

Society for Range Management Pacific Northwest Section

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President's Message

Maura Laverty, Baker City, Oregon

I am so humbled and excited to serve the PNW Section as President! A huge **Thank You** to Sandy Wyman for your hard work this past year keeping our section informed and active. **Thank You** to our outgoing Directors, John Williams and Jamie McCormack; we appreciate the contributions you made. Wendy Gardner moved into the 1st Vice President position, and Jeff Burnham was elected 2nd Vice-president. Welcome to our newly elected Directors Claudia Ingham and Casey Matney. In her last act as section President, Sandy Wyman appointed Jamie McCormack as the section Treasurer. **Thank you**, Jamie, for graciously accepting on the spot, and **Thank You** Craig Obermiller for your many years of service! I look forward to working with all of you this next year, and appreciate your willingness to volunteer your time and energy.

A big thank you to Greg Tegart, Bob France, Vic Wright, and Rob Dinwoodie for organizing a great fall annual meeting themed “**Using Cooperation and Innovation to Manage Complex Landscapes**” in Vernon, BC, to all who helped make the meeting run smoothly, and to all of the presenters! I’m always impressed how the Canadians think outside the box in resource management, with innovative ideas such as silvopasture.

The “PNW Section Exemplary Service” award was presented to Tom Platt, the “Jim A. Brunner In for the Long Haul” award was presented to Maureen Malenstyn, and the “Trail Boss” award was presented to Pat Shaver. Congratulations to all of our 2017 award winners!

I think we all would agree the future of the SRM lies within the education of those who will follow us, and I support the continued focus on education and recruitment. Our PNW Section Secretary, Mary Jo Foley-Birrenkott, is a key component in her service as a part-time position working on maintaining membership in the parent society, and work with the Young Professionals Conclave (YPC), including establishing a YPC within the PNW Section. She will be looking for YPC Mentors and Mentees for a “Bridging the Gap” event at the SRM meeting in NV.

Planning has begun for next year's PNW workshops. The summer workshop will be in La Grande, OR, June 25-28. The fall workshop & annual meeting will be in the Columbia River Gorge (WA/OR border, location as yet to be determined), and don't forget the 71st SRM Annual Meeting is in Sparks, NV, January 28-February 2. Information and registration is at www.rangelands.org.

Remember to renew your SRM membership by December 31st! We need all of you to help us manage our rangelands. Please let us know how we can help you. Our contact information is on the last page of this newsletter.

Maura



Calendar of Events

January 28-February 2, 2018: 71st SRM Annual Meeting, Training, & Tradeshow, Sparks, Nevada

June 25-28, 2018: PNW SRM Summer Workshop, LaGrande, OR

Mark your Calendars for PNW Field Workshops/Symposiums/Meetings

2018 PNW SRM Summer Workshop, LaGrande, OR

The 2018 Summer PNW Section SRM meeting will be June 25-28 in beautiful northeastern Oregon, in La Grande. Researchers at the Starkey Experimental Forest and Range are working with the US Forest Service to test the compatibility of innovative cattle grazing practices with salmonid restoration on Meadow Creek, and are willing to share what they've learned with us. More details coming soon...

2018 PNW SRM Fall Workshop and Annual Meeting, Columbia Gorge

The Fall 2018 PNW SRM Meeting will focus on the eastern Columbia Gorge separating Washington and Oregon. Grasslands, industrial farms, wind power, salmon recovery, fruit production, prairie restoration, municipal and toxic waste storage, the Oregon Trail, and the Gorge's unique geology are a few of many topics being considered. Please contact Tom Platt, plattt@icloud.com, if you would like to help plan the meeting or suggest a topic or tour stop.

PNW Annual Meeting and Symposium, Vernon, British Columbia

Using Cooperation & Innovation to Manage Complex Landscapes – Timber Industry

By Kendyl Hanning, Bend OR, Student at Oregon State University-Cascades. I am taking my final term of classes and will be graduating this fall with a B.S. in Natural Resources – Rangeland Ecology.

Our first speaker of the day was **Warren Zoblonski**, Wood Supervisor with BC Timber Sales (BCTS), and he set the theme for the day - collaboration. BCTS auctions timber sales with the goal of supporting the timber market and pricing system, along with providing sustainable forest management for 45 million hectares of Canada's Crown Forest Land. He discussed how BCTS builds their forest plans with the focus being on multiple use, and how they collaborate with many stakeholders, communities, First Nations and local user groups in order to be successful. Along with timber sales, BCTS actively participates in projects such as range fence construction, infrastructure maintenance, tree planting, reseeding and conservation projects in areas where timber has been harvested. Since timber is the staple of the B.C. economy, it was very encouraging to hear how BCTS is able to contribute to the sustainability of the resource through the successful partnerships they have formed.

Using Cooperation & Innovation to Manage Complex Landscapes – Forage Supply

By Rob Dinwoodie

Harold Hetherington spoke to the Okanagan Shuswap district's forage supply strategy, which he has taken the lead on for the range program. Harold highlighted the importance that forage plays on BC rangelands and how he and the range team has developed a strategy that will ensure a robust beef industry in the district.



The forage supply strategy is based on the vision of "the right amount and type in the right place and time". This basic premise is fleshed out in 4 strategic goals which include:

1. Gap analysis to determine forage availability
2. Develop solutions where need is identified
3. Cost effective opportunities are implemented
4. A balanced approach to implementation where all values on the land are addressed

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(Forage Supply — continued from page 2)

The gap analysis for the district has identified both shortfalls and surpluses which allows the program to effectively develop a process to address both. Forage shortfall from cutblocks amount to approximately 60% of the current forage deficit and this is primarily within the wet forest type (Interior cedar hemlock zones). With this information the application of grass seed to these areas is the most viable solution. The forage strategy lists 4 types of cutblocks based on the amount of site preparation required before seeding. Using an integrated approach to application of seeding, cutblocks are planted with the appropriate conifer seedlings and are grass seeded to ensure true integration.

A Memorandum of Agreement has been developed which lists responsibilities by both timber and range licensees for cutblocks that are seeded. This provides a mechanism for accountability during the early stages of forage and tree development.

The forage strategy is the foundation of understanding how forage and the lack of it can impact everything from wildlife to riparian and water quality and has proven to be an invaluable tool to address the many issues that occur on the landbase when ranging cattle in the Okanagan Valley of BC.

Riparian Management – research on using debris placement to protect riparian values and water quality

Andrea L. Mann retired from USDA-NRCS and is currently involved with non-profits promoting biochar, climate change, sustainable agriculture, social and environmental justice.

Presented by Rob Dinwoodie, Range Officer, Okanagan Shuswap District, Ministry of Natural Resource Operations

What's at stake?

- Water quality and quantity.
- Fish and wildlife habitat values.
- Biodiversity.

2014-2015 rangeland health assessment indicated that 20% of the watershed was functioning below acceptable levels due to erosion and sediment.

What does the data say?

- Vegetation traps sediment, stabilizes and builds streambanks.
- Forest debris and crisscross logs stabilize banks and protect the streams from excessive livestock use.

What's in it for you?

- Better overall resource stewardship.
- Protection of other resource values.
- Minimize cumulative effects.
- Less fence building and maintenance required for timber and range licenses.
- Decreases management costs.

What can you do?

- Build relationships with stakeholders.
- Recoup your costs through the appraisal system. \$250/100 meters for debris barriers.
- Stay up to date on current science.

Using Cooperation & Innovation to Manage Complex Landscapes – Silvopasture in British Columbia

By Catherine Cannon, NRCS Rangeland Management Specialist in Okanagan, Washington, working with private landowners to provide a viable future for agriculture through protection of natural resources. Away from the job I enjoy exploring the Sunny Okanagan with my family.

The pull between special interests and natural resource protection is frequently a source of consternation in our lives. The frustration

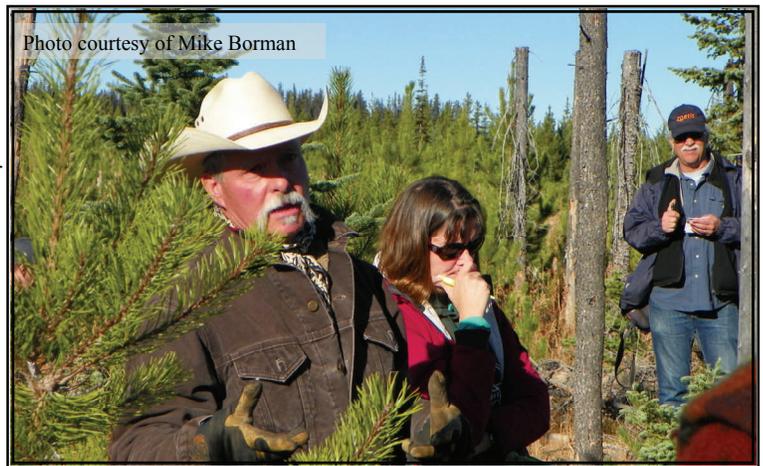


Photo courtesy of Mike Borman
Rob Dinwoodie talking to the group during the field tour.



Photo courtesy of Rob Dinwoodie
Double criss cross debris placement across creek to minimize/prevent livestock from travelling up and down the creek channel while still maintaining access points for watering

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(Silvopasture — Continued from page 3)

becomes more pronounced when you move into timbered landscapes - timber, grazing, drinking water, wildlife, recreation - the list of what forests provide to the public goes on and on. Two interests that remain constant are the need for timber and a viable timber industry and the need for forage within the forests used for summer grazing. I was thrilled when silvopasture was to be a main topic under this fall's theme, *Using Cooperation and Innovation to Manage Complex Landscapes*, as it is something I have been struggling with since moving to the "Okanogan with an O". I definitely was not disappointed.

Lisa Zabeck, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, shared her ongoing work of finding how to integrate the various needs so that everybody wins. Through four regional pilots and case studies Ms. Zabeck walked us through the methods her team are incorporating into areas of timber harvest, known as cut blocks, to increase forage, decrease tree seedling mortality, decrease riparian use by livestock, and improve water quality. Not an easy feat by anyone's standards! Local ranchers, Werner and Judy Stump, are participating in this work as well and shared the story of the work they are doing on their ranch and range in Malakwa, BC. The Stumps aren't just any ranchers, however, they are also trained foresters, which makes them ideal "first adopters" (in NRCS-speak) to test some of these methods.

We could not have asked for a more beautiful day to wrap up the session with a visit to the Vernon Creek Watershed site to see first-hand the accomplishments of this work. Increased seedbed prep, vigilant obstacle planting of tree seedlings, crisscross logs for riparian protection, debris fences, and alternate water sources were some of the methods we were introduced to. There was also discussion of the underlying regulations that govern the B.C. timber industry that need to be changed in order to facilitate some of the proposed changes to management, such as planting distance requirements.

Overall, it was a very informative and enjoyable section of the meeting. Ms. Zabeck, the Stumps, and all the folks involved in this innovative approach to managing all the interests involved in forested lands have their work cut out for them. They are moving in the right direction and gaining support from multiple stakeholders. I look forward to watching the evolution of these programs into the future.

2017 PNW Section Awards

Report submitted by Mike Malmberg

Thanks to **John Buckhouse** for his involvement in the PNW awards program. The Awards Presentation at the fall section meetings is a much anticipated annual event. It is an opportunity for our section to recognize the achievements of fellow members and express appreciation for their efforts that greatly benefit our organization. The dedication of John Buckhouse with his words of appreciation and encouragement on behalf of our members is a keystone to this initiative.

Thanks also to **Will Keller** who handles the complex mechanics of award plaques, name plates and getting the material ready for the event.

There were four awards presented at the 2017 fall meeting.

Trail Boss Award

Dr. Pat Shaver

In the citation prepared by John Buckhouse for this award, John notes "Pat Shaver has consistently and competently demonstrated his devotion to the grasslands of the Pacific Northwest, North America, and indeed the entire globe." That devotion has driven an impressive list of achievements and service that have resulted in significant benefits to rangeland resources. Many of Pat's colleagues have consistently praised his ability to teach, explain, investigate and encourage those who are privileged to have worked with him. Pat has had career long employment with the Natural Resources Conservation service and in post retirement, a career as a professor at Oregon State University. He has been a consultant in near and far-flung corners of the world. Pat has served on the Board of Directors and as President of the Society for Range Management. Our congratulations, thanks and best wishes go out to Pat for his many achievements and as the recipient of one of the PNW Sections most important awards.



James Brunner: In for the Long Haul Award Maureen Malenstyn

John Buckhouse states in the citation he prepared for this award “Maureen Malenstyn was in for the long haul even before she signed up for the ‘haul’”. This captures the dedication and enthusiasm, hard work, guidance and friendship that Maureen has brought to our section. Before joining SRM, Maureen contributed her knowledge and countless hours in helping put together the Society’s Annual Meeting in Vancouver B.C. At that time, our organization did not have a single member in the Vancouver region! Maureen, often referred to as “Wendy’s Mom”, has been a reliable presence at many of our Section and International Parent Society meetings. Maureen’s contributions in educating and escorting Thompson Rivers University students on SRM events will have life-long impacts on current and future SRM members. Good sense, logical judgment, dedication to rural life and agriculture, awareness of social and political issues and a warm inviting infectious smile, are strong attributes that serve Maureen well and benefit all who come in contact with her. We agree with John Buckhouse “Maureen has certainly earned her stripes in the PNW Section and the Society for Range Management”. We look forward to the gift of Maureen’s presence at events within our SRM family for many years to come; a great trove, a rewarding haul of treasures for those of us who have the privilege to meet her.



Exemplary Service Award Tom Platt

Tom is noted for his tireless and dedicated service. Often working behind the scenes, Tom’s ever-present voice of reason has been important in guiding our Section and the Society to reasoned decisions and action. In his quiet and modest way, Tom has stated that he learned from professionals in the field who generously gave their time and expertise; no doubt these individuals were great teachers and role models – they obviously had a bright and dedicated person with whom to work! Tom has published newsletters, held field days, and presented educational meetings on Lupine and Crooked Calf Syndrome. He has also done similar work germane to riparian grazing. Our section members whole heartedly stand behind the statement from John Buckhouse in the citation for Tom’s award “we are proud of you and all that you have accomplished - --- and the PNW Section of SRM is pleased to present you with the 2017 Exemplary Service Award!”

Excellence in Range Management Award

John and Lynne Breese

From the citation crafted by John Buckhouse, “Livelong Oregonians, John and Lynne represent the best in who and what we in the Pacific Northwest hold dear. The Breeses are among the pillars of the PNW Section, Society for Range Management. They have proved, time and time again, how committed and dedicated they are to the betterment of the land and the people associated with it.” These are strong words and they speak the sentiments of those who have been blessed to know John and Lynne Breese. Again, “John and Lynne Breese represent the best which land managers and the PNW have to offer.” If you get a chance, talk to John and Lynne about the changes that have occurred on their property brought about by decades of persistent effort in controlling Western Juniper and invasive non-native plants. Or ask them their feelings about the need for training, education and public awareness of rangelands. You will learn about their sponsorship and support of many workshops, tours, and training courses. Find out about their origins and backgrounds; where they came from, what they did as children, students, and young adults. You will understand their ethics and values. You will feel their wisdom and dedication, their passion and compassion. These are rewards available to us all, just for the asking and our thoughtful listening. Thanks to these wonderful people in our midst.



More of the Extraordinary Adventures of SRM Member Kevin Guinn Along the Pacific Crest Trail!!

At the time of our last newsletter publication Kevin Guinn, Ephrata WA, was in the midst of the trip of a lifetime hiking the Pacific Crest Trail. Now home safe and sound, Kevin shares the highlights of his journey...

By Kevin Guinn

Beginning May 12th I set out to hike the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) from Mexico to Canada. Turned out, 2017 was an epic year for snow, dicey to dangerous stream crossings, tripe digit temperatures, and six fatalities. The PCT is a trail of extremes. The trail took me through a variety of landscapes – desert shrub, forests, subalpine, granitic alpine, and both lotic systems (springs, creeks, streams, rivers) and lentic systems (ponds, lakes, marshes). I crossed Interstate-10 at 1,000 feet of elevation and climbed over passes as high as 13,100 feet. Climbs and descents of 2,000 feet are commonplace on the PCT.

Although I only hiked 1,800 miles (Mexico to Ashland, OR), I had enough experiences to last a lifetime.

- Climbing Mt. Whitney, the tallest peak in the Lower 48
- Losing a little hide when I cart-wheeled off trail to the rocks below in Granite Chief Wilderness
- The thunderstorm that dropped hailstones as large as golf balls. Being wet, cold and hungry, and stumbling onto a trail crew camp in the middle of the Marble Mtn. Wilderness. A young woman in a pink coat asked if they could feed me. Turned out this was Sarah, Mike Borman’s daughter. AND getting fed and dried out. What are the odds of this happening??
- The bear that was 15 feet from camp in Desolation Wilderness
- The rattlesnake I almost stepped on
- A short stay in the Hesperia, CA hospital
- The Jose burger at Paradise Valley Café. The Chinese food in Lone Pine. The cucumbers from the South Korean gardener
- At elevations above 11,000 feet, seeing plant life hanging on and surviving – craggy, old bristlecone pines, heather, yarrow, sedge (carex)

Here are a few things I especially liked:

- Meeting people from all over the world. It’s all about the people. The PCT just brought us together. There was an instant bond with other thru-hikers
- Getting to town and having my re-supply box awaiting my arrival. THIS IS HUGE! Every box Becky sent was on time!!!
- The cool night air and seeing countless number of stars when cowboy camping
- Hiking before first light to watch the day unfold before me. I had the trail to myself. Each day I woke up and I got to walk with God

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(PCT Adventures Continued from page 6)

- Land the mountain men would call “high and lonesome” (subalpine and alpine zones). Landscapes so stunning that words and cameras are inadequate to capture their magnificence
- The fabulous stone hut on top of Muir Pass
- Having a shower, clean clothes and “town food”. Then, getting back on trail
- Trail Angels offering – a ride to town, food, a cold beverage, a shower and a bed
- The days I hiked with Carsten from Germany
- Getting hugs from three young women PCT hikers in Lone Pine

Call for Newsletter Articles!

Will you be attending the 71st SRM Annual Meeting in Sparks, Nevada at the end of January? We want to hear from you! Please consider submitting a short article about anything you want to share with the PNW Section. It could be a short summary of your favorite technical session or tour, a couple of sentences about what made the meeting great for you, or a summary of a social event where you were able to reconnect with longtime friends and meet new ones! We would also LOVE to see your pictures.

If you have any questions, or to submit material for the next newsletter, contact Jenni Moffitt by email: jenni.moffitt@gmail.com or phone: 541-699-3181.

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

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