

Society for Range Management Pacific Northwest Section

Properly functioning ecosystems provide for long-term sustainability of watersheds, plants, animals and people
Volume 54, Number 2 September 2003

See you in
Ritzville
October 23
25!

President's Message

Tim Ross

As pleased as I am to see natural resource issues on the front page, unfortunately, the news is not good. Drought, forest fires and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) are the news of the day instead of terrorism, war in Iraq, frivolous social issues and trends. Oh, and of course the disease of the week.

Fire is the big story, but a maze of related issues also appears in headlines. A recent sampling includes rural settlements, fuel-loaded forests, forest health, heat waves and water shortages.

These impacts have been described for people, livestock, wild ungulates, birds, waterfowl, fish, wild horses, and even grasshoppers. I struggle with that last one. This is a very good year for grasshoppers. They've had their way with gardens, pastures and crops. Our river is so full of them the trout are gorged. Casting a grasshopper fly is good exercise - nothing more. Besides, I've heard roasted grasshopper is excellent.

The fires have provoked, at least initially, the usual response in the media. The oft reported facts are how big is the fire, how much has it cost the taxpayers, whether people, pets, livestock and property are threatened, and the question that is on everyone's mind, "Who is the idiot responsible for this?" Devastation is a word that is used frequently. The usual information, miss-information, and lack of information are plentiful. Our compassion goes out to those who have suffered due to events over which they have no control.

But, the news is not all bad. Some questions we in SRM and like-minded organizations have been posing for sometime are being asked by a broader slice of society. Questions such as; Why are some of these forests bug-infested? Why are the forests around our sub-division so dry and full of dead wood? Why does it have to be either raining, snowing or 40 below before it is safe to have a campfire?

There does appear to be a bit of a movement to give Smoky the Bear a little spin in the opposite direction. Some messages are appearing in the popular press regarding better fire management in our rangelands and dry forests. Topics such as reducing fuel-loads, reducing forest stocking levels, conducting prescribed burns, and the adaptability of native plants and animals are reaching the popular consciousness. But, for every one of those items there are still ten "experts" with quotes such as, "This area won't return to forest in a hundred years!" Some would say that's not a bad thing.

These events present SRM with opportunities to further our multiple-use message. This doesn't mean ranting righteously on a radio call-in show, although I'm sure it's crossed the mind of more than one member when they hear, see or read some of the misinformation that appears. Rather, these events emphasize the importance of being pro-active. For example, in our part of BC the local politicians have been toured, lobbied and briefed to the brim about the forest in-growth problem. Some of the predicted outcomes of inaction have come to pass. This will result in some short-term action and can only increase our credibility. Sure, it is possible to come off sounding a bit like Chicken Little in the good years, but I think we should risk it.

A spokesman for a conservation society in BC said of the recent fires, "We won't say the forest fires are a result of global warming, but with global warming there will be more forest fires." Now that's helpful. With or without global warming if some wide-ranging changes are not made in forest policy in the western US and Canada, fire seasons like 2003 will be common.

This is a busy, dynamic and even frightening year in range management, but I think we're up to the challenge. I encourage members to remain active in local resource issues and please get involved if you're not.

Keep having fun! *Tim*

NEWSLETTER

Update from the “SRM at Vancouver in 2006” Committee

John Buckhouse and Bob France, General Co-Chairs

The 2006 Annual Meeting Committee is hard at work getting organized. We have the basic framework for the committee structures and many of the key volunteers in place. Please keep this newsletter (actually we are sure that you keep all of the newsletters, but be sure to earmark this one specifically) so that you can refer to the committee structure as appropriate. You will need to know who to call when you are ready to volunteer (!), or when you think of a

person or company who may wish to sponsor some portion of the meeting,

We are excited about the possibilities that Vancouver holds for the Society. The hotels are wonderful (and just across the street from one another—no busses!), the ambiance of the city is sophisticated yet friendly; the opportunity to tout the Pacific Northwest in general and British Columbia specifically is golden! We are poised for a great meeting.

PNW SRM Fall 2003 Meeting/Tour

Riparian Toolbox

Fun and learning in the channeled scablands

Please join the Panorama Chapter for this year's PNW Section fall meeting and tour, **October 23 – 25, in Ritzville, Washington** (see enclosed registration brochure). We have some exciting learning experiences planned. While many of us feel that we know how to measure trends in upland native plant communities, we now have a chance to learn how to measure trends in riparian plant communities. **Dr. Jim Dobrowolski**, WSU Extension Range Watershed Scientist, will provide classroom and field training in Alma Winward's riparian vegetation monitoring techniques of cross section composition, greenline composition, and woody species recruitment. In addition, you will witness the results of managed grazing on Crab Creek. Changes in grazing prescriptions have allowed Crab Creek to heal from a braided multi channel system with very few fish to a healthy system with one of the largest populations of trout recorded in Washington State. Our keynote speaker at the banquet is one of the leading sage-grouse researchers in the nation. **Dr. Michael Schroeder** of the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife will discuss the habitats and management of sage-grouse in the Pacific Northwest.

The tour will require approximately one mile of walking on relatively flat ground. We will be away from the busses for several hours and rain is a possibility, so please dress appropriately. Please send your registration for this exciting event today; and remember to support range students by bringing an item for the silent auction.

Register by October 9, 2003

Fire hits the Wolf Ranch

Karen Raven, Pritchard, British Columbia & Corvallis, Oregon

“Wow” is all I can say - what a difference from Tuesday night when I got here. I drove up last Tuesday night (August 19). After 2 road blocks and 3 phone calls I finally got a permit to come in to the ranch. We are still on evacuation notice which we have disregarded as we have 700 head of cattle here. Basically all of the range has burnt and only a few aspen groves and a small patch of pine and Douglas-fir have survived but the hayland, cows and buildings and all of us are just fine. Having all that irrigation really helped. Even though the fire took out the flume, we still had a few days irrigation from the river. We had to make an extension on the intake yesterday.

The fire crew looking after the fire guard on the ranch was excellent and prevented the fire coming down onto the benchland. We had helicopter water bombers and fire retardant bombers overhead for several days. Sonja and I were out moving the cattle onto the lower bench by the river and the horses were absolutely unfazed by the helicopters so close overhead. (They were getting water from the river.) They (the horses) were however quite alarmed by a few pieces of irrigation wheel line lying by the gate. Go figure. The wedding is still on. We have a plan "b" location but it looks like the evacuation order may be lifted soon.

We are very fortunate - many people lost everything. We have had such great help from our neighbours. Everybody really pitched in all over and almost all the local ranchers' cattle were gotten out in the nic of time.

Author is an OSU graduate student in Rangeland Resources, doing research at the Crooked River National Grassland near Prineville, Oregon. Her father, SRM member Arne Raven, manages the Wolf Ranch in Pritchard, BC. She wrote this letter August 25, 2003. The wedding of her sister, SRM member Sonja, was held at the ranch, on plan "a"; Arne led the wedding party on horse back; Sonja and groom, Wade Whibley, arrived by carriage! Sonja, an OSU Rangeland Resources masters graduate, works as a Range Conservationist in northern Alberta.

Vancouver 2006 planning structure and volunteer needs

Executive Committee (John Buckhouse, Bob France)

SRM Business Meeting, Awards (volunteers?)

Parent Society (Ann Harris)

Finance Committee (Rex Harder, Bob Leonard)

- Cost estimate from each chair
 - Room space
 - Audio/visual regulation (Fred Hall)
- Admin & sponsorship (volunteers?)
- Template of categories of items (volunteers?)

Student events (Andrea Mann, Mike McInnis, Wendy Gardner?)

- Coordinate with local arrangements about facilities
- Conclave pres
- SRM student activities
- Coordinate with program committee (Rick Miller, Bill Krueger)
 - High school conclave paper titles, rooms

Program committee (Bill Krueger, Rick Miller)

- SRM business and awards (John Buckhouse, Bob France)
- Technical sessions (volunteers?)
- Symposia (Joe Wagner)
- Posters (volunteers?)
 - Coordinate with arrangements
- Plenary session (Mike Malmberg, Hugh Barrett, Greg Tegart, Klass Broersma)
 - Focus on BC
 - Press address
- Rooms coordination (volunteers?)
 - Prep room
- Projector liaison (Fred Hall)
 - Digital
- Student events liaison (Andrea Mann, Mike McInnis)
- Workshops (volunteers?)

Local Arrangements (*Mike Borman, Cindy Meays*)

- Hotel arrangements contact leader (*Mike Borman*)
 - Sessions operations director (*Will Keller*)
 - Audio/visual specialist and crew (*Fred Hall*)
 - Rooms coordination, schedule each meeting (*volunteers?*)
- Entertainment (*Rob Dinwoodie? Tim Ross?*)
 - Banquet
 - Student Activities (*Mike McInnes, Andrea Mann*)
 - Mixers (*Hugh Barrett, Don Blumenauer*)
- Host Activities (*Mike Dedels? Lavonna Liggins*)
 - Past president, Charter founders luncheon
 - Presidents' breakfast business
 - Professional issues luncheon
 - Wild women of range
 - Pub crawl
 - Trips
 - Shopping, restaurants
 - Guided fishing
 - Victoria
 - Skiing packages
- Field technical tour opportunities (*volunteers?*)
- Local transportation (*volunteers?*)
 - Bus routes, city maps
 - Tour ships
 - Car rental and taxi costs
 - Airlines serving Vancouver
 - Student Affairs (*Andrea Mann, Mike McInnis*)
- Trade Show (*Kendall Derby, Darren Bruhjell*)
 - Solicitation
 - Special Vancouver customs exempt
 - Facilities
- General membership, awards (*Bob France, John Buckhouse, Angela Williams, Ann Harris, EVP*)
- Publicity (*John & Lynne Breese, Greg Tegant*)
 - Ag journals, national press
 - Local media
 - Partner societies
 - Pre-convention Trail Boss publication & distribution
- Plenary session (*Klaas Broersma, Hugh Barrett*)
- Volunteer coordination (*volunteers?*)
 - Photographers (*SRM staff*)
 - Audio/visual help during sessions
 - Session chairs
 - Registration, information desk/board
 - Daily Trail Boss creation, publication, distribution
- Registration (*Ann Harris*)
- Hospitality (*Dana Peterson?*)
 - Refreshments, other services
 - Greeters at airports and hotels
- SRM business functions and offices (*Ann Harris*)
 - Info table, posting
 - Hospitality area directory

Vancouver 2006 Volunteer Contact Information

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Angela Williams

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Vice President nominees, continued...

Kevin Guinn, Ephrata, WA

My work with SCS/NRCS as Area Range Conservationist and Team Range Management Specialist will take a new twist in October when I become Area Range Management Specialist for Central WA, from Canada to Oregon. (Yes, we have reorganized more than once.) Taking a break from work, I love to hike the high country in the Cascades, especially along the Pacific Crest Trail.

SRM is also a “break” from work! At one time or another I have held every office for the Mid-Columbia Chapter. I have been a PNW Section director and assisted with several summer tours & fall meetings. I’ve had National SRM Meeting committee experience -- ‘84 summer meeting at Wenatchee and entertainment chair for the ‘92 International meeting at Spokane.

I support SRM, first, because I enjoy the diversity of the members – ranchers, researchers, educators, managers, and practitioners. Second, because of this diversity, SRM has the experience, the expertise, and the know-how to deal with every rangeland resource issue.

The PNW Section has the right mission, vision & goals. We must continue striving to achieve them. We should be the voice of reason for rangeland issues and a valuable resource for decision-makers and the public. It is an honor to be considered for an office in the PNW Section. If elected I will continue the good fight!

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		V O T E		
		by September 23		
		(first day of autumn!)		
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Will Keller, Okanogan, WA

Working my way through WSU as a USFS smoke jumper, I earned a BS in Range Management. I have worked as Range Management Specialist for NRCS since then. Currently, in North Central WA, I facilitate 26 Coordinated Resource Management planning groups that include traditional livestock operations, tribal cultural plants and grazing, water rights, and endangered salmon.

This October, I will have completed two terms as a PNW Section director. Our Society is beginning to recognize some of the basic values from rangelands, those being open space and water. All of us will be dealing with non-traditional publics in the future, if we are not already. This will be our challenge! I would look forward to guiding us to accept that challenge.

Likely as not, you will see me showing up at SRM summer meetings (to address the challenge) on my old black 1949 Vincent motorcycle – the fastest standard motorcycle from 1948 to 1973!

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Register for
Ritzville
by October 9th!
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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@prinet.net	
Director	Rex Harder	509-257-2800		Teal Purrington	541-923-6924

PNW Chapter Officers

British Columbia – Don Blumenauer
Mid-Columbia WA – Dana Peterson
Okanagan Washington – Richard Fleenor

Panorama Washington – Ellen Picard
Southern Oregon – Les Boothe
Central Oregon – John Swanson

Welcome Members – New, Returned & Transfers

Candace Piccin, Kimberley, BC
Mathew Cronin, Anchorage, AK
Susan Anderson, Condon, OR
Cody Vavra, Powell Butte, OR
Abe Clark, Union, OR
Jaysen Garcia, Corvallis, OR
Katherine Lawson, Philomath, OR
Sheena Mittenberger, Bend, OR
Catherine Tarasoff, Corvallis, OR
Allen Hart, Vale, OR
Pat Larson, LaGrande, OR
Beau Sorenson, LaGrande, OR
Jerry Cordova, Prineville, OR
Brenda Nelson, Hazelton, BC
Rieva Rosentreter, Cranbrook, BC
Lila Black, Chiloquin, OR
Larry Bright, John Day, OR
Dasch Houdeshel, Sandy, UT
Alan Ome, LaPine, OR

Kathleen Sevy, Keno, OR
Brian Hoefling, Dallas, OR
Kacee Jo Kennedy, Condon, OR
Kevin France, Burns, OR
Lynn Fitzpatrick, Quesnel, BC
Craig Inglesby, Antelope, OR
Darren Mitchell, Ephrata, WA
Joshua Schneider, Tangent, OR
William Brock, Pullman, WA
Dustin Johnson, Union, OR
Clare Poulsen, Burns, OR
Linda Brown, Prairie City, OR
Ryan Denis, LaGrande, OR
Kate O'Donnell, Philomath, OR
Cynthia Spaulding, Central Point, OR
Delanne Ferguson, Pendleton, OR
Gloria Bright, John Day, OR
William McCullough, The Dalles, OR
Dennis Pomroy, Salem, OR

Upcoming Events

October 23-25, 2003 **PNW SRM** Fall Meeting & Field Workshop, **Ritzville, Washington**
November 2003 Noxious Weed Control through Multi-Species Grazing regional conference
February 2004 **SRM** International Meeting, Salt Lake City, **Utah**
Summer 2004 **PNW SRM** Summer Meeting & Field Workshop, **British Columbia**
Autumn 2004 **PNW SRM** Fall Meeting & Workshop, **Oregon**
Summer 2005 **PNW SRM** Summer Meeting & Field Workshop, **Washington**
Autumn 2005 **PNW SRM** Fall Meeting & Workshop, **British Columbia**
February 2006 **SRM** International 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 e-addresses & phone # are on p. 9.

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