

# SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT

## SPRING 2017 NEWSLETTER

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### President's Message

**Sandy Wyman, Prineville, OR**

Greetings & Happy New Year PNW Members, March is here and it's already a busy year. PNW was well represented at the SRM Annual Meeting in St. George, Utah. We had an excellent turnout at the OSU/PNW Mixer. Thanks to **Ricardo Mata-Gonzalez** for organizing this event to catch up with old friends, and provide

opportunity for students to meet PNW members. OSU, EOU and Thompson River University were well represented, and . . .



. . . **Hailey, Michelle, and Sarah** from TRU wrote: *"Thank you for the financial support you gave us to attend the SRM Annual Meeting in Utah. We loved the field tours and thoroughly enjoyed the conference sessions. The Wild Horse & Burro symposium was a highlight. We had a great time meeting new people and learning about different aspects of range throughout the week."* Our youth are so important to rangelands. Assisting them to expand their knowledge and outlook on managing our diverse landscapes is well worth the money we provide.

As you know, **SRM has moved to a single renewal date for all members.** January 1 is the renewal date for everyone. When you go online to renew this year, your rate will be pro-rated based on your past renewal date. If you have not renewed, and your renewal date is prior to March, please renew as soon as possible. If you have difficulties or cannot tell if your renewal has processed, contact Allen Press or Vicky Trujillo. **The \$100 renewal rate includes online access to Rangelands and Rangeland Ecology & Management.** If you prefer a paper copy of the journals, there is an extra fee. This is another indication of how hard our leaders are working to stay in the black and provide as many goods and services as possible to you, the members of SRM.

I hope you have checked out the updated SRM website. Thanks to all who worked on the development and organization of the site. Notice all the social media opportunities available to you!

Another item discussed in St. George was the REDD Fund, and how cumbersome and complicated the nomination form is. The REDD Fund provides financial assistance to ranchers who wish to attend SRM meetings. The Outreach, Communications, and Website Committee is working to simplify the process.

**Jeff Burnham** and the WA folks are ready to see you in Moses Lake, June 6-8 for the SRM summer workshop. **Greg Tegart & Bob France** are coordinating the October 5-7 fall workshop in BC.

Remember to renew your membership! We need all of us together to continue learning about our rangeland resources and management. Thanks all, and see you in June!! *Sandy*

### Calendar of Events

**May 10-11, 2017:** Roots of Resilience, Pendleton, OR, with Dr. Fred Provenza "Teaching cows to eat weeds" & Kit Pharo "Livestock grazing benefits soil health". Contact Andrea Mann, 509-670-7743, for more info

**June 6 - 8, 2017:** PNW SRM Summer Workshop, Moses Lake, Washington

**October 5-7, 2017:** PNW SRM Fall Workshop, Vernon, British Columbia

**January 26-February 3, 2018:** 71st SRM Annual Meeting, Training & Trade Show, Sparks Nevada

**Mark your Calendars for PNW Field Workshops/Symposiums/Meetings**  
Summer workshop, site change from Ephrata to Moses Lake, WA, June 6-8. See "attached" flyer.

**October 5-7, 2017 PNW Annual Meeting and Symposium in Vernon, British Columbia**

B.C. Chapter invites you to an interesting, inspiring and insightful adventure focusing on recent agro-forestry research, a new forage supply assessment system and discussion of collaborative approaches to managing a complex landscape. This landscape supplies drinking and irrigation water, supports timber, recreation, wildlife and grazing activities all in close proximity to the urban areas of Okanagan. Fun & friendship will be included in the professional development setting. (We hope Mother Nature allows us to venture into the field!!) More information later but you are welcome to contact your co-hosts:

Greg Tegart, [greg.tegart@shaw.ca](mailto:greg.tegart@shaw.ca) 250-540-3769 or Bob France, [blfrance@telus.net](mailto:blfrance@telus.net) 250-540-1776

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**70th Society for Range Management Annual Meeting, St. George, Utah**  
**"Red Rock Highlights from Utah"**



Mojave Vegetation

**John Buckhouse** noted that the PNW was well represented in St. George with at least 18 PNW technical presentations or posters, and a large crowd at the PNW Social. **Dr. Wendy Gardner**, BC, received an honor award and two high school students were recognized for their HSYF presentations: **Ashley Oswald**, WA, 2nd place and **Christian Boyd**, OR, 4th place. Sessions were well attended and interesting; socials were vibrant. Evenings were cool, but days were warm and shirt-sleeve comfortable.

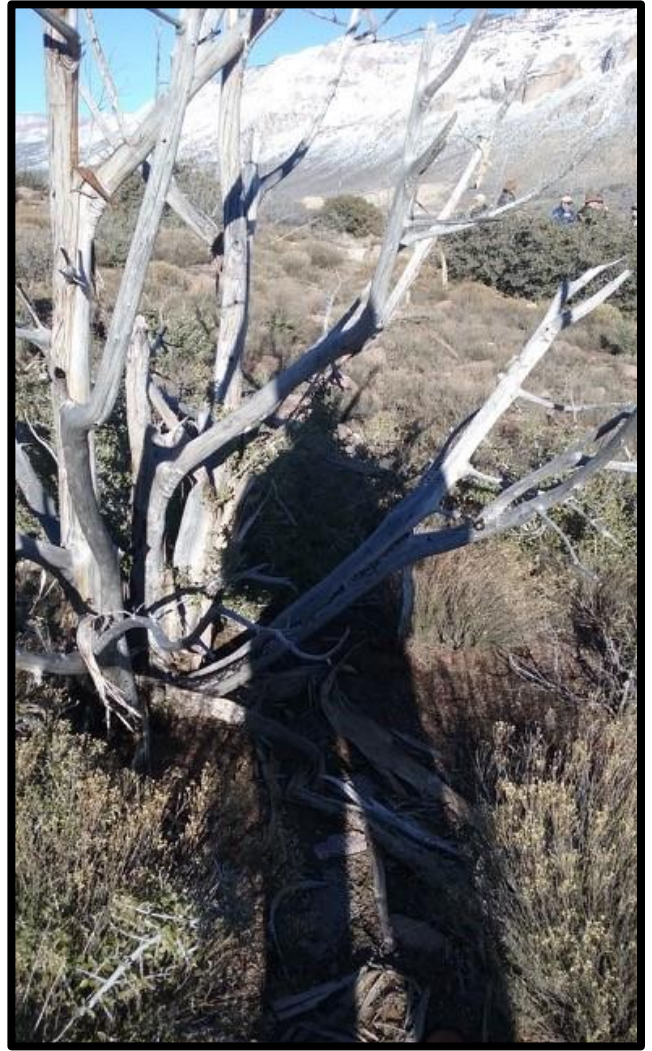
**What did they see in Utah? Join Claudia Ingham, Corvallis**, on the Mojave Vegetation Tour.

Two busloads of eager SRM'ers gathered in the dark for the early morning departure. Our first stop was a Colorado River scour soils site which historically hosted a large sheep industry plus the Woodberry & Hardy desert tortoise study in the 1930s and 40s. Creosote bush and white bur sage dominate the area today, with bush muhly only 1% of ground cover. Discussion of the 6-fold increase in raven populations began here, and continued as we drove north to Gunlock Reservoir. Settlement era history and reconstruction of the Gunlock dam, washed out in 2005, were interrupted only by **Rick Miller** and **Bob Gillaspys**' exchange about Sierra juniper at this site.

Rugged blackbrush and juniper greeted us as we traveled through the 4000 foot elevation and discussed Ephedra while enjoying snack bars & fruits. *(Had early settlers been treated so well, the population would be 4-5 times its*

*current number - ha ha!)* Passing through Veyo, UT into the Great Basin, we stopped at a P-j site and the Mountain Meadows Massacre site where established settlers fear of Federal troops, distrust of newcomers, and limited supplies led to a devastating event in 1857.

The Escalante Valley represents a microcosm of change in the arid West. Hydrothermal vents and solar panels dot the area where entrepreneurs raise poinsettia, chrysanthemum, and 5000 head of dairy cattle despite drought and a 2004 wind storm which "swamped" the sides of homes with 6 inches of sand. A local seed company is developing a cultivar of sideoats grama for restoration. Arriving at Cedar City, as Escalante did in 1776, we were treated to a sit-down lunch and learned more of the local sheep industry. Keeping with tradition and sensible grazing management, sheep are trailed from mountain summer grazing, under I-15 and through town each year to keep folks on their toes and at least aware of livestock on the landscape. In a fitting final stop, we examined stands of Utah live oak, snakeweed and prickly pear at the "Browse" exit off I-15, due west of the famous Kolob Canyons.



**Maureen Malenstyn, Delta, BC:** Wendy and I were with 3 of her TRU students plus a HSYF student and her mother. The students were amazed at the scope of the presentations and enjoyed all the peripheral entertainment as well as a side trip to Las Vegas! Seeing the marvelous Mojave Desert -Southern Rocky Mountains and Zion National Park (5th most popular in the USA) with a bus host who wove history into his narrative, made the tours so interesting. At the Awards Ceremony, Saskatchewan, Alberta and BC had their moments! **My daughter Wendy** won the **Outstanding Achievement Award**, and that was a proud moment for our group. The evening dinner was great with entertainment by Dave Stamey, winner of many western music awards, including the Will Rogers Award. It was so good to see **Mike Borman** in fine shape, but I missed **Maura Laverty**, my bus-buddy. Thanks to **John & Vicki Buckhouse** for letting Wendy and me share their condo facilities.

**Chris Schachtschneider, Pendleton, OR:** At the Prescribed Herbivory Forum, Kansas rancher Bill Sproul was quoted on his change in perspective about rangelands: "*When I understood I was an equal member of the rangeland community, just like the soil, grass, insects, grazers, wildlife etc., I changed my view of rangeland as a commodity that I used cattle to harvest, to one of a living community that I was a member of!*"

**Gene & Linda Hickman, Bend, OR:** My favorite technical sessions - the Pinyon-juniper woodlands, fire ecology research, and range health for ecological sites were a reminder of the great amount of work being done in these areas. Plenary speakers gave a good introduction to the Mojave Desert ecosystems and the history of wild horses and wildfire issues. Our field trips were highlights: Mojave Desert vegetation and Kanab Range/Wildlife tour, including the famous Arizona Strip, introduced us to the unique management problems and the interesting history of settlement/livestock use in a region so different from ours. We took several additional day trips to awesome geological settings in Parks or National Monuments which are unmatched by anything we have seen in the Pacific Northwest.

**John Buckhouse, Corvallis, OR:** My highlights were the awards given to three special people. I attended the reception honoring **Al Steninger**, NV, for his Sustained Lifetime Achievement Award. Al is known across the west for his consulting on "all things range management", easily classifying him as a "grand old man"! The most thrilling moment was watching our own **Dr. Wendy Gardner** accept an Outstanding Achievement Award. Wendy has done it all. . . research, teaching, and extension education. When someone says they were blessed to know Wendy, they couldn't have put it better. We all are blessed to know Wendy! The final smile of the meeting came when



**Vicky Trujillo** was named the 2017 "Wildest Woman" by the professional women at their annual "Wild Women of Range" get-together. They couldn't have made a better choice! Vicky keeps SRM afloat and is the "go-to" person for every question posted to the Parent Society office in Colorado. (Wendy Gardner receives award)

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### **"Thank You PNW Section" . . .**

**. . . from 19 Students - High School through Graduate School, their University Advisors, and the PNW HSYF team of Tip Hudson, Vic Wright & Brenda Smith**

#### **High School Youth Forum (HSYF)**

**Brianne Mikulasik, Kamloops, BC:** Attending the HSYF was an amazing experience. I made many close friends, met the kids representing the PNW, and learned so much about rangelands and the Utah history. All our facilitators explained so well, the aspects of range management and pasture grazing. We saw interesting geological sights, from sand dunes to canyons. Picking one highlight, I would say it was watching the other delegates give their presentations. I learned so much. Everyone cares about the Society and the preservation of range management. This will stay with me for the rest of my life.

**Ashley Oswald, Chelan, WA:** My presentation topic was "The Interaction between Domestic and Wild Sheep and Goats". I felt confident presenting this topic because I raise goats and live in an area where Bighorn Sheep are all around us. Presenting at the Forum was amazing, but another highlight was touring Zion National Park. I'd never seen anything like it; there was so much beauty all around. It made me realize how much diverse wildlife is in our world, and how each and every one of us can help protect it. *Congratulations Ashley on your 2nd place in the HSYF presentations!*



**Christian Boyd, Burns, OR:** One of my favorite things was the presentation session, in which I presented "Can Grazing be Used to Increase Fire Suppression Effectiveness?" I learned so much from the other presentations, had a great time, and even managed to place 4th. My favorite adventure was seeing Zion National Park. It was astounding. I have never seen anything that comes close to it. Not only was this an amazing tour, but we delegates bonded and made friends that will last a lifetime. Thank you for this opportunity that I will never forget. *Congratulations Christian, on your 4th place presentation!*

**University Students & Advisors: Thompson Rivers U., Kamloops; EOU, La Grande; & OSU**

**Wendy Gardner, TRU Professor:** I look forward to SRM Annual Meetings because of the opportunities to gain new knowledge and network with old & new friends in the range profession. This year with multiple tours and three days of sessions, there was something for everyone. I enjoyed the tours, not only because it was nice to get out of the deep freeze we experienced in the north and enjoy the warm Utah weather, but also because of the incredible diversity in vegetation and the spectacular geomorphology of the area. Travelling with students gives me a different perspective as they are so enthusiastic and eager to learn. It was a great honour to receive the Outstanding Achievement Award in Research/Academia. I extend a large **thank you to everyone** that helped pull the nomination together. I look forward to seeing all of you for the 71st SRM Annual Meeting in Sparks, Nevada.



**Lesley Morris, EOU Asst. Professor:** This was my fourth time to take students to SRM. I always know they will be welcomed and treated well. It is so fun to see them navigate a professional meeting for the first time, learn how all the sessions fit together, and meet range professionals from all over! This time was especially a joy because we drove through the eastern side of Nevada where students were so excited to see Joshua Trees and Creosote for the first time. What a fun, dynamic, and bright group of young people; I am convinced that PNW gets the finest undergraduate students there are!

**Yvette Gibson, Instructor and Ricardo Mata-Gonzalez, Assoc. Professor, OSU:** The best part of our job is taking students to SRM! Getting prepared is a challenge, but they pull it together and make us proud. This year was no exception! **Plant ID:** Ricardo's grad student, **David Prado-Tarango** is from a university in MX that is very competitive; David took charge of the team and coached them well. They didn't place, but they are enthusiastic to keep studying plants and three will compete next year.

**URME:** with little preparation 4 students, including one freshman, sat for the URME. They walked out dazed, but eager for the next events. . . after food of course. URME is one hard test! **Rangeland Cup:** the question was complex, asking students to examine the ecological, social and economic impacts if Federal land were transferred to the states. With a mix of disciplines and grades, the team talked to faculty who have an understanding of the many facets of the issue. After analyzing the information, they crafted a poster that was competitive and received positive feedback. Look for it in BC this fall. **Extemporaneous Speaking:** We are proud of all, but an extra tip of the hat to freshman, **Garret Gerding**, who participated in all events, even picking up one on the fly. Garrett inspired several who plan to participate next year. On behalf of the students, we say a **huge thank you** to PNW section for your support of students not only in attending SRM, but year round in the classroom and in the field.

**Sarah Schwarz, TRU (Kamloops, BC):** This was a great opportunity to network, learn and meet other students. I met field professionals from many states, provinces and countries. The Mojave and Zion tours were a great chance to see the country from an ecologists view. I learned about different plant communities, the challenges faced by land managers in these areas, and how they solve or mitigate these challenges. I will refer to these times at SRM when I enter the workforces and face challenges. Meeting other students and future land managers is valuable because we will all be indirectly or directly working together in the future. **A big thanks to PNW Section for supporting students!**

**Luke Ridder, EOU (La Grande, OR):** As an undergraduate, I was excited to attend SRM because I knew I was going to learn about topics that I had not yet been exposed to. The seminar talks were intriguing and fun to attend. I enjoyed the flexibility of the listeners to bounce between rooms and attend several different

presentations from a variety of topics. In the poster session I appreciated how easy it was to interact with people who were interested in the poster I presented.

**Kelsey Rogers, OSU (Burley, ID):** SRM was a great experience. People were friendly and helpful to students who are looking for jobs or internships. I appreciated that my questions were answered and opinion valued. Though I am a range minor, people gave great advice for jobs that would give good experience for my future. My highlight was competing in the Rangeland Cup with the topic of transfer of federal to state lands. It was good talking to people about our poster and many brought up ideas we had never thought of. It was a great interactive experience.

**Michelle Phillips, TRU (Kamloops, BC):** It was a fantastic experience. Highlights for me were the Mojave Desert tour and the wild horse & burro symposium. On the Desert tour, we learned how invasive cheatgrass is shortening the fire return cycle, negatively impacting native vegetation. The wild horse symposium was eye-opening in terms of highlighting issues, conflicts and challenges to find common ground for management. It was interesting to see how issues in the western US parallel with those we have in BC. I could see how basic ecological principles I've learned at TRU are being applied in different ecosystems. Management goals and approaches are similar, but land managers are faced with different challenges. It was captivating to interact with people from all over the USA & Canada.

**Marisa Mode, EOU (Grand Ronde, OR):** SRM was a good over all experience but my favorite part was being able to answer questions about my research. It was also good to discuss with other range professionals about their research and opinions on important topics. Being from a small town, I had never had the experiences of being out in the desert. It was awesome to see the different ecotones as we drove across the states, and be able to identify plants that weren't from our area.

**Garrett Gerding, OSU (Philomath, OR):** Experiencing SRM as a freshman can be intimidating, but even more so rewarding. I participated in every student event I could, with a mindset knowing I wouldn't win anything, but only concerning myself with learning and networking with professionals. This isn't the Rose Bowl game for student competitions, but it is a learning experience and it sure is a fun one at that!

**Brogan Watson, EOU (Walla Walla, WA):** One highlight was the fact that I was able to relate a lot of information from the seminars back to the courses I have taken. Understanding what speakers were presenting was extremely helpful, and I was able to take away even more new information. I loved the speaking arrangements, in short duration so we were able to bounce back & forth to new topics or ones we were educated in. Having this opportunity gave me a chance to travel through new ecotones, meet students from other universities, network with potential companies, and enjoy St. George. I had a great time learning and mingling with everyone. **Thanks PNW SRM for all you do for us up-and-comers!**

**Chelsea Maddox, OSU (Modesto, CA):** I competed in three events: Rangeland Cup, Plant ID, and URME exam. Competing in all three was tough to prepare for, but I learned a lot and made some great connections. My favorite part was talking with agencies and rangeland professionals about our Rangeland Cup poster. I want to become more active in Young Professionals Conclave because one of their goals is to encourage more ranchers at the SRM. There are so many new ideas relating to rangeland health and management; it would be great to get more people who actually apply these ideas to come to SRM. Sr. George is beautiful and seeing Zion National Park was "icing on the cake"!

**Josh Hanson, OSU (Corvallis, OR):** This had everything a student looking for a job could possibly want. There were multiple opportunities to meet employers, test your knowledge and hear about the up & coming science that I will be using in my career. I learned about job opportunities and internships that I didn't know existed or qualified for. One employer said he prefers to hire freshman and sophomores for internships because he gets to train them for a couple of years before they get brought on full-time. Looking back, I wish I'd have studied more for plant ID and URME. It was still an awesome experience and I recommend it to any one in the Agriculture Field looking to broaden their horizons.

## Red Rock Presenters: Posters, Presentations, & Symposiums, . . .

**Nicole Durfee, OSU (St. Louis, MO):** Poster - "Unmanned Aerial Vehicles in Rangeland Ecosystems": The objective of this research is to assess the use of inexpensive quadcopter UAVs for collecting data regarding vegetation and water features in different rangeland and riparian systems. Used in conjunction with ground-based information, UAVs are used to gather data at varying altitudes and angles to develop a more comprehensive understanding of ecosystem dynamics. Visual imagery gathered from UAVs will be used to evaluate juniper reestablishment and density following juniper removal in a sage-steppe ecosystem. Visual data is also used for the evaluation of riparian vegetation density and ground cover in a semi-arid riparian corridor and a temperate riparian corridor. Multispectral imagery using a UAV-based camera will evaluate stress, disturbance, and plant health in riparian ecosystems. The ease of use, and accessibility of quadcopter UAVs enable the capturing of time-sensitive data at low altitudes and close proximity, potentially reducing time for processing compared to other remote sensing techniques.

**Alberta Gittens, OSU (La Crescent, MN):** Poster - "Land use Effects on Stream Temperature along a Temperate Riparian Corridor in Western Oregon": Land use effects on water quality parameters such as stream temperature are critical for properly managing riparian ecosystems. Intensive monitoring of multiple ecological and water quality metrics is being conducted along Oak Creek in the Willamette River basin. Oak Creek originates in the Coastal mountain foothills and is a tributary to two water quality impaired waterways, Mary's River and Willamette River. In order to assess water quality and riparian vegetation interaction, we are installing monitoring equipment in various locations along the creek and at some sites within its contributing watershed. Stand-alone temperature sensors have been deployed to collect data on water temperature as well as ambient temperature. Soil moisture and groundwater monitoring stations were installed to look at stream-aquifer interactions as affected by agricultural land use. Multiple weather parameters to determine crop and riparian vegetation water uptake are being deployed. This study uses a systems-based approach to better understand multiple soil-water-vegetation relationships occurring in this at-risk riparian system. Expected project results will help producers, landowners, and other stakeholders make better informed decisions related to land management practices and their potential effects on water quality.



Bob Gillaspay discusses Kochia with a viewer

**Bob Gillaspay, NRCS (Vancouver, WA):** Poster - "Uses of Forage Kochia to Protect Intact Sagebrush Ecosystems in Oregon": Sagebrush ecosystems in Oregon are threatened by many different factors. These include annual grass invasion and wildfire. This poster explores the current literature to determine the potential for Forage Kochia to address threats from annual grass invasion and wildfire. It identifies some of the benefits and drawbacks of using Forage Kochia to protect sagebrush ecosystems in Oregon.

**John Williams, OSU Extension (Enterprise, OR):** Poster: - "Zumwalt Prairie & the Challenges of Elk Management": Zumwalt Prairie in Wallowa County, OR, is a privately owned 120,000 acre bunchgrass prairie, used primarily for livestock grazing. It is the southern half of the Wildlife Chesnimnus Management Unit. During the 1990's, 300-500 elk utilized the Prairie during summer and fall. In winter elk moved to lower elevation canyons on the national forest. By 2015, elk numbers increased to 3,890 with the majority of elk on the prairie all year. As elk increased on the Prairie, their numbers were stable to decreasing on the national forest, resulting in an overall increase to 5,500 elk by 2012. The Chesnimnus unit target population is 3500 with 2800 on public land and 700 on the private Prairie.

As elk numbers grew, the number of antlerless elk tags issued did not increase, primarily due to limited access and trespass complaints. In 2008, Zumwalt landowners formed a group to coordinate an increase of hunter access, add hunting seasons and tags, haze elk toward public lands and secure funds for elk-friendly fences and

crossings. The OR Dept. of Fish & Wildlife and landowners implemented new antlerless tags in 2009. With landowners allowing access and ODFW establishing increased tags, the number of elk on the Prairie is beginning to be reduced.

**Chad Boyd, EO Ag. Research Center (Burns, OR):** The title of my presentation was "Preemptive Management for Resilient Sagebrush Plant Communities to Reduce the Need for Restoration". For me, the highlight was the sagebrush restoration symposium and the strong interest shown in ongoing and past research conducted at the Burns location. This symposium was organized by **Kirk Davies**, and included 5 presentations on research conducted at Burns.

**Jeremy Maestas, NRCS (Portland) and Rick Miller, OSU (Corvallis):** We helped host a full day Pinyon-juniper symposium. All the presentations were recorded and are available for on-demand viewing through our Sage Grouse Initiative YouTube channel.

PJ Symposium info: <http://www.sagegrouseinitiative.com/conference-society-range-managements-annual-meeting-technical-training-trade-show/>

On-Demand presentation info: <http://www.sagegrouseinitiative.com/now-available-online-replay-scientific-presentations-woodland-expansion/>

**Carlos Ochoa, OSU (Corvallis):** This is an excerpt of my Utah presentation, "Stream Temperature Dynamics in a Semi-arid Riparian Ecosystem in North Central Oregon". We evaluated changes in stream temperature dynamics as affected by vegetation cover, stream flow, and stream-aquifer interactions along a riparian corridor in Wasco County. We installed multiple stream groundwater and ambient temperature sensors at selected locations along a 1 km reach. No significant changes in stream temperature were observed in shaded versus exposed sensor locations. Stream temperature fluctuations followed those from ambient temperature. Surface and subsurface flow contributions from an intermittent flow (spring season) tributary resulted in slight temperature changes in the creek. In the summer, subsurface flow temperature in the tributary was 10 degrees F cooler than subsurface flow temperature in the creek. Tributary subsurface flow contributions can result in cooler microclimate conditions at the confluence with the creek.



### **PNW "Heros"**

**Fred Hall** was recognized with PNW's Jim Brunner "In for the Long Haul" award last October, but Fred could not be with us. So-o-o-o, in January **John Buckhouse** and **Linda Hardesty** trooped to Portland to surprise Fred with his award. John wrote: "*Fred and Ginger were thrilled! What a pleasure to see them and to see their smiles as they thought back about Fred's career.*" Dr. Hall's pioneering work on forest ecosystems, grazing/browsing monitoring. . . and forest health have withstood the test of time and are still being used today. (ed. note: we have and still use the **Ground-based Photographic Monitoring** which **Fred**, **Will Keller** and **Don Gayton** presented at a 1997 PNW SRM workshop) *photo 8.*

**OSU Online Rangeland Science BS** is official. Thanks to **Yvette Gibson's** 5 years of teaching, **Bob Ehrhart's** pioneering work, and **Mike Borman's** devil's advocacy and support, the on-line program will be available to students near & far. Learn more: [yvette.gibson@oregonstate.edu](mailto:yvette.gibson@oregonstate.edu)

**Mary Jo Foley-Birrenkott**, our Corvallis based PNW Secretary, has joined the SRM Parent Society staff. She and **Vicky Trujillo** are receiving tremendous raves as they work together for SRM.



**Claudia Ingham** is the chair-elect of the SRM Targeted Grazing Committee.

**Kevin Guinn** is an SRM'er in retirement; you won't see him in June because he will be someplace on the 2,659 mile Pacific Crest Trail - on foot! He wants to share his adventure with children with fragile medical conditions, providing them an opportunity to attend Camp Korey in Washington. If you would like to help Kevin meet his goal of sending 4 children to camp, drop him a note: [penguinns@gmail.com](mailto:penguinns@gmail.com)

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**PNW Section Officers**

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

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