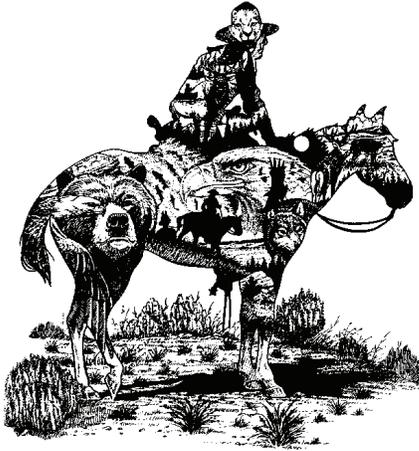


Society for Range Management Pacific Northwest Section

Properly functioning ecosystems provide for long-term sustainability of watersheds, plants, animals and people
Volume 59, Number 3 August 2008



President's Message

Karen Raven, Seba Beach, Alberta

See you in Williams
Lake, BC
October 1-4

NEWSLETTER

I hope you are enjoying a good summer/field season. Mine got off to great start with our Summer Tour in Okanogan, WA. Special thanks, **Washington Chapter Planning Team**, for putting on a fantastic tour. This was the best I've been on, and many others said the same. The workshop presented many key technical and scientific applications and struck a balance which highlighted both agency and private land managers. Wildlife biologist **Dale Swedburg** gave an interesting and informative perspective on the role of butterflies, how he considers himself a manager of disturbance, and his appreciation of the important role of fire. I took away many useful ideas, and then took advantage of the rough fescue tour the following day. It is some of the most beautiful land I've been on and spending a couple of hours in a graveyard with my fellow range managers is just not something you do every day! In answer to what I presume might be your next question..... It was a great site to observe rough fescue and other plants in a largely undisturbed area (other than the obvious disturbances). Thanks, **Sarah Troutman** and **Kevin Guinn** for taking us to several terrific sites and for the great discussions that ensued. All around, it was more than worth the drive!

Reports at the advisory council and board meeting included the History Committee's work in gathering our important documents and ensuring continuity and a complete history. Not surprisingly, our newsletters have been a key for much of this history. Thanks, **Joe Wagner**, **Tom Bedell**, **Bill Krueger**, **Jim Clawson**, and **John Buckhouse** for your work.

Another hot topic proved to be the request from the parent society to host the 2011 meeting in Spokane. We voted to send a letter with our concerns about the process, and in follow up, we

ask you, our members, to provide feedback to us via the enclosed ballot for PNW Directors and 2ndVP.

Member retention is a continuing concern of the board. Membership Chair, **Les Booth**, indicated that a majority of our lapsed members were students. After discussion and consultation with Craig Obermiller, our treasurer, we voted to pay, for one year, the balance of the regular membership fee above the \$25 student rate, for student members who move into their career and are no longer eligible for the student rate.

We discussed strategies for attracting new students and recent grads to our Section meetings and workshops. We voted to waive the registration fee for any new member attending a Section meeting who commits to volunteer at the meeting itself, or volunteer for a Section or Chapter committee for one year. Members will work together to bring new members to the meeting in order to offset travel costs. This is a great opportunity to know one another and experience the great PNW camaraderie.

Our B.C. Chapter has planned a terrific meeting in Williams Lake for October 1-4. I pledged at the Okanogan meeting to donate \$5 (Canadian) to the High School Youth Forum Fund for every new member brought to the Williams Lake meeting. I have one new member confirmed and she may bring a few colleagues - **so let the challenge begin.... and don't forget your silent auction items!**

With that, a closing thoughtCost of gas to travel to meeting — \$\$\$!! Meeting with fellow PNW'ers — PRICELESS!

See you there!

Karen

Your vote counts!
Vote by September 26

Board of Director – Vote for two (2) by September 26

Nominees are: **Mel Asher, Marti Butow, Craig Carr, and Richard Fleenor**

Richard Fleenor, Ephrata, WA

After growing up in Vancouver, WA, I served in the US Marines, then attended OSU and received my Rangeland Resources degree in 1991. I worked for BLM in Oregon, and as a Range Conservationist & Vegetation Ecologist for the Colville Confederated Tribes in Washington. Currently I am a Range Management Specialist for NRCS.

I belong to SRM for pragmatic reasons. Presentations and field trips at the international, section and chapter meetings are great sources of information, second only to the great wealth of information I get from the many experienced SRM members. Since SRM is a non-profit, volunteer organization, it is important for members to contribute their time and effort to keep SRM viable. My “official” efforts have included Okanogan Chapter president in ’97 and ’98 and Washington Chapter president in 2006. Unofficially, I’ve joined with many other good folks in putting together SRM chapter and section meetings and field trips.

SRM is an outstanding organization and should continue to do what it does best – facilitate understanding and management of the world’s rangeland ecosystems. We (SRM) should challenge ourselves to find other arenas where our understanding of rangeland ecosystems could contribute to improving unresolved environmental problems. For example, in this country, can we do more to address erosion or ecological function in non-livestock situations? In less developed countries, can we do more to help improve range management and resource stability?

In my “off-time”, I ride bikes, work around the house, and sail with my wife and two children.

Craig Carr, Philomath, OR

Greetings fellow SRMers: I’ve been in SRM since 1993 and involved with the PNW section since 1995, starting with BC Forest Service as a Range Agrologist and now as a Faculty member in the Department of

Rangeland Ecology and Management at OSU.

SRM to me has always been associated with field tours, presentations, plant ID contests, exchange of ideas, problem solving, discussion and good people who have an interest in the sustainable management of rangelands. The PNW Section area includes some of the greatest landscapes in North America – the diversity of ecosystems is impressive as is the diversity and dedication of our members. Those thoughts alone are enough to make one want to be a member and be involved in this organization. I was briefly the Secretary/Treasurer of the BC Chapter and I look forward to the possibility of serving the greater PNW section as a member of the Board.

Cast your vote, please!

By Karen Raven, PNW President

You are receiving 1 ballot with 2 issues in your voting package: The regular ballot for 2nd VP and 2 Directors, as well as one for whether you support PNW Section hosting the 2011 meeting in Spokane. You are also asked whether you would be willing to commit to volunteer, should the majority approve, and if your agency would support your volunteer efforts during work hours.

Background: The parent society of SRM asked cities to bid for the annual meetings, independent of the Sections’ involvement. The PNW Board was advised via email and then I was further approached that Spokane would be the likely choice for 2011. Upon further discussion with the Board and outlined in a letter from the PNW to the parent society, we indicated that we could not commit to hosting a meeting so soon after the 2006 Vancouver meeting without the approval/support of our membership as well as a commitment of volunteers and associated agency support for any volunteer work during business hours. Please contact any of these officers for further information: **Karen Raven**, 780-644-8521; **Dana Peterson**, 509-665-2119; **Les Boothe**, 541-947-6147; **Joe Wagner**, 541-947-6175.

Your Board encourages you to vote for the candidates of your choice and as always we have some very talented and committed people to choose from. We welcome your votes on the Spokane issue. Please take the time to fill this out so that we are able to make an informed decision based on membership feedback. The results will be announced at the Williams Lake meeting and printed in the newsletter following the meeting.

Recently, there has been discussion about the future of the SRM and the profession and I think that the future continues to deserve our attention. Three things come to mind with respect to the PNW section. (1) Relevance: We need to ensure our section remains relevant to the people and the issues related to the management of PNW rangeland resources; (2) Youth: The future of the SRM and the PNW section exists within those young people who have an interest in natural resources, and more activities aimed at the university and high school levels will improve the profile and awareness of the SRM and will increase the recruitment of motivated young people into the profession; and (3) Collaboration: We have the good fortune of drawing on experiences and knowledge of range professionals in two states, one province and two countries; this diverse pool of information must continue to be a focal point for our section as it is an invaluable resource for developing strategies for management issues in your area.

My family and I just purchased a 1971 20-foot travel trailer and we are off to explore eastern OR. Enjoy what remains of your summer—Craig.

Martha (Marti) Butow, Alturas, CA

I have been an active member of SRM for the last 15 years primarily in the

... *Continued on next page* ...

Vice President — Vote for one (1) by September 26

Only one person accepted the nomination: **Tipton (Tip) Hudson**

Tipton Hudson, Ellensburg, WA

I work for WSU Extension as a rangeland and livestock management educator in Kittitas County. My primary responsibilities are to work with livestock producers and land managers to implement what we know about sustainable rangeland management and to investigate local solutions where there aren't obvious answers. I got into rangeland ecology because I was excited to discover a discipline that integrated the other natural resource-related fields: plant physiology, soils, wildlife, animal husbandry, land use policy, etc.

SRM has done a remarkable job in serving as a catalyst for both learning & application, perhaps to a greater degree than other professional societies. For the ten I've been a member, SRM has been useful for professional development and for

networking with other range folks. There is a unity of passion among range professionals, due in part to the efforts of the SRM, that you don't find often in the working world.

It's no secret that in the next ten years we will see a massive wave of retirements in the agency community as well as among landowners/livestock producers. I believe the SRM is in a position to serve as the primary training ground for the men and women who move into those positions and become the new face of the profession. There has been discussion of the need for greater professional development opportunities in range management, but now is the time to begin planning and executing on that shared goal.

I have children who are just getting old enough to begin to get out and enjoy the world, so we enjoy hiking, canoeing, and general exploration with increasing frequency (good times!).

Board of Director Nominees . . . *continued from previous page* . . .

. . . Butow and Asher, continued from previous page . . .

Nevada Chapter. I have lived in Alturas, CA for this same amount of time and moved here after doing a masters program in Range Management at Humboldt State in Arcata, CA. My undergraduate degree is from Cal-Poly, San Luis Obispo, CA, in Animal Science. I was raised on a ranch near Ukiah, CA where I was very active in 4-H.

SRM has been important to me while working for the Bureau of Land Management as a Range Management Specialist by providing professional support and an additional perspective on the issues that surround natural resources in the range management field. The research provided by SRM has provided a valuable tool in developing Resource Management Plans for the Bureau.

I participated in the 2006 National Convention in Vancouver, B.C. by assisting the Volunteer Coordinator Sandy Wyman. I have been an Area Representative for the Nevada Chapter for the last five years and served as Volunteer Coordinator for the 2007 National Convention in Reno, NV. I have also participated in the SRM Youth Camp in Austin, NV.

I envision the PNW Section continuing to provide research on issues such as the juniper encroachment on grazing lands, rehabilitating rangelands impacted by the many wildfires, as well as combating noxious weeds. PNW needs to stay in touch with any proposed political actions that affect rangelands by responding with the most current research that supports preserving best management practices. My "dream" would be that PNW Section provides a forum for achieving best resource management practices by

working through political as well as practical avenues. The forum would provide discussion of current issues while also providing possible solutions; and would include anyone that is managing rangelands or establishing political policies that would affect rangelands.

What I do for fun? At this point in my life, I travel, and more recently, with my grandchildren!

Mel Asher, Soap Lake, WA

Growing up in the suburbs of Detroit, Michigan, I never imagined that I would end up in living and working in the semi-arid rangeland of eastern Washington. After graduating with an M.S. in Range and Wildlife Management from Texas A & M-Kingsville, I was drawn north to the beautiful Pacific Northwest, and I've never looked back. I've worked as a Rangeland Specialist for the Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife for the 3 last years, but have recently switched gears to a position helping private landowners improve wildlife habitat on their ranches and farms.

I first joined SRM in 2006, and am the current president of the Washington Chapter. This past June, I attended my first SRM summer tour, and was struck by the incredible networking opportunities and friendships that this organization facilitates. The format of SRM meetings is unique in placing an almost equal emphasis on technical presentations and social networking. I believe that the promotion of these tours amongst local landowners, agency folks, and interest groups will play an invaluable role in both the future of SRM and direction of rangeland management.

For fun, my husband and I bike, hike, brew beer, hunt, and spend as much time as possible out-of-doors!

And now, for the rest of the story. . . from China!

At least six PNW SRM members participated at the Joint International Grassland & Rangeland Congress in Hohhot, China last month. Joe Wagner, Berta Youtie and Sandra Wyman were enthusiastic (and exhausted) when they returned. Enjoy their observations and photos.

Berta Youtie, Prineville, Oregon

The highlights were the vegetation and the culture (people). I was amazed to see China's grassland systems in Inner Mongolia be so similar to ours. It was the raining season and the landscape was so green. Observing crested wheatgrass in its native habitat was fun. There were no rows and it was only a component of the sites. These grasslands are dominated by bunchgrass (mostly *Stipa*) and rhizomatous grasses (*Leymus*) and therefore are very resilient to drought and grazing. Yurts and herds of sheep, goats, cattle and horses dot the landscape. Visiting herders' homes and viewing performances of Mongolian music and dance were highlights. I must mention the young Chinese volunteers at the Conference that were there to help us foreigners. Without them everything would have been more difficult. The Chinese committee put on an awesome Congress. I learned so much; it was a trip of a lifetime.



Sandra Wyman on alpine meadow near Tienjun.

Joe Wagner, Lakeview, Oregon

People were friendly and hospitable. Little kids would say, "Hello, how are you?" at stop lights, as China is really pushing English as a 2nd language. Mongolia is definitely a grassland – from the top of the mountains to the valley floor, with a "forest steppe" high up on some mountains.

Both China and Mongolia have large areas of highly degraded rangeland from government sponsored dryland farming programs in the 1950s and 1960s. Basically, weedy vegetation and very hard to restore. Both countries admit that their rangelands are grazed over capacity. China has closed some areas to all domestic grazing. The Mongolia folks have recently established the Mongolia Society for Range Management and are seeking advice. This was passed on to the International Affairs Committee of Parent Society.

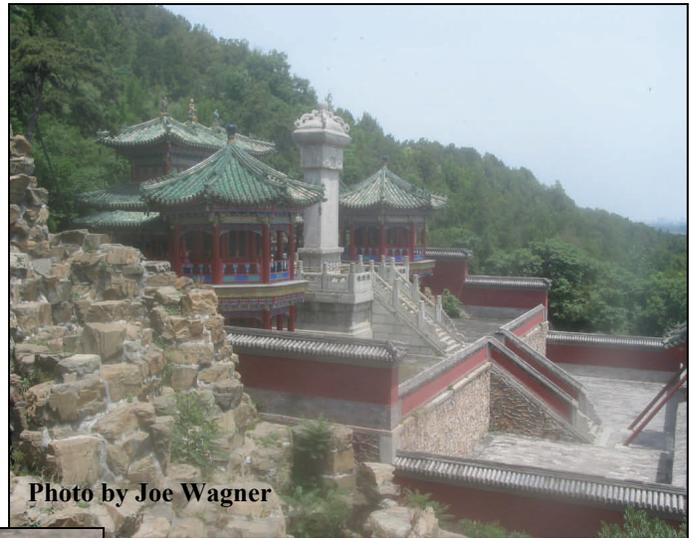
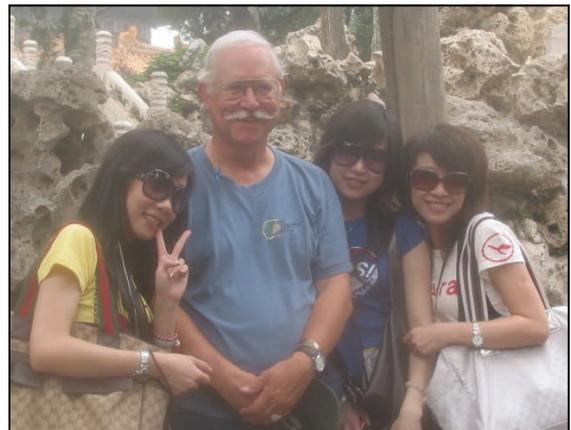


Photo by Joe Wagner

Sandra Wyman, Prineville, Oregon

I visited the White Yak Breeding Farm near Tienjun on an alpine meadow grassland at an elevation of 2000-2800 m. The yak is adapted to harsh environments including high altitude. Free ranging chickens were raised for meat and to control grasshoppers. The local community (49 families) was excited to have the tour visit and was looking for advice and direction to help them improve their economic and ecologic situation. They presented a white sash to each tour member as a special honour and as a sign of friendship.



"I really enjoyed having my picture taken with good looking young ladies who wanted their picture taken with my curly moustache. Does the ego good for an older folk!!" — Joe Wagner



Dancers at the Joint International Grassland & Rangeland Congress in Hohhot, China (story on page 4). Photo by Joe Wagner.

PNW Section Officers

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
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| 1 st Vice Pres. | Dana Peterson | 509-662-6951 |
| 2 nd Vice Pres. | Les Boothe | 541-947-6147 |
| Past President | Joe Wagner | 541-947-6175 |
| Secretary | Brian Haddow | 250-719-1414 |
| Treasurer | Craig Obermiller | 541-923-2777 |
| Director | Lavona Liggins | 250-554-5211 |
| Director | Tip Hudson | 509-962-7507 |
| Director | Brian Haddow | 250-719-1414 |
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| Director | Mike Dedels | 250-371-6500 |
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| Membership | Les Boothe | 541-947-6147 |
| HSYF | Pete Schreder | 541-947-6054 |
| Awards | John Buckhouse | 541-737-1629 |
| Newsletter | Lynne Breese | 541-447-6762 |
| | jlbreese@crestviewcable.com | |
| | Teal Purrington | 541-410-7728 |
| | Debbie Bunch | 541-462-3383 |

Reminders

First Response Team is for you!

If you need ideas, counsel, or advice in technical or controversial topics, a team of PNW past-presidents and others is here for you. The immediate Past-president coordinates this activity. Call or send your question to **Joe Wagner**, 541-947-6175 or Joseph_Wagner@or.blm.gov The process works. Try it – you’ll like it!

PNW Bulletin Board

A fine tri-fold felt-covered board, ideal for many uses, is available for chapters. **Fred Hall** “houses” the board. Contact Fred at Fred_C_Hall@plantecolnw.com

PNW Section

**Annual Meeting & Workshop
October 1-4, Williams Lake, BC**

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

British Columbia

Bob Fowler, Burns Lake, 250-692-2275

Washington

Mel Asher, Ephrata 503-754-4624

Oregon State University

Sarah Noelle

Eastern Oregon University

Mike McInnis, La Grande, 541-962-3812

Central Oregon

John Swanson, Prineville, 541-447-1735

Southern Oregon

Les Boothe, Lakeview, 541-947-6141

Cooperative Monitoring to Improve Rangeland Reseeding

Are you interested in helping to study the reasons rangeland seedings succeed or fail?

By Tony Svejcar and Jeremy James

Seedling establishment studies are underway at the Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center in Burns, OR. Early results question many of our assumptions about reseeded (more on that in later newsletters).

We think it is time to supplement the controlled studies with management-scale projects. The most efficient approach is to take follow-up measurements on projects planned or underway. This approach is analogous to parts of our juniper research program, where we took measurements on juniper treatments which had been applied by others. Management treatments can be expensive. As researchers, we can sample a large number of projects, but we have neither the labor nor the financial resources to apply the treatments ourselves. We have had great cooperation from private landowners and the BLM in the past, and we envision a similar effort here. This time around we hope to include additional partners such as NRCS.

Are you interested in a cooperative effort where we would measure seedling establishment and environmental

variables on sagebrush steppe reseeded projects? It would be helpful for us to be involved in the planning stages, but that is not essential. We would need access to the site several times during the first two years after seeding.

The results would allow us to evaluate the success rate for rangeland seedings in our region, and add to our knowledge of factors controlling success. Ultimately, we hope to develop management recommendations and improve our ability to predict success.

If you would like to participate, please call Jeremy James at (541)573-8911, or Tony Svejcar at (541)573-8901.

Tony is Research Leader for the USDA-Agriculture Research Service in Burns, OR. Away from work, he is mastering the art of greenhouse gardening! Jeremy is Plant Ecophysiologicalist with USDA-ARS, Burns. He loves spending time with his 1½ year-old daughter and doing family activities.

October 1-4, 2008

PNW Section Annual Meeting & Workshop Williams Lake, British Columbia

Looking for a new adventure?

Food Alliance, a nonprofit organization that certifies farms and ranches for sustainable agricultural practices, recently partnered with the American Grassfed Association on the development of grass fed and pasture raised standards – which are planned to be released October 2008. Anticipating an increasing number of livestock applications, Food Alliance would like to hear from qualified candidates interested in Food Alliance livestock inspector training. A general description of inspector qualifications and duties can be found on the Food Alliance website: www.foodalliance.org. Interested parties should contact Heather Saam, Food Alliance Certification Manager at heather@foodalliance.org or by phone at 503-493-1066 x23.

Aspen in Oregon – and Beyond

What’s Happening Where You Are?

By Nicole Strong

We all can appreciate and admire aspen groves. Aspen woodlands provide a variety of economic and ecological benefits, including shade and high quality livestock forage, habitat for many species of birds, bats, 4-footed wildlife, and recreation from hunting to admiring colorful fall foliage. Aspen stands contribute to our water supply by serving as snowdrift banks, accumulating snow which melting slowly, releases a steady source of water to feed springs and streams.

Aspen is not a long-lived species. Aspen woodlands depend on disturbance, such as fire or blow-down to reduce competition from conifers and to stimulate the growth of suckers from the root system. Without disturbance, 50 to 100 year old stands will be replaced by other vegetation, including western juniper, Douglas fir or ponderosa pine which will overtop aspen. In addition to the changes from fire suppression, poorly managed grazing by wildlife or livestock can cause loss. Many existing stands are reaching the end of their life cycle; without young aspen trees to replace them, the stands will be lost.

There is good news! Promoting aspen regeneration is a fairly feasible practice for most land managers. Depending on the reason for its decline, a landowner may remove overtopping conifers, change grazing rotations, construct elk fencing, or even cut a few aspen to encourage suckering.

In Oregon, a team of organizations has developed “The Oregon Aspen Project” to increase the knowledge base on aspen management and to promote active restoration on private lands. Demonstration sites are being established, workshops presented, and a publication is in process. For information, contact OSU Extension Forester, Nicole Strong at Nicole.strong@oregonstate.edu

On the OSU Extension Forestry team 3½ years, Nicole coordinates the statewide Master Woodland Manager program. Wherever she travels, along with her forestry gear, you will find mountain bike and/or whitewater kayak in her car, just in case!

Please bring auction items to Williams Lake!



Poster session at the Joint International Grassland & Rangeland Congress in Hohhot, China (story on page 4).
Photo by Joe Wagner.



Plant identification at the Joint International Grassland & Rangeland Congress in Hohhot, China (story on page 4).
Photo by Joe Wagner.



Calendar of Events

October 1-4, 2008
Feb. 8-13, 2009

Summer 2009
Fall 2009

PNW Section Annual Meeting & Workshop, Williams Lake, British Columbia
62nd Annual Meeting of the Society for Range Management, Albuquerque, NM
Merging Trails: Culture, Science, and Innovation
PNW Section Field Workshop, Oregon
PNW Section Annual Meeting & Workshop, Washington

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