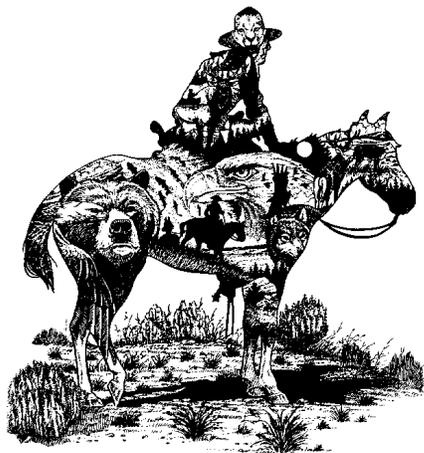


Society for Range Management Pacific Northwest Section

Properly functioning ecosystems provide for long-term sustainability of watersheds, plants, animals and people
Volume 66, Number 3 *July 2015*



President's Message

Pete Schreder, Lakeview, Oregon

NEWSLETTER

It's that time of year again: baseball, fishing, allergies, fire . . . some of you are finishing the branding, some are monitoring, some are gearing up to collect research data. For us PNW SRM members, it is time to recap the summer workshop, plan for the fall meeting, and **VOTE**. Please look at your ballot, study, cast your **vote** for officers and the amendment, and **mail** it. There has been confusion whether Alaska is or is not part of PNW Section. Reaching out to the Alaska members, we learned that they assumed what we assumed, but we need to make it official. Your Board proposes the bylaw amendment that would make the AK membership official. We now ask you as PNW Section members for your input.

The summer meeting in Burns was fantastic. **Jay Kerby** and his crew did an excellent job. Food was great, the Basque history was fascinating, and the field workshop was very educational. With 70+ folks present, it was fun getting to know new members, touching base with "veteran" members, -- and did I mention the food was great?!

Here's a brief recap, but see the Rest of the Story on p. 3. We kicked things off with dinner and two outstanding presentations. **Iker Saitua**, a PhD student at University of Nevada Reno gave insight on the Basque culture and the pressures that persuaded many Basque to come to the USA. **Dr. Kevin Hatfield**, University of Oregon, introduced us to Basque shepherd Joe Odiaga, and the influence he and other herders had on public grazing rights in the late 1880's through 1946.

Jay designed our field workshop to give outstanding coverage to Harney County and some issues faced by ranchers and land management professionals. Working south to a range site that was part of the 2012 Miller Homestead fire, discussions centered on past, current and future

management, including ongoing restoration efforts. At Roaring Springs Ranch, we met ranch employee and wildlife biologist **Andrew Shield**, who explained how the ranch incorporates his background into management for multiple uses. Not many ranches employ a wildlife biologist, but the innovation is evident in the resource work they do.

Afternoon discussions focused on historical fire cycle, plant communities and the timing complexities of reseeding versus annual grass invasion. **Matt Madsen** introduced the ARS research on seed coating to enhance timing of germination. At the Malheur Wildlife Refuge we heard the fascinating history of the marsh, past and current management, and the intensive collaborative process to develop the future management plan. Mosquitoes were thick; we headed to Burns, dinner and calamine lotion!

Our workshop ended at the Northern Great Basin Experimental Range where **Dr. Tony Svejcar** and **Dr. Jon Bates** introduced the history of the range and the research that has been and is being conducted, including strategies for juniper post-harvest restoration. Our session concluded as **Brenda Smith** introduced us to range camp and the 24 enthusiastic high school students who were arriving for the 5th Annual High Desert Youth Range Camp.

Thanks again to Jay and all for an educational and fun-filled workshop; we appreciate your work which made it a success. Now mark your calendar for September 16-18. **Courtney Smith** and his crew have a full agenda for the PNW Fall Meeting headquartered in Richland, Washington.

See you in Washington,

Pete Schreder
peter.schreder@oregonstate.edu

2015 PNW Section Elections

Vice-President Nominee

Maura Laverty, Baker City, OR

I appreciate the nomination for 2nd VP, and hope to be of service to our section! I was raised in the PNW, graduated from high school in Clarkston, WA, and spent my free time on our family ranch in Woodland, ID. I earned my BS from WSU in 1987, majoring in Range Management with a minor in Animal Sciences (Beef Production). I was introduced to SRM in 1986, and became a member of the Palouse Chapter. Enjoying a career in Rangeland Management with the USDA Forest Service, I serve as Range Program Manager for the Wallowa-Whitman and Umatilla National Forests.

SRM has played an important role in my career with the USFS. I am a Certified Professional Rangeland Manager, and served as one of your PNW Board Directors from 2009-2012. I was Publicity Co-chair on the Spokane 2012 SRM Annual Meeting, and earlier served on the International SRM Information & Education Committee as a member and Chair. I cherish the friendships I've made in SRM, as well as the professional connections that have assisted and supported me in management of the NFS rangelands.

SRM has been an integral part of my development and training as a range specialist, and I am now in a position to pay it forward. I believe educating and gaining support from the public about rangeland management is key to our survival as a Society; recruitment and membership of the young range professionals will be the key to success for our future. I would like to be a part of this and would be honored to serve on the PNW Board again.

In "spare" time, I ride horseback, mountain bike, or boat, and hike, camp and travel to new areas.

Board of Directors Nominees

Jeff Burnham, Ellensburg, WA

I attended my first SRM meeting (Boise, 2000) not long after becoming genuinely interested in range science and management in school. After receiving a BS (botany, BYU) and MS (ecology, USU) I worked full time at Utah State University as a researcher,

funded mainly by a Joint Fire Science grant to the Sagebrush Steppe Treatment Evaluation Project. In 2012, I became range ecologist for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The Plant ID contest first attracted me to SRM, but the applied, interdisciplinary nature of its activities and focus is why I continue. Much of my professional work is on public lands, and I believe that the public-private collaborations common to management of public rangelands can be models of how multiple objectives can be achieved on landscapes, regardless of ownership. With a background in research, I believe that science-based management is important . . . but I'd also like to think that we can do a better job of tapping into the deep site-specific knowledge and experience possessed by landowners, and disseminating that to the agencies.

I enjoy exploring the remarkable landscapes of the PNW either on the job or with my family. Hiking, camping and photography are fun ways to spend some time off.

Nick Vora, La Grande, OR

I've worked two years as a NRCS Soil Conservationist in La Grande, and previously worked for NRCS in SE Oregon. I studied range, animal science and soils at Oregon State University. Most of my work time is on rangeland improvement and forestry projects, with some of my personal interests also including fire ecology and annual grass management (esp. *Ventennata*). In "free time", I stay out of trouble by recreating outdoors, when I'm not busy with my other life as a firefighter and Search & Rescue Lieutenant.

I belong to SRM for the camaraderie and networking, as well as the excellent opportunities for learning and regional technology transfer. I enjoy learning about the challenges that other resource managers face, and finding new approaches to management which I can take back and apply in my work.

Looking forward, I would like to see the PNW section maintain the social aspect of our biannual meetings and increase the amount of technical information and resources available to members. I would explore ways to attract more private landowner and student involvement. Some ideas include coordinating with academic schedules, adding resume building events (e.g. student presentations, workshops) to meetings, and facilitating student activities at the chapter level.

Continued on next page . . .

Allen Casey, Moscow, ID/Pullman, WA

I moved from Missouri to be Manager of the NRCS Plant Materials Center in Pullman. I am originally a farm/ranch kid from W. Kansas. The PNW suits my spare time endeavors of fishing, hunting, kayaking, hiking and camping. I have an MS in biology with emphasis on rangeland management and ecology from Fort Hays State University and am a Certified Professional in Rangeland Management. I was a Director for Kansas Section SRM in 2010, until I moved to MO.

I took a great interest in SRM in college while I conducted National Resource Inventory Rangeland Field Surveys as a contractor for NRCS in Montana, Nebraska and Kansas. Later I conducted third party field carbon credit verifications on rangeland in MT, WY, NB and ND. This included determining if rangeland management plans of the producers met the program qualifications, and determining rangeland health status of the rangeland based on plant species composition.

I would like to see SRM become a bigger force in natural resources conservation on rangelands, especially in the west. The issues of invasive species, wildfires, and endangered species that are threatening rangeland functions and production are getting bigger and need a concentrated focus of a large group of people. SRM is a network of concerned & knowledgeable scientists and producers that are working together to help deal with these issues. I am proud to be one of those people.

News from our Members!

Brandi White, EOU, La Grande, OR, writes: "Thank you for awarding me the PNW SRM \$1000 scholarship. I feel truly honored to receive this generous award and am looking forward to meeting all of you in September."

Bob Keenan, Cochrane, Alberta, is new to SRM and writes to all his new friends! I joined the PNW & Int'l Mountain sections of SRM so I could be aware of workshops and support the Society's objectives. Growing up in Eastern Canada (Montreal) as a teen-ager, I liked to read about the geography, natural history and settlement of our prairies and your Great Plains. I enrolled in Macdonald College of Agriculture, McGill University in Montreal.

Why belong to SRM? It and its workshops satisfy my wish to learn more about rangelands, their landforms and the history of the West. Where else could you hear about the Basque Shepherds of Eastern Oregon & Idaho, or the

ramifications of the Taylor Grazing Act on agriculture in the West. Where else could you tour the workings of a gold dredge but in Baker City and see the windrows of gravel now interspersed with grass and trees to support cattle and wildlife. Where else to learn about the benefits and disadvantages of fire on the range; to learn from First Nation People how the forests and fields provided medicine, food and shelter.

We appreciate the willingness of professional members of SRM to share their knowledge about plant ID with us neophytes! There are so many talented & enthusiastic young people engaged in pursuit of the Society's mission that we seniors admire. Thank you for your friendliness, hospitality and the service you provide.

And now, for the Rest of the Story -- Fire in the Sagebrush Steppe, Burns, Oregon

Opening Speakers: Rich History of the High Desert "Sweet Public Lands: Basque Shepherders, Cattlemen & Problems over Federal Domain in NV, 1890-1934" was presented by **Iker Saitua**, Phd candidate at UNR-Reno. **Dr. Kevin Hatfield**, U of O, added the political & social context with "We were not Tramp Sheepmen: Joe Odiaga and the OR-ID Biskaian Basque Community, 1890-1946."

Iker gave a personal view into the Basque Country in Spain & France. In the late 1800's, people were held together on either side of the border by a common language, clothing and family traditions. They farmed and raised cattle, pigs and fowl. Extra income came from spinning and weaving. With the Industrial Revolution, jobs moved to the cities. These rural people chose to move to a new country where they could potentially prosper. They came to Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Nevada. Though their experience was with cattle, the new land had opportunity for herding sheep in the growing wool & meat industry. They bought small land parcels to set up homes and a base for winter. They altered their clothing to fit in, but maintained cultural traditions and language.

Dr. Hatfield spoke of the challenges the Basque people had with the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, and the impacts to small operators. The Basque people were landholders, not tramps. They owned homes & land.

In order to pasture through summer, they relied on grazing public lands. When Kevin began his study on range laws, he kept reading the same names, and learned of several families who chose to challenge this new law. Joe Odiaga was one who ultimately ended up in court. When Joe went to jail, a group of people in

Continued on next page . . .

Rest of the Story continued...

Burns, OR helped provide bail. Joe "The Basque Patrick Henry" organized Basques in a community-based resistance to expulsion from their grazing grounds.

by Carrie Gordon, Geologist, Ochoco NF/Crooked River NG, Prineville, OR. She is a spinner/knitter, and also active in Crook Co. Historical Society and Friends of the Library.

Our Day on the Road began with a plant community that appeared to be drought stressed. Perennial grasses were in interspaces, but sagebrush had "dead" wood and low leaf canopy. Why? The sagebrush defoliating **Aroga moth outbreak** has lasted 3 years. The last recorded outbreak was 50 years ago. Patches of cheatgrass and increased standing dead 10-hour fuels are threats.

At a **Sage-grouse area**, the lek's annual count fell from 30 males to only 4 this spring. Probable cause? Females were not returning due to the lack of nearby nesting cover caused by the **168,000 acre Miller Homestead fire of 2012**. Sage-grouse put on weight during the winter by feeding on sagebrush leaves available above the depth of winter snow. Natural sagebrush re-establishment after intense wildfire is slow and is hampered by the lack of unburned islands of seed sources. These islands would have been available if a lower intensity prescribed fire had occurred. Fire behavior observations during the spread of the Miller Homestead fire recognized that recently grazed areas reduced fire intensities.

Another plant community was finishing its **3rd growing season post-fire**. Soil disturbing voles were feeding on the seeds of familiar but non-native annual forb *Alyssum*. They feed on the inner bark of rabbit brush and sagebrush when other foods are scarce in winter. Horse use is constant and the local antelope herd, as evidenced by horn size, is doing well nutritionally.

In route to the historic **Roaring Springs Ranch** we saw twisting geology caused by tectonic plates, volcanic vent flow, block faults, and glaciation being held together under the living sponge of rangeland plants. As we lunched on the lawn, the ranch activities in ecological processes, grazing, prescribed fire on high elevation ranges, winterfat autecology and monitoring of aquatic & upland range were presented.

At an area representing the 23,000 acres that were **seeded post-burn**, some seed mixtures were designed for quick cover & safety along highways; others for maximum native recovery. Cheatgrass is a major threat to ecological resilience & and functions of PNW rangelands post-burn. Quickly establishing, it robs native seedlings of sites & moisture. **The challenge**: how to keep seedlings alive after spring germination and a dry summer until moisture returns in winter. Sagebrush seed pillows, moisture storing gels & clays, and hydrophobic seed coating are undergoing efficacy studies.

At the **Malheur National Wildlife Refuge**, historic natural and man-caused complexities include lake size fluctuations of 5,000 to 80,000, then back down to current 10,000 acres. When 100 years of livestock & haying was abruptly stopped, there was an immediate loss of open water and waterfowl nesting habitat. Next came floods that changed the plant community to monotypic lack of diversity. In the 1950's, carp, introduced by an unknown source, degraded the aquatic vegetation. Being bottom-feeders, carp increased the muddiness of water, which decreased the sunlight needed by emergent plants, and led to reduction of waterfowl dependent upon plants for food. These confusing processes led environmental groups to appreciate that there were no one-step solutions to their goals. A **consensus process** led to work with the ranching community that is returning functionality to the Refuge wetland system.

We left a 10% sacrifice of blood to mosquitoes, the common predator around the wetlands before we headed back to Burns for another fine meal & conversation.

by Gene Fults, Rangeland Management Specialist, NRCS, Portland, lives in Vancouver, WA, and likes to figure out cryptoquip puzzles.

Our last day. . . found our group caravanning west of Burns to the Northern Great Basin Experimental Range. **Jon Bates** led us to a viewpoint where he talked about different methods of **juniper control**. We could see several years of work and the methods Jon discussed. Our questions focused on changes in treatments and the effects of juniper removal on perennial & annual grasses. Then we headed to the ARS Experiment Station and **High Desert Youth Range Camp 2015** to meet and have lunch with students arriving to camp. Giving a heartfelt "thank you" to our hosts & organizers, our PNW summer workshop ended. It was full and informative. Get ready for the fall meeting in Richland, WA. with a great venue and very interesting terrain.

by Bruce Moffatt, Salem, OR., graduate student at OSU with an active interest in rangeland restoration, and working this summer as a wildlife technician for BLM in Prineville, OR.

Continued on page 7. . .

PNW Section SRM Fall Meeting, September 16-18, Richland, Washington

(See page 6 for more Washington Meeting Information)

Hanford Reach is the last downstream free flowing stretch of the Columbia River uninfluenced by reservoirs or tides. Extending from Priest River Dam to Richland, Washington, it includes 51 miles of river and surrounding land. It is the location of the 2015 PNW Section SRM Fall Meeting. Hanford Reach is unique for its geology, archeological sites, unparalleled irrigated agriculture, arid rangelands, cultural heritage, and development of the nuclear bomb during WWII. Most of Hanford Reach is now national monument, administered by US Fish and Wildlife Service. Join us for the Fall meeting to explore Hanford Reach.

Tri-Cities, Washington sits at the southern end of Hanford Reach at the convergence of the Yakima, Snake, and Columbia Rivers. Except for West Richland (inc. 1955), its constituent cities, Pasco, Kennewick, and Richland, were incorporated in the late 1800's and early 1900's as irrigated agriculture and railroads developed in the area. Tri-Cities population is about one-quarter million; it is one of the nation's fastest growing metropolitan areas. And, the fall weather promises to be great. Tri-Cities boasts 300+ days of blue skies a year. Average September high temperature is 80° and average low is 51°. Chance of precipitation during the Fall Meeting is low: only one year in ten will there be rainfall of 0.1" or more during the meeting dates. Average annual precipitation in Tri-Cities is 7.5".

On Wednesday afternoon, September 16, we begin the Fall Meeting at the Reach Museum and Interpretive Center in Kennewick (map linked on the reverse), where we set the stage for the next two days of the meeting. Your registration includes a museum pass beginning at 2:00 p.m. Museum interpreters will be available until 5 p.m. Exhibits include natural history, the Manhattan Project (WWII nuclear bomb), geology, irrigated agriculture, and human history. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about Hanford Reach. Plan about 1 1/2 hours to tour the museum before the social which will also be held at the Reach beginning at 5 p.m. when it closes to the public but remains open to us.

On Thursday, September 17, we will begin the day in West Richland at Barker Ranch, a "world class wetlands - designed and managed for waterfowl." Using a number of tools including surface irrigation, managed grazing, weed and brush control, Barker Ranch transformed the desert into an eye popping wetland. Capitalizing on the Wetland Reserve Program, Barker Ranch worked with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service to make this transformation.

In the afternoon, we will reconvene at the Richland Community Center to hear presentations on the Pacific Flyway by Matt Wilson, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; Fire, Cheatgrass, and Native Plant Communities by Steven Link, Botanist; and Forty Years of Environmental Research at Arid Lands Ecology Reserve (part of the Hanford Reach National Monument) by Janelle Downs and William Rickard (ret.) of Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. After dinner, Roy Gebhardt, retired from PNNL, will discuss cleanup of nuclear contamination at the Hanford Site, former home of the Manhattan Project.

On Friday, September 18 we will bus tour Hanford Reach, traveling upriver on the east side of Hanford Reach National Monument from Ringold Springs Fish Hatchery to White Bluffs Overlook, experiencing sweeping vistas steeped in human and natural history, seeing signs of current and past land management, and reflecting on the past as we peer across the river at the remnants of plutonium production facilities at the Hanford Site and beyond to the slope of Rattlesnake Mountain, an area replete with Native American cultural and spiritual significance. We will finish with a visit to restoration areas following a 2007 wildfire. Tour interpreters will be US Fish and Wildlife Service biologist Heidi Newsome and archeologist Dale Earl; SEE Botanical Consultants Richard Easterly and Debra Salstrom; and WSU Tri-Cities geologist Duane Horton. We will return to the Shilo Inn to adjourn our meeting at 3 p.m.

Register by September 1 to avoid late fees. Book your room at the Shilo Inn in Richland by September 1 to take advantage of blocked rooms and rates. VisitTri-Cities.com for a great tourist guide, detailed road map, wine and vineyard information, and other recreational opportunities.

For more information, contact one of the planning committee members:

Jeff Burnham	Julie Conley	Richard Fleenor	Kevin Guinn	Will Keller	Tom Platt	Courtney Smith
(435) 890-9879	(509) 654-0297	(509) 323-2965	(509) 754-3023 x1119	(509) 322-4238	(509) 725-0262	(208) 305-2663
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Information, links, Google maps

The Reach: <http://visitthereach.org>

1943 Columbia Park Trail
Richland, WA 99352
(509) 943-4100

Google map: <https://goo.gl/maps/WLRCz>

Wednesday afternoon, September 16



Shilo Inn:

50 Comstock St
Richland, WA 99352
(509) 946-4661

Google map: <https://goo.gl/maps/xlWqX>

Depart from here Thursday and Friday mornings, September 16 & 17



Barker Ranch Limited

85305 Snively Rd
West Richland, WA 99353
(509) 967-3023

Google map: <https://goo.gl/maps/QEZLT>

Thursday morning, September 17



Richland Community Center

500 Amon Park Rd N
Richland, WA 99352
(509) 942-7529
Google map (called Richland Parks and Recreation):

<https://goo.gl/maps/GmXFE>

Thursday afternoon, September 17



Horn Rapids Campground

115803 N State Route 225 / Benton City, WA
<http://www.co.benton.wa.us/pview.aspx?id=860&catid=45>
Contact Mark Finkbeiner, Park Ranger, 509-531-7016

Google map: <https://goo.gl/maps/qBq07>



Tri-Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau:

<http://www.visittri-cities.com>

7130 W. Grandridge Blvd., Suite B
Kennewick, WA 99336
(509) 735-8486 / 800-254-5824

Google Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/LIJXH>

Wine tasting galore, golf, fishing, local events, recreational opportunities, and maps



Google map showing route between meeting locations: <https://goo.gl/maps/qKWHH>

Hanford Reach National Monument:
http://www.fws.gov/refuge/hanford_reach/



High Desert Youth Range Camp offers 3+ days of hands-on learning to high school students of PNW and Idaho. In its 5th year, the camp has worked with 96 students. With successful completion of camp, students are eligible to receive 2 free college credits from Treasure Valley Community College, Ontario. The 2015 Top Camper is **Tyler Thomas**, a senior at Burns HS. He will represent PNW at the HSYF at the 69th SRM Annual Meeting in Texas in 2016. **Annalisa Peer**, Prineville, received the Trail Boss Award. *Campers pictured below.*



Pictured Below:

Trail Boss Jay herding the crew, which is tough when folks are ID'ing plants, counting voles, swatting mosquitos, . . . !



PNW Section Officers

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2nd Vice Pres.	Sandra Wyman, OR	541-416-6886
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	Brooke Gray, OR	541-477-0151

Calendar of Events

September 16-18, 2015
PNW SRM Section Annual Meet. & Workshop, Hanford/Yakima River, WA

January 29 - Feb. 5, 2016
69th SRM Technical Training, Annual Meeting & Tradeshow, Texas

PNW Section, Society for Rangeland Management

Newsletter Editor

C/O John & Lynne Breese

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**NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
PAID
PRINEVILLE, OR 97754
Permit #24**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

They were not able to come to Burns for SRM, but Bob France, Coldstream, BC., and Alf Bawtree, Magna Bay, BC., told the SRM story at the B.C. Cattlemen's Annual Meeting and they say, "It went well".

This display board is for you to use to tell others about SRM. Contact Pete Schreder for information.



**PNW's strength is in its Chapters —
Contact yours today!**

British Columbia

Rae Haddow, Grand Forks, 250-442-4377

Washington

Jeff Burnham, Ellensburg, 590-457-9303

Oregon State University

Michael Borman, Corvallis, 541-737-1614

Eastern Oregon University

Lesley Morris, La Grande, 541-962-3812

Central Oregon

Volunteers???

Southern Oregon

Les Boothe, Lakeview, 541-947-6141

Pacific Northwest Section, Society for Range Management — Caring for basic range resources: soil, plants and water