

Society for Range Management Pacific Northwest Section

Properly functioning ecosystems provide for long-term sustainability of watersheds, plants, animals and people
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President's Message

Tim Ross

Wise people told me to write my first President's Address immediately after the Kamloops meeting. I'd have taken their advice, but outgoing President Mike Borman handed me the gavel - and a large file box "which you'll want to explore". Besides, I didn't want this to be dated.

Back in December I was reviewing precipitation records. As the yearly total had not been compiled, a discussion of the annual precipitation was not possible. As usual, monthly precipitation rarely equaled the long-term averages, so a concise statement was difficult. The total to date was below average, and we were well into December with no rain or snow. I was tempted to write "third consecutive year of below-average annual precipitation", but managed to restrain myself. A wise choice - enough rain and snow fell between then and the New Year to push 2002 annual precipitation to 115% of the long-term average.

As a result, I began wondering about the climate change theories and predictions of extreme weather events that are so prevalent in the news. I didn't search out this Mark Twain quote; it just landed in my lap. "Sometimes we have winter all summer and summer all winter. It's mighty regular about not raining, though."

His words provide some context for today's weather patterns, and for other events. While the popular press is full of climate change stories, it would seem the weather was extreme in Twain's day also. Similarly, topics such as "the changing face of the west" or "the urbanization of the west" or "cows versus condos" are recurring themes in the popular press and even in our own publication *Rangelands*. We as Society members are on a "Journey to Change". Come to think about it, did we ever imagine we weren't?

Times are changing, but the land, the people, and the products from the land are not. Marty Vavra asked in a recent TBN, "Did we not see this coming or did we resist change and get it forced upon us?" I don't believe in change for change sake, or having change forced upon us. I do believe we need to constantly evolve as a Society. To do our jobs as well as we can, most of us constantly upgrade our technical knowledge. We also need to keep pace with the many other factors that affect our daily duties.

I believe the land use ethic espoused by SRM should not change; I think we could improve our delivery. The Society has never been the "go-to" society when the media needs a quote or clarification. The call goes to an environmental or conservation organization that understands mass communication better than SRM does. One of our objectives is "To create a public appreciation of the economic and social benefits to be obtained from the range environment." That might mean an advertising budget, designated spokespersons, press releases, or even the dreaded infomercial. If we want to be in the game, that is how it is played these days. We need to get our message out, and thereby gain respect for our Society and its principles.

Maybe we shouldn't view change as something to be frightened of or resist. Maybe some of what we view as change, whether it is in the political world or the natural world, is part of an ebb and flow that simply takes a longer time frame to play out. As our section president from 2000, John Breese, likes to say, "Take the long view."

Keep having fun!
Tim Ross

NEWSLETTER

A Toast to 2002 PNW Members of Distinction

Trail Boss

Dr. Albert van Ryswyk

Dr. Albert van Ryswyk, long term member and supporter of the Society for Range Management, has served as Director and President of both the British Columbia Chapter and the Pacific Northwest Section.

Dr. van Ryswyk received a PhD in soils and agronomy with a minor in botany at Washington State University in 1969. He had a long and successful career as a research scientist at the Agriculture Canada Range Research Station in Kamloops, British Columbia. Al worked extensively on soil fertility of rangelands, cultivated soils, and wetlands. He published numerous scientific papers and frequently gave presentation and keynote speeches across North America. His influence has extended beyond western Canada across the nation, into the United States and abroad.

Dr. van Ryswyk retired from Agriculture Canada in 1996. Al then undertook numerous consulting projects, willingly provided his expertise on many field trips and workshops, and remained a dedicated member of the SRM—attending most functions at all levels (Chapter, Section, and International).

Dr. Albert van Ryswyk is recognized for his devotion to his professional society and for his professional expertise. With great admiration and respect he is the worthy recipient of the Pacific Northwest Section, Society for Range Management's highest recognition: THE TRAIL BOSS AWARD.

Due to illness, Dr. van Ryswyk was not present to receive his Trail Boss Award in Kamloops BC, during the Section Annual Meeting, October 4th. It was presented to his wife, Awilda, who said, "Until today, he expected to be present tonight". Al van Ryswyk died November 19, 2002. "A real gentleman and an outstanding resource scientist is gone. Van was at his best (as a passenger) on the countless range trips giving informative outlines of the geological history and associated ecosystem changes in BC, Alberta, Washington and Oregon. Van would get so wrapped up in what he was doing, he forgot all about going home for hours, and sometimes days, requiring some very innovative explanations!" – Don Blumenauer & Alf Bawtree

Exemplary Service

Andrea Mann

Andrea Mann has worked tirelessly for the Pacific Northwest Section. She has served on most committees and activities, held several offices and served as one of the outstanding Presidents of the Section.

Noteworthy within this long and successful record of service, however, is Ms. Mann's unflagging and continuing interest in youth activities and affairs. Andrea Mann has become the "go-to" person on all things associated with youth in our Section. Andrea has organized student plant identification exams as a preparatory exercise for students who go on to compete at the parent society-plant ID contest. She has coordinated the Student Affairs Committee and its activities for years. She chairs the Scholarship Committee. She hosts the PNW student breakfast and careers network each year. In addition, Andrea has recently agreed to co-chair, along with Mike McInnis, the Student Activities Committee for the SRM 2006 Annual meeting to be sponsored by the PNW Section in Vancouver, BC.

Andrea Mann is a dedicated, thoughtful person whose interest in helping others extends into every aspect of her personal and professional life. We are impressed with her tireless efforts, her caring nature, and her considerable skill. It is with pleasure that the Pacific Northwest Section of the Society for Range Management recognizes Ms. Andrea Mann with its Exemplary Service Award.

PNW Headliners

Congratulations to PNW SRM's New Officers

During the Kamloops Annual Meeting, results of the 2002 election were announced. Accepting the gavel as PNW 2003 President, **Tim Ross** said, "Our SRM meetings have to be the best. I've been a member since 1984 – and I've evolved. We will keep evolving. If you are not having fun (as we evolve), please let me know!" **Will Keller** will lead us as PNW Section 1st Vice-president and will be President in 2004. Due to the resignation of **Jim Tiedeman** who accepted an assignment with International Center for Agricultural Research in Syria, the 1st VP election was a special election. **Kevin Guinn** was elected 2nd Vice-president and will work his way to President in 2005. **Darren Bruhjell** and **Dana Peterson** were elected to three-year terms as Section Directors.

National Program Leader for Rangeland Resources

Raising the visibility of rangelands and rangeland resources is one task assigned to OSU's **Dr. John Buckhouse** under a new appointment. While remaining at OSU, 20% of his time will be as National Program Leader for Rangeland Resources for the USDA's Cooperative States Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES). "Commuting" to Washington, DC and other locations for this one-year assignment, John's task will include work to 1) upgrade extension funding; 2) establish liaison with other USDA and Dept. of Interior agencies to raise the visibility of rangelands and rangeland resources; and 3) craft a job description leading to hiring a full-time permanent National Program Leader for Rangeland Resources. At a time when rangeland management is competing with "multiple uses", it is refreshing news to see emphasis on the resource that rangeland is.

PGE Employee Volunteer Award

Robert Marheine again receives a \$500 PGE Employee Volunteer Grant for the PNW Section SRM! "This is one way PGE recognizes the community spirit of our employees and the great accomplishments of your organization." Applying for the grant, Robert said the award "would be seed money for fund raising for the 2006 International SRM Annual Meeting, hosted by the PNW Section in Vancouver, B.C. Tankards with the SRM logo are being made and circulated to build enthusiasm and participation. Robert, a wildlife biologist with Portland General Electric, is a C.O.R member and part of your newsletter production team.

OSU's Rangeland Resources Department to Remain

On Friday, January 24, 2003, Oregon State University's Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences announced that he was reversing an earlier decision to eliminate the Department of Rangeland Resources due to budgetary reasons. The Dean received a great deal of input from faculty, students, clients, constituents, friends, and other concerned citizens about the decision. He stated that all parties involved share a goal to "continue to deliver excellent quality programs in rangeland resources and rangeland ecology," but that "differences have arisen over how best to achieve that." The reversal means the Department will now have budget cuts in keeping with cuts that other departments in the college are sustaining; and the Dean and others will develop an advisory group to insure future lines of communication are open and functional, and to develop a shared vision (by Jan. 2004) for the rangeland resources and rangeland ecology programs at OSU.

Read All About It

One, two, three, FOUR (4) PNW SRM presidents (past & present) are mentioned in '99 President **Don Gayton**'s article for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation's May-June 2002 *Bugle*. "Beyond the Trench Wars: Resolving Elk-Cattle Conflicts in the Canadian Rockies" highlights 1975 work by "a small package from Oregon" – **Bill Anderson** ('57 PNW President and '62 President of the parent Society) – who "introduced a revolutionary land-use planning concept known as Coordinated Resource Management Planning (CRMP). Later, fundamental research by '03 President **Tim Ross** proved Anderson's forage conditioning theory. **Maurice Hansen**, '01 President and rancher-philosopher "sees the current interest in habitat restorations as the payoff for sticking with the grass issue for decades". Watch for an essay on this essay in the next letter!

If you haven't read your December '02 *Rangelands*, do it now. SEE pages 17 –33. Three (3) articles by Section President **Tim Ross** and Brian Wikeem discuss plant succession, long-term range reference areas and forage allocation. Look at the credits and you will see at least a half dozen other PNW members! It is good reading and it is relevant to the range management which all of us are doing. Say, isn't there a "penalty" for getting so much limelight? Perhaps Tim owes us one??

Seeding Our Future

Student Affairs Activities

For student activity information, questions, suggestions or names, please contact:

Andrea Mann, PNW SRM Student Affairs Chair

102 S. Wilson St., Wenatchee, WA 98801-2526

Phone: h: (509) 663-6670, or E-mail: mannandrea@aol.com

Student Activities at Kamloops

Students at the Kamloops Fall Section Meeting were fun, full of questions, and busy! If you weren't already wearing a WSU *Eat My Grass* t-shirt, you soon were. They must have taken a course in marketing and sales, for they applied good sales skills on all of us! Dollars earned helped them travel to Casper.

The \$500 PNW SRM Undergraduate Scholarship was earned by **Sarah Troutman, WSU**.

Winning the plant ID contest earned an SRM Membership for UCC's* **Shawna Sangster**.

The **Silent Auction** held at the Kamloops meeting raised \$1000.00! Eighty percent of that supports student travel to international meetings; 20% supports the Section Endowment Fund.

Lavona Liggins, auction coordinator, says, "Thanks to everyone who brought & bought a great selection of auction items!"

Scholarship Applications Due

Undergraduates in range management or natural resources at a B.C., OR, or WA school who will remain an undergraduate in this field the following school year, can apply for the \$500 Undergraduate Scholarship. Selection is based on academic standing, leadership, activities and financial need. Applications are due to the academic Department Head of their school by **March 15**. Submit letter detailing background and professional goals, transcript, two letters of reference (one from an SRM member).

High School Youth Forum

High school youth from throughout the U.S. attend the Youth Forum at International meetings. They participate in student conclave, paper and poster presentations. Students are exposed to rangeland resource issues, colleges and professionals working throughout the world. Do you know students or teachers who could promote the Forum?

"Prepare for 2004 by calling Andrea today!"

Student Mentoring Program

Are you interested in mentoring a student or being mentored by a professional?

Are you looking for hands on experience working in a natural resources field?

Please send your name, address, E-mail, phone number, time of year, length of time, potential projects or specialty area to Andrea Mann. We will provide the list to colleges and university contacts in our Section and match up professionals with students. Thanks for mentoring a student. You will touch their lives forever!!

UCC –University College of the Cariboo is named after a large interior area of British Columbia. During the 1800's rush, when gold was found throughout "the Cariboo", Barkerville was the largest town north of San Francisco. Thanks, **Jane Skelton, PAg District Agrologist, Range, 100 Mile House Forest District, for this "wee bit of history"!*

Another Day in the Field

By Darren Brumback

While based in Prineville, OR, Darren, an active SRM member, was a key presenter when urban groups traveled to Central Oregon. Always candid, Darren supports the concept that livestock grazing is compatible with maintenance or restoration of other resource values such as water quality and fish & wildlife habitat. Visitors exclaimed, “This isn’t what we read in the newspapers”. After a stint with NMFS, Darren relocated to Burns, OR

I would like to share a recent event associated with some of your favorite rangeland resource management topics – Clean Water Act (CWA), Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Wilderness Study Areas (WSA). Blurting out such obscenities and, of course, the appropriate acronyms, you already realize that I am a government fisheries biologist. Therefore, before we go any further, I must say that any misconceptions are my own fault; the perspectives discussed are not intended to be that of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) or the Society for Range Management (SRM) – damn, there I go again with the acronyms.

I was requested by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to assemble a BLM interdisciplinary team to assess riparian vegetation community and potential for a stream identified as “water quality limited” – CWA, 303(d) List. The individual, an aquatic ecologist, flavored the request by stating something to the effect that we (BLM) could participate in the on-the-ground discussion, or DEQ could come up with the “numbers”. Another alternative was for the BLM fisheries biologist and DEQ aquatic ecologist to do the assessment on their own – a thought that makes most private and public range managers shiver in their boots. This was all the encouragement necessary to recruit two Rangeland Resource Management Specialists (formerly Range cons), a botanist and the fire ecologist.

Bolting for the stream, I stared in awe at three distinct age classes of woody riparian vegetation, complexes of aspen, cottonwood and willow, interspersed with blue-grass, segregated along a single stream reach. Gaping across the landscape, the density of the age-classes was obvious. True to form, the range and fire ecologists redirected our vision to the adjacent uplands – I once heard a rancher refer to this as the riparian two-step. Language barrier aside, (“capability”, “potential”, “advanced ecological status”, “steady-stable-state”), discussion focused on the upland vegetation and the direction that it was heading. The legacy of perennial grassland conversion to big sagebrush, existence and persistence of cheatgrass, and alteration of fire-frequency were presented. Capitalizing on the discussion, the apparent need was to reverse the trend – “Let’s change the upland vegetation community and reduce the fire frequency to protect and ‘restore’ the riparian community”. They talked about concepts of disrupting fuel continuity, seeding native and desirable non-native vegetation, and eventually re-establishing a desirable upland vegetation community. Thoughts of capture, storage and beneficial release of water, dynamic equilibrium of both upland and riparian vegetation communities, recovery of the “threatened” Lahontan cutthroat trout, and restoration of water quality began to whirl in my brain. -- SLAP!!! – We’re in the middle of a Wilderness Study Area. My vision turned to despair – I imagined myself packing 1,000’s of pounds of “native” seed across the desert landscape (from the county road and through the weeds) to a team of wilderness friendly horses wearing diapers, and the likely failure of the “native” seeding to withstand the competition of the cheatgrass (and worse, the diffuse knapweed) and the effects of the altered fire interval.

We went back to the office.

Darren.Brumback@or.blm.gov

Update from the SRM at Vancouver in 2006 Committee

John Buckhouse and Bob France, General Co-Chairs

During the Annual Meeting in Oct. 2002, we were thrilled at the overwhelming response and enthusiasm of members of the Pacific Northwest Section. The number of volunteers, the outpouring of ideas, and the obvious sense of pride and fun which our group offered bodes well for an interesting, successful, and enjoyable meeting. We (John and Bob) have agreed to send a regular update on the evolution of this planning process to be shared in our PNW newsletter.

We are organized with an Executive Committee, and all other committees fall under the auspices of this Committee. There are ten people on the Executive Committee. Each will serve as a leader(s) for the one of the sub-committees. In successive "updates" we will outline other committees and their leadership.

If anyone is interested in a specific job and/or volunteering for the pool of members who will be molded into the larger framework, contact either of us---we would love to hear from you!

At the Casper SRM meeting the Executive Committee met with Ann Harris of the SRM Denver office to bring us current on hotel contracts, registration procedures, etc.

Executive Committee:

General Co-Chairs:

John Buckhouse, Department of Rangeland Resources, OSU, Corvallis, OR 97331. (541) 737-1629. John.c.buckhouse@oregonstate.edu

Bob France, BC Ministry of Food & Fisheries, 4607 23rd St., Vernon, B.C. V1T 4K7. (250) 260-3007. Bob.France@gems4.gov.bc.ca

Program Co-Chairs:

Rick Miller, EOARC-Burns Experiment Station, 67826-A Hwy 205, Burns, OR 97720. (541) 573-2064. Rick.miller@oregonstate.edu

Bill Krueger, Department of Rangeland Resources, OSU, Corvallis, OR 97731. (541) 737-1615. William.c.krueger@oregonstate.edu

Local Arrangements Co-Chairs:

Mike Borman, Department of Rangeland Resources, OSU, Corvallis, OR 97331. (541) 737-1614. Michael.borman@oregonstate.edu

Cindy Meays, University of Victoria, April-August: 3771 Commonage Place, Vernon, BC, V1T 8M5. (250) 260-1706. Sept-March: 1665 Derby Rd. Victoria, BC. V8P 1T9. (250) 592-1706. Meaysc@hotmail.com

Student Affairs Co-Chairs:

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Mike McInnis, OSU Agr. Program, 204 Zabel Hall, EOU, LaGrande, OR 97850. (541) 962-3812. Mmcinnis@eou.edu

Finance Office Co-Chairs:

Rex Harder, 45111 East Lake Ln., Sprague, WA 99032. (509) 257-2800. Harder@attglobal.net

Bob Leonard, 20203 Cherry Rd., Soap Lake, WA 98851. (509) 246-1959. Bleonard@tnc.org

PNW Section Officers

President	Tim Ross	250-427-4319	Director	Rob Dinwoodie	250-549-7210
1 st Vice Pres.	Will Keller	509-422-2750	Director	Dana Peterson	509-662-6951
2 nd Vice Pres.	Kevin Guinn	509-754-3553	Director	Darren Bruhjell	250-377-0080
Past President	Michael Borman	541-737-1614	Membership	Michael Fisher	541-923-6955
Secretary	Mike Malmberg	250-426-1535	Student Affairs	Andrea Mann	509-663-6670
Treasurer	Craig Obermiller	541-923-2777	Awards	John Buckhouse	541-737-1629
Director	Kendall Derby	541-987-2108	Newsletter Eds.	Lynne Breese	541-447-6762
Director	Craig Madsen	509-725-4181		e-mail jlbreese@prinetime.net	
Director	Rex Harder	509-257-2800		Teal Purrington	541-923-6924

PNW Chapter Officers

British Columbia	Don Blumenauer	Okanagan Washington	Richard Fleenor
Central Oregon	Michael Fisher	Panorama Washington	Ellen Picard
Mid-Columbia WA	Dana Peterson	Southern Oregon	Les Boothe

**PNW SRM “Summer” Workshop 2003
Livestock management for fisheries habitat:
A collaborative approach**

You won't want to miss this workshop, held **April 28-30** in Prineville Oregon. It will bring together researchers and public and private land managers for 8 hours of presentations and panel discussions, plus two field tours.

Register by April 1 (no joke!)

Upcoming Events

- April 1-2, 2003 Repairing Pacific Northwest Rangelands – Reality checks and realistic tools. Spokane WA, <http://ext.nrs.wsu.edu/> Cohosted by **PNW SRM** and others.
- April 28-30, 2003 **PNW SRM** “Summer” Meeting and Field Workshop, co-hosted with the American Fisheries Society, Prineville, OR (see enclosed brochure)
- Autumn 2003 **PNW SRM** Annual Meeting and Field Workshop, Washington
- November 2003 Noxious Weed Control through Multi-Species Grazing regional conference
- Summer 2004 **PNW SRM** Summer Meeting and Field Workshop, BC
- Autumn 2004 **PNW SRM** Annual Meeting, Oregon
- February 2006 **SRM** Annual Meeting, Vancouver, B.C., hosted by PNW Section

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

Want to alert members to an upcoming event? Tell us who your Chapter president is? Give us your new address? Brag about another member's contribution to range management? Tell us a story? Call, write, or E-mail the Newsletter Editors! Our mailing address is at the bottom right corner of this page; phone numbers and E-mail are listed under PNW Section Officers on page 2.

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