



Society for Range Management *Pacific Northwest Section*

Properly functioning ecosystems provide for long-term sustainability of watersheds, plants, animals and people
Volume 57, Number 1 *January 2006*

President's Message

Bob Drinkwater, Prince George, BC

Thank-you to the International Mountain Section for hosting our joint meeting at Pincher Creek, AB, this fall. The meeting was great and the IM Section showed us what great hospitality is all about. About 145 people attended the meeting, with more than 30 from PNW. The program was excellent; the concepts of planning over long time frames and large landscapes, using set limits, was very enlightening.

Some of the business that happened was finishing off restructuring of the chapters to give us a BC, Washington and 5 Oregon Chapters. Thanks to everyone for facilitating this. This should keep our Section vibrant with many activities at the Chapter level. Thanks to **Kevin Guinn's** efforts, we finalised the job descriptions for the executive. This will lead to a clearer picture of your executives' duties and give clarity and security to initiatives which the executive has been working on, like the First Response Team. Finally, Pincher Creek allowed us to share the excitement of organising Vancouver 2006 with the IM section.

Our focus now is Vancouver 2006. It's great! Via conference calls, I'm talking to so many friends and colleagues – more than I normally would in years. It is daunting to see the complexity and work involved in putting on an event like this.

Thank goodness for the leadership of **John Buckhouse** and **Bob France**. A reminder: there is still work that needs doing; if you are on a committee, great. If you haven't been put to work yet, please contact the volunteer co-ordinator **Sandy Wyman** at Sandra_Wyman@or.blm.gov

Finally, I would like to give everyone a heads-up. Thursday evening, February 16th, at the end of Vancouver 2006, the PNW Section will have a get-together. It will be quite a celebration, a release after a hectic and, I am sure, a job well done – a time to celebrate, congratulate and honour our members.

Hey – see everyone in Vancouver in February – and see you the night of February 16th to celebrate.

Bob

Vancouver Bulletin Board

1. Arriving Friday, February 10? At 1:00, join the Planning Team to visit the staffs of the two hotels.
2. Evening of February 10, meet to “walk through The Plan”; what happens when and where.
3. **PNW Celebration**, Thursday, February 16, 6:00 p.m. Lavona Liggins needs a tentative head-count. If you will join the celebration, please email the editor at jlbreese@prinetime.net or call 541-447-6762.

PNW Section Officers

Congratulations to the new officers of PNW Section. With the ballots counted, **Karen Raven** is 2nd VP and **Tip Hudson** and **Lavona Liggins** are Directors.

I want to thank the entire board for their assistance this past year. I especially thank the departing board members for their service to the PNW Section - **Will Keller**, an excellent President and past-President; **Dana Peterson & Darren Bruhjell**, thoughtful and creative directors.

For the others – **Craig Obermiller**, your financial reports are straight forward even for a dufus like me. **Richard Fleenor**, thanks for being secretary this past year. **Lynne Breese** and **Teal Purrington**, thanks so much for your work on the section newsletter. **Kevin Guinn**, *Past President, Ephrata, WA*

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Pincher Creek Comments

Pincher Creek, AB, is a small town just east of Watertown National Park, the Canadian extension of Glacier National Park in the “lower 48”. PNW Section joined the International Mountain Section in October.

Joe Wagner, Lakeview, Oregon writes: “Thank-you to everybody who provided items for the Silent Auction - we raised \$200 dollars for students to attend the Vancouver meeting. Visit "Head Smashed-in Buffalo Jump" if you get up that way. Excellent educational site!!!”

Kevin Guinn, Ephrata, Washington writes: “The Pincher Creek presentations were related to land use & how farms & ranches are being subdivided at an alarming rate. A book I read a few years back ties into the Pincher Creek meeting very well. Ranching West of the 100th Meridian, the Culture, Ecology & Economics of Ranching, by Knight, Gilbert & Marston, 2002, Island Press. I highly recommend it.

Here's a tid-bit from the book: “We all want the little pieces - salmon, bull trout, sage grouse, functioning riparian systems. But if we truly want to preserve the little pieces we must preserve the BIG pieces - working livestock ranches. When a ranch is subdivided we all lose - we lose the open space, the habitat, the species we treasure. We trade sage grouse for robins and bunchgrass for manicured lawns.”

Jim Brunner, Medford, Oregon writes: “Conflict is inherent in determining land use. Take-home messages – there are many jurisdictions: city, county, school districts, irrigation districts, military, etc. Get together to achieve goals. Need reasonable people, intent on overall goal, not on their own best interests.”

Mark your 2006 Calendar!!

PNW Summer Field Workshop - July 2006 (date in next newsletter)

Theme: The Great Basin, issues & opportunities

Location: Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center, Burns OR

Learn about EOARC in the enclosed bulletin

PNW Fall Meeting - Sept. 14-15 (subject to change)

Theme: Mt. St. Helens - 25 years of primary succession. Rough agenda:

- Sept 14 - afternoon committee meetings. Evening banquet. Presentation(s) by volcanologist &/or plant ecologist.
- Fri., Sept 15 - field tour.
- Sat., Sept 16 - we'll provide information so you can go on your own tour to see what you want. **Kevin Guinn**

PNW sends 3 to High School Youth Forum

Darren Mitchell, Range Manager for WA Dept. of Natural Resources, Ephrata, cut his own Charlie Brown Christmas tree, is readying his arena for spring roping, and is sold on HSYF: "This is a great chance for our society to further our mission."

What an opportunity for our three delegates to the HSYF. No one remembers when we last sent a student, though Greg Tegart recalls chaperoning in the '80s. These young folks are eager. Jim Albietz hails from Lillooet, BC. Will Hudson comes from Goldendale WA and Cheyenne Ward's family ranches near Pilot Rock, OR.

Will, a senior, plans to major in Rangeland Management at E. Oregon University. He has worked on local ranches, is president of his FFA chap-

ter and is active in 4-H. As part of his core classes he worked with the NRCS office. He will present a paper on animal behaviour and toxic plant interactions.

Jim is a grade 12 honour student. While school is in session Jim lives part-time in town with a boarding family. He is active in 4-H, works on the ranch and has shared a breadth of interest in range resources from how they impact his family's ranch, to how they interact with recreation, logging, and wildlife.

Cheyenne, a sophomore, works on the family ranch and is committed to learning and implementing techniques that will help her land be the best that it can be. She is a founding officer of her FFA and worked on a

USFS range crew last summer, doing weed control and riparian fencing. Her paper is on water.

HSYF is a great way to attract new members to the society. Working hand in hand with youth & cattlemen groups can bring us all together and provide the young folks interested in agriculture another tool for learning and gaining experiences. I think it would be cool for our Ag teachers to incorporate this as a tool to further students' knowledge of the rangeland and reward them for their interest. The society is so rich in knowledge – ranchers, professionals, and professors; we can be an awesome teaching aid – man, how much better could it get!!! Our fall meetings could offer field trips for the youth to learn with hands-on experience. This could be a great place to have a captured audience to promote the HSYF. The down side to this is the time commitment on the behalf of the chapters to organize and make the contacts. Past HSYF participants could help us put together a presentation to youth programs. **Let's do it!!**

Chapter news

Southern Oregon: We rescheduled the talk by George Gruell to the spring. We will be looking for other spring speakers. Remember the Beaty Butte tour in 2001? The legal challenges for the grazing permit are finally going to court. Oregon Natural Desert Association has appealed the Allotment Management Plan and there is a hearing April 18th in Lakeview. ONDA has also filed a lawsuit in the Federal District Court appealing the construction of pipelines and fences in the Beaty Butte Allotment. This case is still in the pre-trial and discovery phase with the legal proceedings going through the spring and summer. **Les Boothe**, Lakeview, OR

B.C. Chapter: BC just had our Chapter AGM on Nov 29th and it was a big success – Kudos to our president **Vic Wright** and to all who braved a snowy and blustery night. **Lavona Liggins**, Kamloops, B.C.

Section Display Board Available for Chapters: PNW Section owns a very fine sturdy flannel board. It is for chapters to use. It comes in a traveling case, measuring 45 in. x 23 in. x 4 in. When the four black panels are open, it is 92 inches wide, 45 inches tall. There is an SRM logo. Contact **Fred Hall**, the "keeper of the board", at Fred_C_Hall@plantecolnw.com. If someone wants to pick it up, Fred has jpg maps (8" by 10") to show how to get to his home on Tomahawk Island. Remember, if you schedule ahead, the board can be transported/traded at Section meetings. It is only good if it gets used! **Fred Hall**, Portland, OR

Member Notes

Dear SRM - PNW Section

Thank you so much for sponsoring the SRM Undergraduate Scholarship. I am a senior at OSU this year. I'm very excited about this year to come. I will be taking a lot of range classes, I am the treasurer of the Range Club, and will be attending the International meeting in February. I am very excited. Upon graduation I hope to find a career where I can work directly with ranchers and help them with policy issues. Thank you again for your contribution to my education. **Jennifer Williams**, Corvallis & Enterprise, OR



Upcoming Events

February 11-17, 2006	SRM International Meeting, Vancouver, BC - hosted by PNW Section
February 16, 2006	PNW Celebration in Vancouver at 6:00 pm (details inside)
July 2006	PNW Summer Field Workshop, Burns OR
Sept. 14-16, 2006	PNW Fall Workshop & Annual Meeting, Mt. St. Helens, WA
February 11-16, 2007	SRM International Meeting, Reno, Nevada
Summer 2007	PNW Section Field Workshop, British Columbia
Fall 2007	PNW Section Annual Meeting & Workshop, Corvallis, OR

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

Want to alert members to an upcoming event? Comment on an article? Give us your new address? Brag about another member's contribution to range management? Tell us a story? Contact the Newsletter Editors! jlbreese@prinetime.net or Teal_Purrington@or.blm.gov

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