty affiliate with Colorado State University and a contractor for Bayer-Western Stewardship and Development, gave examples of how Rejuvra herbicide use also releases pollinator plants. Her research found increases in flower production, cover percent and richness of forbs. She found 2.5 times more rare species in herbicide treated vs. untreated areas. This is likely due to annual grasses outcompeting these forbs.

Lastly, Mark Freese with the Nevada Department of Wildlife presented on effective post-fire rehabilitation treatments. Mark discussed the concept of hedge-betting seed mixes, where introduced plants such as Siberian wheatgrass and particularly ‘Snowstorm’ forage kochia are added to primarily native seed mixes, so that if low precipitation or high cheatgrass competition occurs, the introduced plants can provide some degree of successful establishment. Using animal fecal pellet counts, they found magnitudes greater wildlife use where ‘Snowstorm’ forage kochia established. Mark’s take-home message was “doing nothing and limiting yourself is a choice,” but let’s take some risks and do more on the landscape using the best science and past experiences, hedge our bets and use the best timing practices to have a positive impact on the health of our rangelands. To view the full presentations please visit www.Nevada.Rangelands.org.



Free Roaming Equids
and Ecosystem
Sustainability Network

extension.usu.edu/freesnetwork/

Gary McCuin and Dave Voth attended the Free Roaming Equids and Ecosystem Sustainability Network (FREES) in Cody, WY last fall with NvSRM support. Please see the website above for all information. Dave and Gary wish to extend congratulations to the new appointees to the BLM National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board; their appointments are a direct result of the Reno FREES meeting in 2019. From the BLM news release, *“Dr. Ursula Bechert of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was appointed to the research position; Commissioner James French of Winnemucca, Nevada, was re-appointed to the natural resource management position; and Commissioner Tammy Pearson of Minersville, Utah, was appointed to the public interest position. Each member will serve a three-year term on the advisory board.”*

NEVADA NEWS

The new Director of Range Camp, Ethan Mower, invites anyone who would like to help with Range Camp to contact him at ethanb.mower@gmail.com. There is much to do and Ethan would welcome any who wish to help in any way, small or large. See the article above to see why this is so important! Ethan intends to plan that Camp will occur this year with a drop-dead decision date should circumstances not allow that to happen.

Congratulations and thanks to Dave Voth and Dan Harmon who were once again elected to President and President Elect of the Section. Dan would love to hear any ideas for meetings / tours for 2021.

Congratulations to Dr. Barry Perryman of UNR who has been elected 2nd VP for the International Society for Range Management!

Nevada Division of Forestry is recruiting for a Forester 3 in Elko. See <https://nvapps.state.nv.us/NEATS/Recruiting/ViewAnnouncement.aep?recruitmentid=41638>.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Read is recruiting a Rangeland Management Specialist (Direct Hire) in Elko. See <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/588913000>.

Discussion at the January NvSRM Business Meeting raised the concern concerning SB 54 which revises positions relating to the State Board of Agriculture. Gary McCuin and Jake Tibbitts will write a letter expressing our concerns. Please stay advised and help where you can to maintain a rangeland position on the State Board of Agriculture. <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/81st2021/Bill/7233/Text>

