

Society for Range Management Pacific Northwest Section

Properly functioning ecosystems provide for long-term sustainability of watersheds, plants, animals and people
Volume 58, Number 2 August 2007

See you in Corvallis
October 18 - 20

President's Message

Joe Wagner, Lakeview, Oregon

NEWSLETTER

Wow!! What a great summer meeting in Kamloops, British Columbia! It was a fine way to spend the Summer Solstice, visit old friends, and make new ones. One hundred-plus people attended the meeting and field tour. The BC Ministry of Forests and Range planned their meeting to coincide with the SRM field workshop -- a stroke of good planning. So many youthful new faces were there -- all potential new members who would bring renewed vitality to our PNW section. I hope that the BC Chapter members will recruit these folks as new members.

Many kudos to **Vic Wright, Phil Youwe, NancyPortman, Mike Dedels** and the Planning Committee crew. The location was beautiful, the program was excellent, and it was very educational. Many of us south-of-the-border folks especially enjoyed visiting the campus at Thompson Rivers University -- an impressive institution where our '07 BC HSYF'er **Kurt Doerfling** will enroll this fall!

I especially enjoyed the program revolving around the massive 2003 wildfires and the mountain pine beetle outbreak. The red bug-kill ring circling the lower elevations of the valleys was very impressive, sort of beautiful and quite disturbing. As large as this outbreak is -- what is to become of the Ponderosa & lodgepole pine forests? It looks like this massive infestation will move across the border into the US in the next year or two. It is not very nice to wish a harsh winter (-30 degrees), but it would probably reduce the large scale population of pine beetles.

The large 2003 wildfires in this part of BC were devastating to both forestry and ranching operations. A wide variety of speakers -- ranchers, Ministry, and university folks -- walked us through the challenges faced, the methods tried, the successes and failures. Among the presenters were SRM members **Bob Fowler, James Manuel, Reg Newman and Wendy Gardner**. It was nice to see that BC does not have the same type of radical environmentalist challenges and capitulating courts to oppose salvage logging of fire killed trees, as occurs south of the border. Society received benefit from

these dead trees. Yes, the 2003 wildfires were large and probably considered bad by some, but think of the opportunities to actually be able to start landscape level land management. A nice mosaic of grasslands, open forests as well as closed forest. Wouldn't that be nice?

From the ski slope, we hear, "Is that a cow?" I never thought about cattle grazing being used on ski runs, in full view of the lodge, for vegetation management and fire prevention. We all enjoyed this unusual part of the range tour at Sun Peaks Resort with condominiums, shops & more!

Special thanks to **Arnie Raven** and crew for the wonderful BBQ dinner at Wolf Ranch. It was a special location for a delicious dinner, valley-in-the-mountains scenery and a train chugging by. And wait! Up on the roof -- it's **Brian Haddow** getting a picture -- and nearly sliding off!

Our PNW Fall meeting will be at Oregon State University in Corvallis, October 18th, 19th & 20th. **John Buckhouse** and PNW 1st Vice-president **Karen Raven** are putting together a thought-provoking program. **Remember to bring a Silent Auction item to raise money for the college students to attend the Louisville meeting next January.** We need to be generous as this will be an expensive travel meeting for them. Our new Directors and 2nd Vice-President will be announced in Corvallis. We have an excellent slate of nominees -- **Remember to vote!**

My last letter to you and I leave you with more than one of my tid-bits of wisdom:

"Fire is not ecological pixie dust."

"We cannot thin our way to nirvana" ("*In spite of what Jenny Craig says!*" -- *Hugh Barrett*)

"The trouble with the world is that the stupid are cocksure and the intelligent are full of doubt."

PNW Member Update

Welcome New Members

Diane Hoffman, Knutsford, BC
Andrea Barnett, Kamloops, BC
Jeff Rose, Hines, OR
Tim Leadingham, Coulee Dam, WA

Ooops! Missed that renewal notice!

Please remind your friends that we miss them & want them back! Never too late -- but we are stronger when we are all in SRM together.

Murray Anderson
James E. Campbell
Tim Del Curto
Bryan Endress
John George
Anne Holmquist
Peter Holub
Kristi Iverson
Etienne Johnson
Michael Keefer
Caroline Kennedy
Cindy Meays
Catherine Parks
Terry Sodorff
Marlene Tilton

Edi Torrans
Chris Wellman
Dereck Wilson

Students:
Marcella Egger
Mark Dyer
Terri Lynn Frances
James Hayes
Reid Kelly
Elisabeth Nelson
Morgan Rankin
Anthony Sunseri
Samuel Wyffels

A reminder from our secretary, Brian

Haddow (the guy with the camera on the roof, in the tree, on top of the truck!) of some topics for continued discussion at the Members' Meeting during the Fall Workshop at Corvallis. Plan to participate in the discussions.

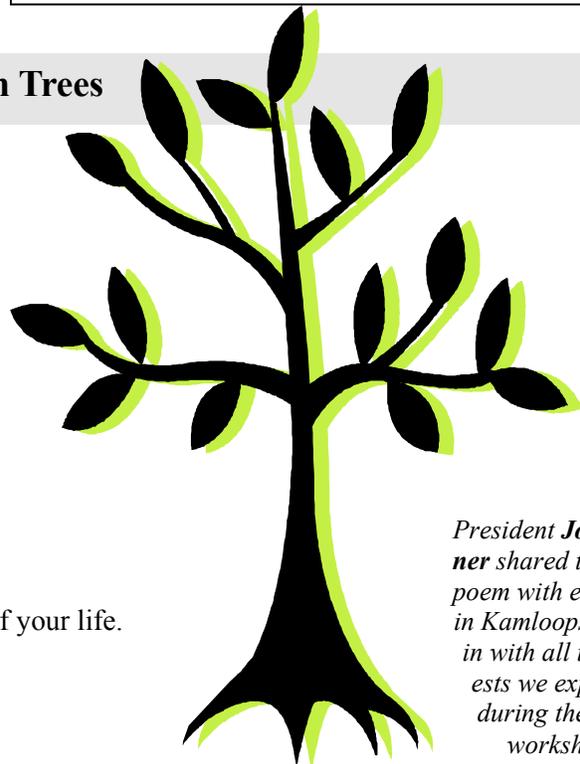
- When someone asks, "What is 'range management'?", can you give a concise meaningful response in 1 minute?
- The new membership contest – get the details, get motivated, and let's WIN!!
- High School Youth Forum – How can we make it stronger in the PNW? Recruitment tips?
- How do we market our "First Responder" service to members?
- National Resource Inventory of the Sustainable Rangelands Roundtable – what are they?
- PNW Historian and a History Committee – getting it jump-started!

Bring your ideas & questions and join in good discussion & decision-making for SRM.

All I Need to Know about Life I Learned from Trees

It's important to have roots.
In today's complex world, it pays to branch out.
Don't pine away over old flames.
If you really believe in something, go out on a limb.
Be flexible so you don't break when a harsh wind blows.
Sometimes you have to shed your old bark in order to grow.
If you want to maintain accurate records, keep a log.
To be politically correct, don't wear firs.
Grow where you were planted.
It's perfectly okay to be a late bloomer.
Avoid people who would like to cut you down.
Get all spruced up when you go out on a hot date.
If a party gets boring, just leaf.
You can't hide your true colors as you approach the autumn of your life.
It's more important to be honest than poplar.

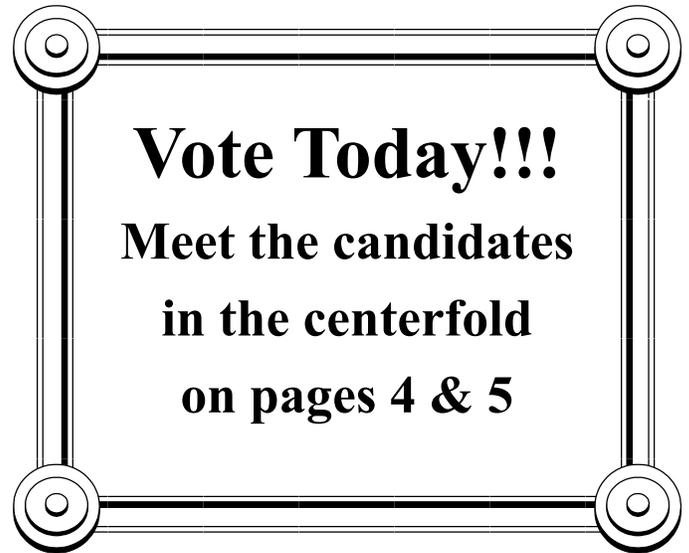
Anonymous



President Joe Wagner shared this neat poem with everyone in Kamloops. It tied in with all the forests we explored during the field workshop

PNW Section Officers

President	Joe Wagner	541-947-6175
1 st Vice Pres.	Karen Raven	250-577-3712
2 nd Vice Pres.	Dana Peterson	509-662-6951
Past President	Bob Drinkwater	250-565-6139
Secretary	Brian Haddow	250-719-1414
Treasurer	Craig Obermiller	541-923-2777
Director	Les Boothe	541-947-6147
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Director	Lavona Liggins	250-554-5211
Director	Tip Hudson	509-962-7507
Director	Brian Haddow	250-719-1414
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Awards	John Buckhouse	541-737-1629
Newsletter	Lynne Breese	541-447-6762
	jlbreese@crestviewcable.com	
	Teal Purrington	541-923-6924
	Debbie Bunch	541-462-3383



**MARK YOUR
 CALENDARS!!**

**FALL
 ANNUAL
 MEETING
 OCTOBER
 18-20
 CORVALLIS,
 OREGON**

PNW's strength is in its Chapters — contact yours today!

British Columbia – Bob Fowler, Burns Lake
 250-692-2275

Washington – Sarah Troutman-Zahn, Ellensburg
 503-925-8585 x3

Oregon State University – Sarah Noelle
 Eastern Oregon U. — Mike McInnis, La Grande
 541-962-3812

Central Oregon — John Swanson, Prineville
 541-447-1735

Southern Oregon — Les Boothe, Lakeview
 541-947-6141

PNW Section Elections 2007

Vice President Nominees – Vote for one (1) by October 12

Nominees are: Sarah Troutman-Zahn and Les Boothe

Les Boothe, Lakeview, OR

As I complete my term on the Board of Directors for PNW SRM, I am honored to run for second vice-president of our Section. I also serve as President of the Southern Oregon Chapter of SRM. With a B.S. and M.S. in Range Management from the U. of Wyoming and Colorado State, respectively, I have been an SRM member since 1978. I have been a BLM Range Management Specialist in Lakeview for 14 years. I worked in mine reclamation for three years and have been with BLM for 23 years.

I support an aggressive public outreach program for SRM and would continue the effort made in recent years to strengthen the local SRM chapters. I believe many potential members, especially producers, will attend local events and then can be recruited for membership in the Society. I would encourage combined meetings with different groups to expand our audience and improve our understanding of other natural resource disciplines.

I have been and remain an advocate for the High School Youth Forum and believe the PNW should continue to support this program every way we can. HSYF provides an opportunity for SRM to reach to high school students and their instructors. I have come to realize how little high school students, even from rural areas, know about range and SRM. With so many SRM members in rural areas, we should do more to inform students about job opportunities and the enjoyment of working in range and related fields. Many students already have an interest in the outdoors, and with encouragement would make excellent range students and SRM members.

Outside of my work in range, which I really enjoy, my family occupies most of my spare time. I enjoy doing things with my kids, like coaching sports and fishing.

Sarah Troutman-Zahn, Ellensburg, WA

It is truly an honor to be nominated for 2nd vice president of the PNW Section of SRM. I grew up in the shrub steppe of northern Douglas County, WA, working for my family on our dryland wheat farm. Love of the outdoors and working with the land led me to a career in Natural Resource Sciences.

While attending Washington State U., I was exposed to the great folks of the PNW Section and helped to reinstate the Range Club, then the Palouse Chapter of SRM, and was president for two years. I also received the PNW SRM student education scholarship. After graduating with a B.S. in Natural Resources with emphasis on range management, I came on board with NRCS as a Range-land Management Specialist in Ellensburg. I am active in the Washington Chapter and currently serve as president.

I believe that outreach and membership recruitment is a huge key to keeping SRM the organization it is today. SRM has been extremely influential on shaping my career. While we have a solid core of professional specialists, it would be nice to see more young folks in high school and college, as well as the ranchers actually working the land, involved in SRM. The PNW Section has made great strides in this arena, but I believe it is something we could still use more of! I believe it is crucial that we continue to educate the public about resource management and human interactions with the environment. Furthering our communication and sharing our knowledge, from researchers to agency personnel and to ranchers is a key to advancing the goals of SRM and our future.

In my spare time: camping, hiking and hunting with my dog (and maybe my husband) is what I consider a good time!

Your vote counts — mail your ballot by October 12!!!

Board of Director Nominees – Vote for two (2) by October 12

Nominees are: Ted McArthur, Richard Fleenor, Michael Fisher and Mike Dedels

Mike Dedels, Kamloops, BC

I've been a Range Agrologist with the Forest Service in Kamloops since 1990. I graduated from U. of British Columbia in Plant Science in 1983 and worked for six years in wholesale and retail farm and garden sales before starting my career in Range. Since then, I've enjoyed working on range administration & management with an interesting group of ranchers. Hopefully, I've helped make a difference.

I was a UBC student member of SRM, and have been a member 13 years. I belong to support SRM's educational efforts, network with others involved with Range, and to show support for the profession. I've served in most executive positions in the BC Chapter and have helped organize a number of events.

It is important for SRM, in concert with other NGO's, to raise the profile of Range publicly and politically. This is a challenge as the profile of Range, and agriculture in general, is not very high. It is up to each of us as members to get the word out about range.

I snowboard, bike and walk in my spare time. In Rotary Club, I initiate a new group of people to Range, and give back to the community.

Richard Fleenor, Ephrata, WA

I grew up, for the most part (refers to location and degree of maturity), in Vancouver, WA. I served in the U.S. Marines and received a degree in Rangeland Resources from OSU. Since 1991, I've worked for BLM, the Colville Confederated Tribes, and now for NRCS as a Range Management Specialist.

I belong to SRM for pragmatic reasons. Field trips and workshops at all levels are great sources of information, second only to the wealth of information from experienced members. Ours is a volunteer organization; it's important for members to contribute time and effort to keep SRM viable. I have served as Okanogan and Washington chapter president and joined with other good folks to organize chapter and section events.

SRM is outstanding and should continue to do what it does best – facilitate the advancement and distribution of rangeland ecological and management information. We should continue to serve familiar clients and challenge ourselves to reach out to the unfamiliar as well. For example, what are we doing in less-developed countries?

In off-time, I bike, work around the house, and when I get the chance, I go sailing with my family.

Michael Fisher, Redmond, OR

Hi there! I am an Associate Professor in the Forest Resources Technology at Central Oregon Community College in Bend, OR. I have a B.S. and M.S. in Rangeland Resource Management from OSU and have had the grand opportunity to work with John Buckhouse to obtain my Ph.D. My primary focus is spending time with my wife and two daughters, but I thoroughly enjoy spending time with my extended SRM family whenever the opportunity presents itself.

I have been in SRM since 1991 and have been the C. OR Chapter chair, Section membership chair and on the national Technology Transfer and Membership Committees. SRM is the most productive and diverse professional organization available to natural resource individuals. SRM does a great job of championing better management of rangeland resources while not compromising private land owner needs to make a living from the same resource. As SRM moves into the future, my wish is that we keep pace with current science and recognize social issues impacting natural resources – do what we do and adjust as needed.

My pastimes include family time, bird hunting, biking, boating and relaxing when appropriate.

Ted O. McArthur, John Day, OR

I have always been interested in range ecology. Growing up at the Intermountain Research Station in Utah, and throughout the Great Basin, my earliest memories are of collecting plants with my father.

My interest in range enabled me to draw the attention of my wife. My pick-up line in a Utah State soils class was to ask if she was in SRM. She was, and the rest is history!

After earning a B.S. in Forestry with a resource and human dimension focus, I continued graduate studies at OSU in native plant restoration, invasive species and soil stability following wildfire. My career began in New Mexico where I initiated a collaborative salt cedar eradication project. Moving to the Malheur NF, I do livestock management, riparian restoration, and rehabilitation after large wildfires. It is exciting to see landscapes, then consider past and present influences while considering potential and desired conditions.

My goals for SRM are improved recruitment and retention of students and young professionals, and integrating efforts with sister societies to improve resources and opportunities for members and range management as a whole.

We will soon be on our next adventure to work in the National headquarters of the USFS in Washington DC.

More from Reno. . .

as promised from “A-ha! moments from Reno” in the last issue!

Craig Obermiller, our PNW Section treasurer, and Rangeland Management Specialist, Prineville District, BLM, sent more information on **sage grouse** and **OHVs**.

1. Sage grouse habitats: Cameron Aldridge, Research Scientist, U.S. Geological Survey, Natural Resource Ecological Laboratory, emphasized that there are ‘source’ habitats to which the birds are attracted and in which they do well and survive. There are also ‘sink’ habitats to which the birds are attracted but in which chicks and adults die. The use of habitats and the ‘fitness’ of habitats are not necessarily linked. Management efforts should ideally be concentrating on protecting and expanding ‘source’ habitats. In his example, placing two mile buffers around sage grouse leks protected only 20% of the key ‘source’ habitats.

2. The last synthesis of Off Highway Vehicle use and impacts on rangelands was published in 1983. Since then, the use of OHVs has exploded, but very little has been done to describe impacts and recommend mitigation. For sensitive soils, there seems to be little difference between what causes the disturbance (truck, hoof, foot, 4-wheeler) except that recreational OHV disturbance tends to involve more wheel-spinning than other uses. So, plants tend to be up-rooted in addition to the normal soil surface compaction, wind erosion, and nutrient cycle disruption associated with non-recreational disturbances. Approximately 70% of OHV use is done by people from cities. These people tend to want to find information on the internet, target areas with facilities such as parking and picnic areas, and tend to value the social aspects of the sport as much as the ride. In fact, spectators can impact the rangelands as much as the activity itself. Because of the increasing number of users and increasing restrictions by federal agencies, there may be future opportunities for private land managers to generate revenue by providing managed OHV experiences that protect rangeland resources.

(What does Craig do for fun? He cooks, brews, exercises, hunts, fishes, listens to music and cheers the Pittsburgh Steelers!)



Richard Fleenor, Central WA Range Management Specialist for NRCS, was most intrigued by the **Bat Workshop**, saying, “I had no idea!”

Bats, night-flying predators which eat insects that can harm crops and forests, may fly 15 to 20 miles a night! There are 45 species in North America. When creating water developments, keep bats in mind. Bats swoop in and drink on the wing. Put trough braces below rim of the trough. If a trough is split by a fence, put the fence off to one side to allow more room for bats to drink on the wing. In windy areas, align trough with the wind direction. Keep troughs full. Keep water surface free of moss. Different species of bats need different size water sources. Some bats cannot drink out of a trough, but need large open water to drink from. A 10-15 foot trough can provide water for about twice as many species as a 6-8 foot trough.

Rules of Thumb: 1. Minimize obstructions to the water surface. 2. The larger the water trough the better. 3. Maintain good escape routes. 4. Keep water level high in the trough. For more information, see www.batcon.org

(One of Richard’s favorite activities is riding his Cannondale bicycle on the hills above Ephrata!)

Sandra Wyman, BLM Rangeland Management Specialist and National Riparian Service Team, Prineville, OR, had more questions for **Jeff Moseley**, Range Management Specialist at Montana State University, regarding research on **free-range cattle, culling and riparian habitat**.

This is a follow-up to the short message regarding a study conducted in Montana about selective culling to reduce riparian habitat use by free-ranging cattle presented by Dr. Jeff Mosley at the Annual SRM meeting in Reno. The six year study found no decrease in the use of the riparian areas by culling those animals that spent more than 50% of their time in the riparian area.

Dr. Mosley did not mention during his presentation about the culling study about whether they made sure to not keep any heifers from the mothers they had culled for riparian dwelling. After the meeting I contacted Jeff and he informed me that this in fact was the case, so when the 3 year-olds returned to the herd, they all were offspring

More from Reno. . . (continued)

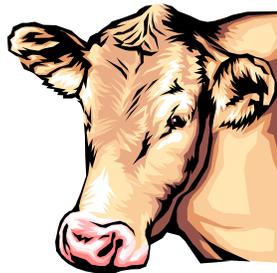
from cows that had not been riparian dwellers. They did not want to bring heifers back to the herd if those heifers had learned to be riparian dwellers when they were calves.

As many have found that the locations and food that animals use are learned from their mothers, the learned behavior of the offspring could sabotage a research study of this nature. So my next question in the continuing quest for clarification: What are the learned behaviors from their peers and was that investigated as part of the study as well? Do you think there would be differences if topography was different (flatter, steeper, etc.)? So I contacted Jeff again. He replied that the study area was fairly dissected foothill grassland, with some steep slopes. But the water sources were few and there were few trees to obstruct the animals' sight. Because of these landscape features, Jeff said that the cattle mixed together regularly, they could see long distances, and they could see where other cattle were or were not grazing. This may have enabled other cows to re-occupy the habitat vacated by the riparian-dwellers that were culled the previous fall. Jeff said that the selective culling technique might be more effective in forested summer range where cattle subgroups are more segregated from each other.

Here is the abstract from the meeting. They plan to publish a paper about this study; stay tuned for further information.

*Abstract from SRM Reno, NV meeting Feb. 9-16:
"Jeffrey Mosley, Merrita Fraker-Marble and Tracy Brewer. Department of Animal & Range Sciences, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana.*

Low-cost cattle grazing strategies are needed for improved stewardship of riparian ecosystems. One possible strategy is to cull from a herd those cows that spend a disproportionate amount of time grazing in riparian habitat. Our study examined whether selective culling of individual riparian-dwelling cows would decrease riparian habitat use by a free-ranging cattle herd. We evaluated this strategy with a 155-cow/calf herd on foothill rangeland in southwestern Montana. Angus x Hereford cows from 3 to 10 years of age comprised the herd.



(Sandy likes to travel, see new country, swim and refinish furniture! Jeff likes sports, camping, and riding horses and 4-wheelers!)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

**FALL
ANNUAL
MEETING
OCTOBER
18-20
CORVALLIS,
OREGON**

**SUPPORT THE
SILENT
AUCTION**

**BRING AN
ITEM AND BID!**

**SILENT AUCTION
SENDS COLLEGE
STUDENTS TO
LOUISVILLE!**



Calendar of Events

October 12-13	Ecological Restoration in SE BC. Contact www.cmiae.org
October 18-20	PNW Section Annual Meeting & Workshop , Corvallis, OR
Jan. 26-Feb.1 2008	SRM International Meeting, Louisville, Kentucky <i>Building Bridges: Grasslands to Rangelands</i>
Summer 2008	PNW Section Field Workshop, Washington
Fall 2008	PNW Section Annual Meeting & Workshop, British Columbia

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@crestviewcable.com or Teal_Purrington@or.blm.gov

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PNW Section of SRM
Newsletter Editor
C/O John & Lynne Breese
3315 SE Paulina Highway
Prineville, OR 97754
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED