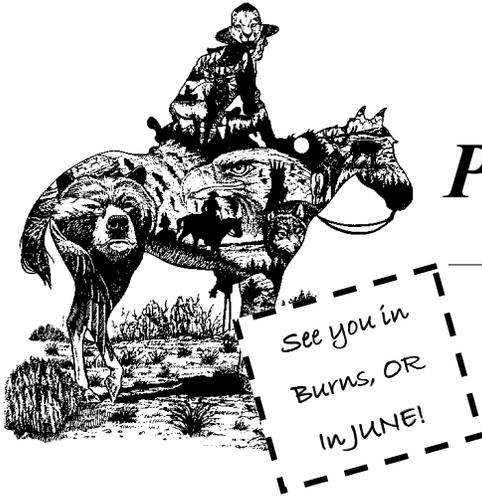


# Society for Range Management Pacific Northwest Section

Properly functioning ecosystems provide for long-term sustainability of watersheds, plants, animals and people  
Volume 66, Number 1 March 2015



## President's Message

Pete Schreder, Lakeview, Oregon

### President's Message

Pete Schreder, Lakeview, OR

For those of us that attend the annual meeting we are always challenged by Lynne to provide an "a-ha" moment. This year I find myself struggling to pick just one. My first was when I figured out how to use the meeting app on my smart phone. It was very handy in creating my daily conference schedule. Several other moments surfaced as I attended the outstanding presentations, producer forums, and even a few of the advisory council meetings. The one, however, that was the most meaningful to me was **Temple Grandin's** plenary presentation "**Different Minds Will be More Effective in Solving Problems**". As an extension educator I have the pleasure of working with so many different perspectives, and if we embrace that diversity of experience, perspective and knowledge, we realize that everyone processes information differently. Through this understanding we can often times learn from each other and attain more meaningful results.

We are privileged this year to have one of our own section members in the leadership role of our parent organization. Welcome and congratulations to **Pat Shaver, SRM President**. Pat's article has recapped some of the happenings at the annual meeting in Sacramento, so I will not duplicate his comments. Congratulations, also to **Will Keller** who received the well-earned **Outstanding Stewardship Award**. The meeting provided many fantastic presentations and the diversity of topics was outstanding. Attendance appeared to be up and it was good to see more agency participation at the conference. I always enjoy the synergy that is created by the annual conference and bringing together so many individuals that are passionate about their profession.

As we try to enjoy the idea of winter passing into spring, I think most of us in the Range Management profession have felt a bit humbled this year as the severe drought conditions remind us of those forces beyond our control. Even as science moves beyond where our grandparents probably ever imagined, we still are fundamentally at the mercy of Mother Nature. That said; we've seen droughts come and go before, and we will see them come and go again. We're not perfect, but I do think we've done a pretty good job with

a drought management (or maybe drought coping) message to our ranching colleagues, our public stakeholders, as well as among ourselves as range professionals and academics. Every trying time is also a learning experience as well, albeit this has been an expensive one for some folks. Still nothing eases our worries like a good soaking rain or heavy snow. We will keep hoping for a wet spring.

With spring on the horizon we are gearing up for our **PNW field workshop June 15<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup>, in Burns, Oregon**. We will be at the OSU Ag Research Center, with access to many top rangeland scientists and their cutting- edge research. This meeting will provide an outstanding learning experience, so please plan to join us. The agenda is being finalized and you may register by mail or on the PNW section website very soon.

Sincerely,

Pete

pete.schreder@oregonstate.edu



EOU Students Enjoying Dr. Temple Grandin in Sacramento

NEWSLETTER

# 2015 Annual Society for Range Management Meeting

February 1st-6th, Sacramento, California

## Getting Students on the Range

In July 2012, **Tom Bedell's** dying wish was that students could travel to International SRM meetings. To that goal, he and his wife Gretchen Bencene, gifted \$40,000 to PNW Section, making \$10,000 available for 4 years to assist with travel. To support students throughout PNW, the funds would be divided equitably between the schools, based on number of students attending and their individual efforts to raise funds. **How many students went to Sacramento?** Thompson Rivers University, two; Oregon State University six. Eastern Oregon University seven.

To this, **Joe Wagner, Lakeview, OR**, added, *"I want to get the kids there without their having to scramble so much for \$\$\$, and to be able to eat more than crackers once they get there. My 'Sacramento nugget' was being able to give some financial support to the three university Range Clubs."*

**Marguerite Fitzpatrick, Milwaukie, OR**, daughter of SRM charter member **Robert W. Harris**, gave a generous donation to PNW section, and that helps us help students. Her father graduated from U. of Idaho in 1941, served in the Marine Corps 1942-46, then began a professional career which took him to Oregon, Colorado, Utah, California and Washington D.C. Saying *"My Dad was my hero and always will be,"* she sent her donation in memory of her father.

**PNW SRM annually awards one \$1000 scholarship** to a student pursuing a career in natural resource or range management or related science. The 2014 winner was **Mary Jo Foley, OSU**. She writes:

*Dear PNW Society of Rangeland Management,*  
*As fall term concludes, I want to personally thank you for the support you gave through the PNW scholarship. Being a self-supported Master's student, your assistance was greatly appreciated for mitigating some of my tuition expenses.*

*During the fall term, I was able to take classes in Rangeland Restoration, agricultural Education, Environmental Policy & Law, while working as a teaching assistant for an agricultural leadership course. I had incredibly valuable experiences in these*

*courses that lead to the determination of my program of study to focus in the three areas of Rangeland Ecology & Management, Wildland Fire Ecology, and Agricultural Education. I finalized my Master's Research paper to pertain to the subject of spreading awareness of the impacts of fire suppression in Western juniper encroached systems.*

*I could not have accomplished all of these endeavors this term without your support, and I am so deeply appreciative. Once again, thank you so very much for selecting me as your candidate for the PNW scholarship. Sincerely, Mary Jo Foley*

## Sacramento Nuggets

*Highlights or a-ha moments from some folks who were there*

**Teal Purrington, Madras, OR:** *"We have gold in them thar up-and-coming SRMers!"* I sat in on some HSYF presentations and was really impressed with the thought and effort they put into their presentations, and with their camaraderie and cooperative spirit. These folks are great assets both to the SRM and to the rangeland resource!

**Cheyenne Young, Prineville OR:** I represented Oregon at the **High School Youth Forum (HSYF)**. My life has been heavily influenced by agriculture and the outdoors. Growing up in 4-H and FFA, my aptitude for it came naturally. While attending the High Desert Youth Range Camp near Burns, OR., I was selected for the HSYF. In Sacramento, all HSYF delegates gave a natural resource presentation. Mine was on the wolf in the U.S. and the positive impact they can have on the environment. I was nominated for president of the HSYF, and came in second. HSYF was an eye-opening and life changing experience!

**Dan Denesiuk, TRU, Kamloops, BC:** As a grad student attending this year's SRM, I had the privilege of representing both my university and my province. I was lucky enough to watch several intriguing speakers, including the renowned **Dr. Temple Grandin** during the plenary session. I thoroughly enjoyed participating in two day-long field tours which showcased California's native grasslands, while our group discussed various range management concerns/solutions. During the second poster session, I presented my research and was able to network and receive valuable feedback regarding my work.

**Aaron Coelho, TRU:** With help from the **Tom Bedell travel fund**, I had the pleasure

*Continued on next page . . .*

of attending SRM 2015. It was both educational and fun. I especially enjoyed the technical session on rangeland hydrology and the Range to Plate dinner at the Old Sugar Mill. I gave the presentation on my own research. Audience feedback was invaluable; they asked difficult questions which inspired me to find the answers. Networking with passionate professionals and students led to stimulating conversations. SRM annual meetings are amazing events that create opportunities to travel, meet new people, and share ideas and information.

**LeeAnn Pallett, OSU, Corvallis, OR:** My SRM experience was amazing. I participated in the Plant ID and URME. Participating in both was a great opportunity for me to test what I have learned at Oregon State. During the mixer I joined several other schools and conversed with them on various topics from their campus and range programs, to what research they were working on. The most beneficial experience for me was the mock interview which gave me the opportunity to ask real questions during a face-to-face interview which will help me build my resume and interview skills.

**Jolene Heintz, EOU, La Grande, OR:** I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity I was given to attend the Society for Range Management conference for 2015 as a college student. It presented a unique experience to interact with a diverse array of students and industry professionals from across the nation. The conference gave the chance for myself as a student to hear and see what is available in the range industry after graduation and current research that is being done in the field.

**Mike Eytchison, EOU:** This was my first year attending SRM. While in Sacramento I attended lectures on topics such as Energy Development and Ecosystem Services and to a symposium on Understanding the Cattle Industry for Rangeland Conservation. It is an excellent venue for Students, Faculty, and Range Management professionals to meet and discuss current research and topics affecting rangelands. Thank you for the opportunity!

**Janelle McIntosh, EOU:** SRM once again has proven to be a great experience! With many opportunities to speak with potential employers from the various agencies and many great talks it was an educational trip. I am grateful to have had the experience to go again this year

**Shanda Zettle, EOU:** 2015 SRM in Sacramento was wonderful! I met lots of great people, re-connected with some old friends, and learned many new interesting

topics for managing for diversity. I loved the **Temple Grandin** presentation in the plenary session and also found many other symposiums very interesting. Looking forward to next year!

**Andrea Balch, EOU:** This is my third year going to SRM and I have enjoyed every minute of it. It has been a great way to connect to other students, professionals and jobs in the field of rangeland. As I move into my career, I will continue to be a part of SRM in some way, shape or form. I highly encourage students in agricultural programs to participate in SRM.

**Shawn McKay, EOU:** Although the meeting was a weeklong event, the time flew by. As a first time attendee I was impressed with the structure and the overwhelming attendance of the event. I enjoyed the detailed discussions explaining the current research that is taking place in the field. As an emerging Range scientist, the talks were informative and inspiring for me to continue on my path as a Range ecologist. I arrived as a student and left as a member of SRM. I hope to achieve lifelong member status while continuing to contribute to this valuable field of science known as Range Management.

**Lesley Morris, La Grande:** I am so proud to have participated in the Society for Range Management meetings this year as the Faculty Advisor for the Range Club from the OSU Ag and Natural Resources Program in La Grande. Our student participation this year doubled from last year! Also, we had two students who presented undergraduate research in an oral and a poster session. As always, I saw old friends and made new contacts. It is fun to see all of the students do the same. I am very grateful to the **Bedell Family** for their support of student travel to these meetings. It is making a big difference!

**Courtney Smith, Clarkston/Lewiston, ID:** The highlight of my convention trek was taking my mother, age 96, to the meeting. She may or may not have been at the Newhouse Hotel in 1948, but she has been to many of these meetings over the years. She was pleased to see some old faces which we hope that she recalled.

**Gene Fults, Vancouver, WA:** A comment in the Collaborative Adaptive Landscape Management session (Bestelmeyer) was that Adaptive Management works best if feedbacks are fast. But if the conditions change slow, how do you keep people interested and focused? A comment in the California Coalition session (Brenda Smith High Desert

*Continued on next page . . .*

## Sacramento Nuggets *Continued....*

Partnership – Harney County) was that when the foresters left the forest in the 1980s, management left also. The resulting overstocking led to wildfire prone areas. In the Range Ecology session (Kent McAdoo) the long-term effects of wildfire in Nevada created habitat conditions favorable for White-Tailed Jack Rabbit versus the Black-Tailed Jack Rabbit on Mountain big sagebrush sites. The nugget...

Membership in SRM annually reminds me that I am likely to have only one opportunity in a 30-40 year career to impact a piece of rangeland and I must focus knowledge of rangeland's time scale to allow for that management result to be positive.

**Mike Borman, Corvallis, OR:** We had another great turnout of OSU and PNW Section members and alums at the 2015 SRM annual meeting. I did not attempt a head count, but we had a full room at the OSU/PNW Section social on Monday evening. Students from Corvallis, La Grande, and Kamloops represented us well. Wendy Gardner, Maureen Malenstyn and I were on the "Invasive Species Management and Challenges" field tour. The California tour guides did an excellent job of describing weed issues and management, including grazing, strategies. It was a very different environment than most of us have experienced. As we were driving home on Friday, northern California was receiving some badly needed rain, perhaps too much in one dump.

### **Maureen Malenstyn**

**(Wendy's Mum), Delta,**

**BC:** Of course one of the highlights of the event was the presentation by **Temple Grandin**. I think I was one of the few who had not heard of her. Even once at home in Canada, most of my friends knew of her - I don't know how I missed that one. Anyway, I rushed out to buy her book "**Animals in Transition**" and have just

started to read it. All of the sessions I went to were, as usual, most interesting, but I found the field trips the best – wine tour(!!!), ranch tour and evening at the Sugar Mill. I realized the Sugar Mill might have been

a sugar beet plant at one time, but Wendy's students questioned that. I was right, but they were not aware of the sugar beet industry being an integral part of US & Canadian agriculture. On the wine tour, Wendy and I discovered a Monty Python fan, Rob from Colorado, so we also showed him the "Stronger Beer" video. Great fun.

**John Buckhouse, Corvallis, OR:** Sacramento, like all SRM meetings was a delight! The standard, wonderful things happened: good fellowship, good food, good educational opportunities, but the innovative thing that the organizers did that I really liked, was to make the awards program more streamlined and pleasant for everyone. They alternated "student" awards with "adult" awards and held the rhetoric to the essentials; and the room remained full clear to the end!

**Carlos Ochoa, Corvallis, OR:** Besides meeting and greeting nice people during the conference, I attended a couple of sessions where producers showed some of their stories related to range management. I really enjoyed those talks. I know at the local/regional level the PNW section has been very successful in that regards, however, I would like to see those producer and/or collaborative (producer-agency, producer-university) efforts some more during the national meetings. I believe that would be very beneficial for SRM.

**Kevin Guinn, Ephrata, WA.** I went to Sacramento to attend 3 days of NRCS training, so was not able to sit in on any SRM activities. My nuggets: 1. I did get to see several PNW folks. It was great to catch up, and a good reminder that SRM is a "family". 2. We were told that EVERY Mediterranean climate in the world is an annual grassland. Excuse me, but further north in Oregon & Washington, with same Mediterranean climate, our rangeland is dominated by native perennial grasses & forb & shrubs. I was not satisfied with the response nor am I convinced that California never had perennial grasses.



*Maureen Malenstyn (Wendy's Mum) and Wendy Gardner on the Invasive Species Management & Challenges field tour.*

Photo by Mike Borman

### **Gene & Linda Hickman, Bend, OR:**

Consistent with the theme of "Managing Diversity", was the wide variety and diversity of subjects offered at Sacramento. The outstanding Plenary Session speakers, each with interesting topics, was a highlight of the week, especially the inspiring experiences and insights shared by **Dr. Temple Grandin**. There were many very pertinent technical field trips available,

*Continued on next page . . .*

and we certainly enjoyed the single day trip to an angus cattle ranch and native plant seed production farm. The parent society certainly did attendees a favor by providing a variety of papers on California in the October issue of "Rangelands", just prior to the winter meeting.

**Lauren Svejcar, Burns, OR:** There was an excellent session put on by the E. OR. Ag. Research Center. I stepped out of the room to take a phone call and was then unable to get back into the room. There was a small crowd of 10 people waiting in front of the door for people from within the session to come out in order for a chance to get in. *ed. note: the symposium "Protecting and Restoring the Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystem," was presented by a team of 9 Burns ARS staff and covered topics from recovery after juniper control to outreach and education.*

**Teal Purrington, Madras, OR:** Researchers in Burns, Oregon, found bunchgrasses are more likely to die in a fire when they're under a shrub than when not. Yet current federal policy to "protect" sage grouse urges us to prevent fire to increase shrubs. The nugget I walked away with was, if we keep excluding fire to increase shrubs, we'll end up with fewer bunchgrasses and ultimately fewer shrubs, too.

**Lauren Connell, Burns, OR:** As a native Floridian, rangeland science is a new and exciting frontier. My exposure to range and rangeland management began in the high deserts of eastern Oregon at the E. OR Agriculture Experiment Station, in Burns. Traveling to, and participating in the 2015 SRM expanded my knowledge and appreciation for the ground-breaking scientific research aimed at conserving and managing our working rangelands. I was especially impressed with the stewardship by ranchers and producers and innovative approaches to maintaining healthy rangelands. They truly are the guardians of our ranges!

*Editor's note: seeing how many folks commented on Dr. Temple Grandin, we "allowed" Maura to share more with you!*

**Maura Laverty, Baker City, OR:** The highlight of the meeting was getting to hear **Dr. Temple Grandin** at the Plenary session, addressing "Different diverse minds will be more effective in problem solving." I have admired and followed her teachings for years. She spoke about how people with different approaches to problem solving can complement each other's skills to do innovative research and solve problems. She referred to visual thinkers versus quantitative mathematical

thinkers. She discussed the research that shows that these different types of thought processes are real. She hoped her talk would help both research scientists and people in the field to understand each other and work together more effectively. She also discussed how visual thinking helped her understand animal behavior. For those who don't know her, Dr. Grandin has autism and is a Professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University.

I really liked the idea of changing the technical tours to Wednesday from Friday. I had more incentive to attend and they were reasonable priced (\$20 with lunch). I chose to attend the "Grazing for National Security and Conservation" tour. We were given authorization to tour Beale AFB and learn how cattle grazing is utilized for national security and conservation in California. The day began with an hour drive north of the Convention Center through the heart of California's Sacramento Valley, seeing a diversity of intensive agriculture along the route. The tour traversed through Beale Air Force Base with stops at restoration sites that are grazed to reduce invasive species and fire potential, static aircraft on display, and a German POW Camp. We enjoyed a warm, hearty, home-cooked meal before heading off to the second stop at a Placer Land Trust preserve. This tour featured grazing program managers, ranchers and ecologists—all part of a balancing act to enhance the ecological diversity of California rangelands in conjunction with maintaining profitable ranching operations.

I loved the Mobile App! It was very handy and user friendly. The weather was gorgeous and our 12-14 hour drive from Oregon was uneventful both ways, which is unheard of since we traveled over Donner Pass with no snow.

*There has been a glitch in sending SRM renewal notices for the past 4-5 months. Result: 69 of you need to re-new now! Please take a moment to check your membership at <http://srm.allenpress.com/srm/>*

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*You can do it in about 5 minutes.*

## Sacramento "Gold"

*Pat Shaver, President, The Society for Range Management, Monmouth, OR.* plshaver@gmail.com

What a great annual meeting of the Society for Range Management! The Cal-Pac section folks really put on a well organized and full meeting for us. I hope that all who were able to attend enjoyed the technical and scientific exchange, the networking, the social opportunities and the weather. The final tally is not yet in, but this promises to be one of the most financially successful meetings in several years. While that is a very good thing for the Society, we are still struggling with many internal issues, especially membership. During the past year, our membership has been in the range of 2500 – 2900. While that is low compared to some years past, it seems to have stabilized, and hopefully will be on the rise in the near future. Our very own **Sandy Wyman** is heading a 'Membership Action Forum' focusing on student/new graduate members and agency employees. Her group is looking hard at ways to encourage these two groups to join and/or continue their membership and involvement in the Society. This effort is taking place at the same time as a Membership Service Task Force, chaired by Ken Fulgham, that is looking at what and how SRM provides services to its members. Please contact me, Sandy or Ken with any ideas or concerns about membership opportunities.

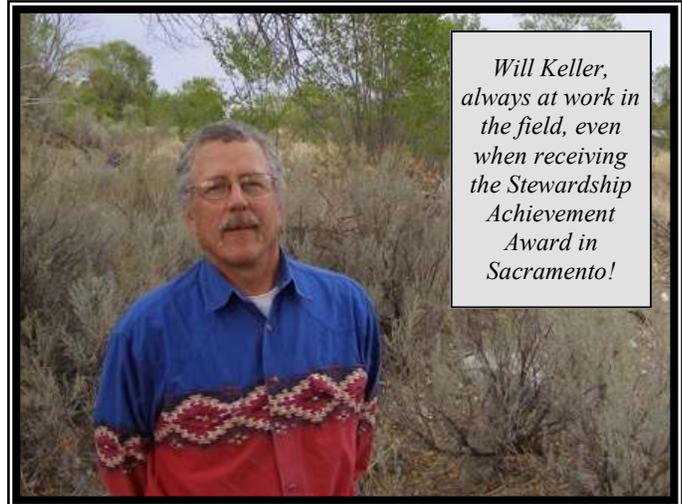
If you were able to attend the annual meeting, you undoubtedly noticed a much larger presence of federal employee attendance than in the past 3 or 4 years. That was due mostly to the past year's efforts to work with the agencies to design and conduct specific training elements requested by the agencies. This practice promises to become a viable mechanism to increase relevance of the society to the agencies, provide needed science and technical training to employees and increase attendance at meetings and hopefully membership in the Society. This may also provide a template for some section activities. A main thrust this year of the Board of Directors will be to increase relevance and visibility of the Society to the agencies and the interested public. Please let me know of ideas you may have to promote this effort.

We are involved in several subject matter areas with many partners across North America. These include the Xth International Rangeland Congress to be held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in the summer of 2016, the Native American Council, the Wild Horse and Burro Coalition, and the Sage Grouse Initiative. Check out our web page and other social media tools to learn what is going on. We are also in the process of developing an RFP for a new website, watch for changes to occur this fall. Speaking of

social media, check out our twitter page and search #respectontherange to view stories or post you own positive range stories.

I hope you all have a rewarding year in all your endeavors and are able to learn from and enjoy your association with the Pacific Northwest Section of the Society for Range Management. If I can help you achieve that, or if you have ideas to improve what the Society does, please contact me.

### Three Cheers in Sacramento!! by **John Buckhouse**, PNW SRM Awards Chair



Cheers & congratulations to **Will Keller, Okanogan, WA.**, who received the Outstanding Achievement Award for Stewardship. As a long-time employee of NRCS, and a long-time member of SRM, Will has proved his mettle repeatedly over the years. He has provided technical help to landowners and agency personnel in vegetation monitoring, vegetation management, and erosion control. He worked hard to establish Coordinated Resources Management (CRM) throughout his region. Will has a winning way with people and is well schooled in conflict resolution. He has been wildly successful in making thousands of acres more productive, better managed and functional in terms of wildlife and watershed due to his ability to bring people together on behalf of the resource.

As a PNW SRM member, Will has been a section officer, AND has been instrumental in the success of two annual meetings of the International SRM: committee chair for 2006 in Vancouver, BC and as one of the Three Amigos who co-chaired the full 2012 meeting in Spokane, WA. **Will Keller cares, and is a man of his word.**

## Looking Ahead....

*Save the Date* for the PNW SRM Fall Meeting, Training and Tour, scheduled for Wednesday evening, September 16 through Friday, September 18 in Richland, Washington. Richland lies in south central Washington at the confluence of the Columbia and Yakima Rivers. The area was central to the Army during WWII when it purchased a relatively isolated 640 square miles along the Columbia River's Hanford Reach as a security buffer for one of several Manhattan Project sites developing the nuclear bomb. Much of that land is now the Hanford Reach National Monument. The Fall Meeting and Tour promises sunny skies, rich history, arid rangelands, waterfowl habitat, and great company. We'll visit Barker Ranch, a private operation using cattle as a tool to manage waterfowl habitat; learn about the area's complex of wildlife refuges, meet several of the rangeland ecologists who did research on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in the post war era; learn of Native American cultural and spiritual concerns regarding Hanford Reach; and visit the Reach for its vistas, rangeland ecology, and free flowing Columbia River.

***Save the dates: September 16-18.***

## PNW Section Officers

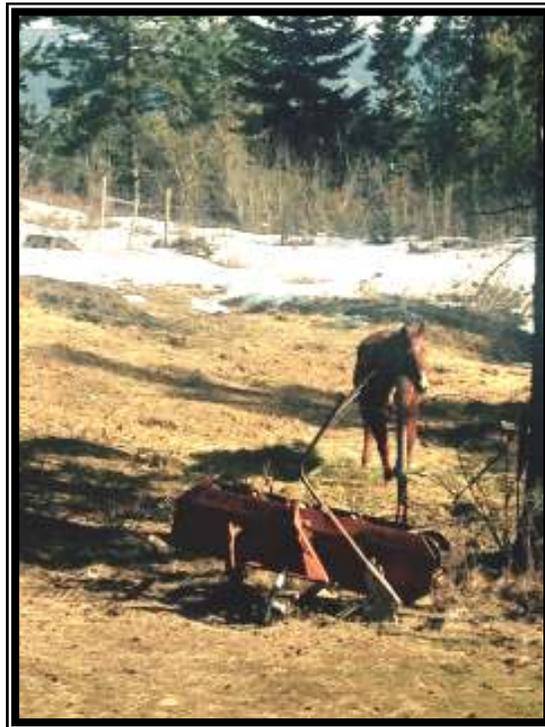
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## Calendar of Events

**June 15-17, 2015**  
 PNW SRM Section  
 Summer Workshop, Burns, OR

**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



*BC snow pack is less than desired, but better than the snow pack in WA & OR. Meteorologists anticipate a lack of moisture on PNW rangelands for the coming year. This early March photo by Vic Wright features his horse Cheyenne, on the uplands above Armstrong, BC.*

*Returning from Sacramento SRM, Kurt Moffitt, Redmond, OR, headed to the field to do snow surveys. The amount of water was at 10 percent of average for this time of year. "Ouch", said Kurt!*

**PNW Section, Society for Rangeland Management**

Newsletter Editor

C/O John & Lynne Breese

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