



Society for Range Management Pacific Northwest Section

Properly functioning ecosystems provide for long-term sustainability of watersheds, plants, animals and people
Volume 60, Number 1

January 2009

See you in John Day
Oregon
June 25 - 27!

President's Message

Dana Peterson, Wenatchee, Washington

Happy New Year! For me, the New Year is like when you have hiked to a ridge top. You pause, look back to see you have made it, and look forward to see what terrain lies ahead.

Looking back: Congratulations to the B.C. Chapter for the outstanding fall meeting in Williams Lake. It was a high point in my year. Excellent presentations maintained the high standard for scientific and technical content of the summer tour in Okanogan. Landscape around Williams Lake is spectacular. I always find the rangeland issues in British Columbia fascinating. Problems are similar: forest health, tree encroachment, weeds and horses, but ecological and political settings are different. I feel as if I am looking through a slightly altered lens. The picture of the horse herd, wolves in the foreground and timber in the background, really stuck in my mind. The Becher Prairie and nearby forest gave me more appreciation for **Tim Ross'** ditty, "Setting the Woods on Fire"! Thanks again, **Bob Fowler** and B.C. Chapter organizing team for a great meeting.

Even traveling to Williams Lake was a good experience. My wife and I carpooled & caravanned with other good folks from Oregon and Washington. We shared meals and stories along the way.

I encourage people to share the ride: the benefits are more than just financial.

Speaking of travel, the Board of Directors voted to make money from the PNW coffers available for travel to Section meetings. This was done so the cost of traveling to meetings would not discourage members from running for office.

Many items were discussed at the marathon Advisory Council and Board of Director meetings. Based on the vote by PNW members, our Section

will host the Society's Annual Meeting in 2012 in Spokane. We will explore the possibility of co-hosting with the Idaho Section. The issue of paying new member membership fees or meeting registrations was discussed, but not resolved. The membership committee will develop a recommendation for the Board of Directors.

Looking ahead: Getting & retaining members is an issue. PNW membership dropped from 419 to 359 in 2008. I believe that membership is maintained at the chapter level. An active chapter that holds interesting events will gain & retain members. In 2005, chapters of the PNW were consolidated, in part, to increase the number of chapter activities people could be involved in. **I challenge the chapters to hold at least one event per quarter and invite new people to participate.** Events should be informal and informative. A presentation like **Wendy Gardner's** Mongolian Rangelands PowerPoint would be great. Boots-on-the-ground tours with food provided are good!

John Tanaka is looking for someone to take over the PNW website. A skilled successor would be preferred. I appreciated John coming to the meeting to discuss the annual meeting and update us on parent society activities.

I am excited to be attending the Society's annual meeting in Albuquerque and will report back to you in the next newsletter. The locations for future annual meetings will be discussed. I also look forward to the great summer tour which the Central Oregon Chapter is planning for our section in the John Day, Oregon area, June 25-27, 2009

Again, Happy New Year! From the ridge top, the trail ahead looks pretty good. Remember, we are gaining two to three minutes of daylight every day, and that's almost as good as hiking down hill!

Dana

NEWSLETTER

Going to Albuquerque??

Doing a rough count in the “Pre-convention Trail Boss”, at least 50 different PNW members will be involved in presentations. Here’s a sampling:

Kevin Guinn, with NRCS in Ephrata, WA, will present “Searching for the Holy Grail – Questions, Myths, Realities”. For decades, we have been seeking the Holy Grail – range readiness, rest rotation, the Savory grazing method, seasonal grazing, deferred rotation, short duration, and high-intensity, low-frequency. When it comes to grazing management, ranchers vary from totally committed to genuinely disinterested. No grazing system has universal applicability to all ecosystems, and much less to all plant communities, all forage types or all ranchers.

The Holy Grail is a myth. Where has the grazing system been applied, and to what conditions – upland or riparian; warm or cool season plants; sod-forming grasses, bunchgrasses or woody plants? What level of managerial ability is required? How relevant then, is this grazing strategy to my situation?

We must do four things: 1. Define the physical and biological characteristics of the ranch. 2. Separate myths and misconceptions from ecological realities. 3. Develop a set of applicable guiding principles or goals. 4. Apply the guidelines to the ranch in an adaptive management approach.

Grazing management can be boiled down to three questions. What are we managing? What are the ecological realities for the ranch? And, what is the required level of rancher commitment to planning, managing, monitoring and improving the grazing strategy?

Jeremy James, Plant Physiologist with USDA-ARS in Burns OR, will lead a symposium on “Ecology and

management of invasive annual grasses in the west: current state of knowledge and future directions”.

Mediterranean annual grasses, such as cheatgrass and medusahead, have invaded over 130 million acres of historically perennial dominated rangeland in the arid and semi-arid rangeland of the western U.S. These invasive annuals spread rapidly. In the past, concern about annual grass invasion has been tempered because they can provide valuable early spring forage. More recently, our understanding of the impacts of annual grass invasion has increased to include promotion of frequent and dangerous fires, displacement of native plants, reduction of habitat quality and degradation of numerous ecological functions.

This symposium brings together state-of-the-art research, management and restoration programs addressing annual grass invasion in the western U.S. It will include new management and restoration approaches to combating the spread of these invaders, and identify critical research gaps that need to be filled. Managers and researchers from the Great Basin and surrounding ecosystems will detail specific advances in understanding annual grass ecology and management. As a result of this symposium, a non-technical synthesis paper with direct management implications will be developed and widely distributed.

High School Youth Forum will welcome **Jessica Fennell** a grade 12 student from Armstrong, B.C. **Vic Wright**, HSYF coordinator for BC, writes, “She has been in 4-H for a number of years and has made presentations and speeches. Her family lives on a small rural holding. She is an avid rodeo barrel racer and has competed across the Province. Her topic will be pastures and horses.”

June 25 - 27, 2009
PNW Summer Field Workshop
John Day, Oregon
June 24, **OSU Range Field Day**, Burns Oregon

PNW Section Map?

Pick up a map(s) and especially note the peaks, valleys and plains of our PNW Section – from southern Oregon to northern British Columbia – Lakeview to Dawson Creek; from the Pacific Ocean to the Great Basin and the Rockies. Do you realize how lucky we are in PNW Section to be able to explore and learn from all of this together? What would you think of a “documentary” showing the places from east to west, north to south? Want to help on this project? Check with **Kevin Guinn**.

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 **Karen Raven** 780-644-8521 or Karen.Raven@gov.ab.ca 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

Lost Resource

Norm McClure, one of the bright lights in range and natural resource management in Washington State, passed away in October.

PNW Section Officers

President	Dana Peterson	509-662-6951
1st Vice Pres.	Les Boothe	541-947-6147
2nd Vice Pres.	Tip Hudson	509-962-7507
Past President	Karen Raven	780-644-8521
Secretary	Sarah Troutman-Zahn	509-925-8585
Treasurer	Craig Obermiller	541-923-2777
Director	Brian Haddow	250-719-1414
Director	Pete Schreder	541-947-6054
Director	Mike Dedels	250-371-6500
Director	Michael Fisher	541-383-7755
Director	Craig Carr	541-737-1608
Director	Richard Fleenor	509-323-2965
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History	Joe Wagner	541-947-6175
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	Teal Purrington	541-410-7728
	Debbie Bunch	541-462-3383

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

British Columbia

Wendy Gardner, Kamloops – 250-371-5570

Washington

John Kouns, 509-659-1761x 105

Oregon State University

Craig Carr, Corvallis, 541-737-1608

Eastern Oregon University

Mike McInnis, La Grande, 541-962-3812

Will Hudson, President

Central Oregon

Robert Marheine, 541-460-2878

Southern Oregon

Les Boothe, Lakeview, 541-947-6141

North... to Williams Lake (or south from Dawson Creek!)

Heading north from Oregon, Washington and lower British Columbia, several cars gathered riders and “caravaners”, all heading to PNW Section’s fall round-up (annual meeting & workshop). Pooling riders from geographic areas, we saw the passing landscape through new eyes. There were “aha moments” and a better understanding of the work of our fellow SRM members. Reaching Williams Lake, we were eager; no grass grew under our feet!

Ecosystem Restoration - from the prairie to the forest. The Ministry of Forests and Range uses the classic definition of ER: “*process of assisting with the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged or destroyed by re-establishing its structural characteristics, species composition and ecological processes*”. Presenters shared what was tried, what worked or didn’t. We heard perspectives from rancher to Ministry specialists. Amid the ravage of the Mountain Pine Beetle on Lodgepole pine, we saw ongoing work to remove dead wood, space remaining trees and use fire. **Greg Andersen**, Provincial ER Manager, commented, “The public has a social choice of living with a few ‘small’ controlled puffs with smoke lingering for a day or two, or one real ‘big’ scary uncontrolled puff that may linger for weeks, destroy homes and severely set back ecosystem recovery.”

Was it all work and no play? No! In good PNW fashion, we ate incredibly well - thank you, **Martin Sills**. We clapped and sang to the music of **Rob Dinwoodie**, **Allen**



A view on the drive home from Williams Lake.

Dobb and **Dale Gross**. We cheered long and loud when **Mike Malmberg** and **Lavona Liggins** received our PNW awards. In parting we resolved to work together to get everyone to the 2009 Summer Field Workshop in John Day, OR.

During their 2-day return to Oregon, **John Buckhouse**, **Bill Krueger** and **Mike Borman** relived their Williams Lake adventure. They share “our heading home conversations,” below:

- PNW Section is superb! Good people, worthwhile challenges and a strong history of success.
- Technical tour was excellent; the social complemented it. PNW blends work and play very well!
- Details differ, but in-growth (BC pine) and encroachment (US juniper) offer similar challenges.
- Weeds are a common thread and there is much to learn from each other.
- Bill Krueger was glad that some F-words were used frequently (food & fire), and others were used sparingly if at all (fish).
- Does PNW have talent? **Wendy Gardner** & **Rob Dinwoodie** proved without a shadow of doubt that we do! ...more on next page....



Carpooling to explore Becher Prairie.



Observing the untreated forest.....and the treated forest....

- Thompson Rivers U. gets better and better. **Amber Greenall** and **Eleanor Bassett** were marvellous examples of the strength of the program.
- Over and over, people commented on the wonderful sense of family which persists in PNW Section.
- Canadians are colourful. Don't we wish we could be like them?!
- **Karen Raven's** stewardship piloted us well this past year. **Dana Peterson** promises to be strong and positive as well.

Bottom line: PNW Section enriches each and every one of us. We are proud to be part of it.



.....and the logs heading to the mill.



Karen Raven congratulates Mike Malmberg on receiving the 2008 Trail Boss Award.



Auctioneer Rob Dinwoodie ups the bidding on the painting donated by Ducks Unlimited Canada and displayed by Lavona Liggons and Wendy Gardner. The silent and oral auctions brought \$1,000 to support PNW students.

PNW Member Updates

THANK YOU & WELCOME to “old & new” PNW Officers!

Karen Raven (Seba Beach, AB), as President, you kept your sense of humour while keeping our “eye on the prize”. **Joe Wagner** (Lakeview, OR), as past-president, you shared tid-bits of wisdom – and we expect you to continue that! **Lavona Liggins** (Kamloops, BC), as a director, you asked the questions to get us to the point; you may be off the Board, but we still have your number! **Tip Hudson** (Ellensburg, WA), you leave as director, but . . . **Welcome** . . . as 2nd vice president and your beginning steps to the presidency. **Craig Carr** (Corvallis, OR) and **Richard Fleenor** (Spokane, WA) as new directors, we know you will hit the ground running and pick up and carry forward.

Our Board secretary is an appointed position; **Sarah Troutman-Zahn** (Ellensburg, WA) has stepped forward to do it. Thank you to each of you for leading us forward.

Sandra Wyman -- elected Director of The Society for Range Management (parent society).

“I am honoured to be elected to the SRM Board and thank you for placing your trust in me. I do not take this lightly. As a range professional and 25-year member, SRM has been a key venue to learn, network and move forward toward our mission ‘to promote the professional development and continuing education of members and the public, and the stewardship of rangeland resources’. We are on the verge of losing a large part of our work force to retirement. My friend John Buckhouse reminded me ‘We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us’. We do not want to re-discover the past 50 years, but retain and gain new knowledge to manage rangeland resources through good science and interpretation of science. Call me at 541-447-0206 with concerns and ideas that will help us meet our mission and encourage others to achieve and maintain healthy landscapes.

AWARDS

PNW 2008 Trail Boss Award to --- Mike Malmberg

Mike Malmberg is a long-time supporter of the PNW Section of Society for Range Management. He has served in nearly every capacity, including as our President in 1994. He is active in the parent-level of the Society, having served on numerous committees and projects, and most recently as chair of the Parent Society’s Awards Committee – where characteristically, he brought a “touch of class” to the ceremonies and to the readings of the successful candidates’ resumes.

In his career with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in British Columbia, Mike was a valued and respected spokesperson for natural resources, for individuals who are professionally and personally affiliated with the land, and for rangeland ecosystems in BC and across all of North America. Following his retirement, Mike remains active in the field as a consultant and attending workshops which insure that he remains up-to-date and sharp in all aspects of the resource and the issues which affect them.

Mike is a tireless volunteer for the PNW and a marvellous technical resource for the rangelands of the world. To all who know him, Mike is a wonderful friend, trusted colleague, fine human being and a strong voice for what is right and proper. He is respected and loved for who and what he is . . . a range person and a good man.

PNW 2008 Exemplary Service Award to — Lavona Liggins

Lavona Liggins is “to die for!” She is the kind of person who always has a smile, a cheerful and helpful word, and a willingness to roll up her sleeves to tackle any job which is worthy of being undertaken. The PNW Section is known for its capable, willing and wonderful members; Lavona sets the standard for this description.

Do you need to plan a technical tour? Do you need a technically trained and knowledgeable colleague? Do you need a willing and rational committee member? Do you need a detail-oriented person who can follow up? Do you need a supportive friend and a person you can count upon?

For years, that person has been Lavona Liggins with her “can do” attitude and approach.

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AWARDS, continued...

“Outstanding Achievement in Range Management” --- Brad Lathrop

We are late in congratulating Brad for the award presented by the U.S. Forest Service Chief during the '08 Annual Meeting of SRM in Louisville. As a Range Management Specialist on the North Fork John Day in Oregon, he was recognized because “People know that when they want something done right, they can count on Brad Lathrop”. Brad adds, “Grazing is too important, especially to rural Eastern Oregon, to the people and their communities, not to be a part of it.”

Iowa Rock & Roll Music Association Hall of Fame inductee – Gary Banowetz

You met Gary at PNW’s annual meeting in Corvallis, OR in 2007. He wore his “research hat” as research leader with USDA. Guess what? In the 60s he played lead guitar for an Iowa band that once opened for Herman’s Hermits! Asked if he had a CD, he replied, “not yet, but we will”!

Retired? Maybe, but. . .

Henry Kipp, Olympia, WA, retired forester and range conservationist, writes that health issues prevent him from participating with SRM in person, but he likes keeping up with all of you via this newsletter. He sent pictures of blooming bushes in his yard – if in Olympia, stop in to see them!

Howard DeLano, Oregon City, OR, retired from BLM in 1972, but continues to raise purebred cattle and Lipizzan horses, and write. His recent article in the “Capital Press” was titled “Resolve surplus horse problem humanely.” He urges revision of laws so that horses kept can be well taken care of, and those which cannot be kept are disposed of in a humane manner.

Jim Brunner, Medford OR, celebrated his 90th birthday with about 150 people who gathered to roast and toast him. What fun to hear folks who know him through church, Kiwanis and writers’ guild describe, from their vantage point, the same Jim we all know! Good going, Jim!

Looking back

Remember the 2006 fall meeting and workshop at Mount St Helens? Take a trip back to the Mountain with this link: <http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/mshnvm/video/immersive-media/vid1.shtml>

With permission, we share this news clip from “The Columbian” which serves Clark County Washington:

“Click your mouse, fly to Mount St. Helens” – By Tom Vogt, Columbian staff writer

It’s a panoramic view of Mount St. Helens you’ll never see unless you can pilot a helicopter. And you still won’t see it because you’ll never get a fly-over permit.

But now a virtual volcano flight on a Vancouver-based Web site can bring you crater-kicking close. The Gifford Pinchot National Forest has posted three video clips that bring 360-degree flights to the computer screen.

The three videos – all about two minutes long – take viewers along for a ride on the rim of the volcano and over Spirit Lake, a fly-over of the Mount St. Helens blast zone, and a flight into the crater.

“Very few people will be able to see it from that perspective,” Gifford Pinchot spokesman Chris Strebis said. “This is our way of sharing that experience. Most people can get access to the Internet.”

It’s also an interactive view. The viewer can “pilot” the helicopter with the mouse button.

Calendar of Events

Feb. 8-13, 2009	62nd Annual Meeting of the Society for Range Management, Albuquerque, New Mexico <i>Merging Trails: Culture, Science, and Innovation</i>
June 24, 2009	OSU Range Field Day, Burns, Oregon
June 25-27, 2009	PNW Section Field Workshop, John Day, Oregon
Fall 2009	PNW Section Annual Meeting & Workshop, Washington
Summer 2010	PNW Section Field Workshop, British Columbia
Fall 2010	PNW Section Annual Meeting & Workshop, Oregon
Summer 2011	PNW Section Field Workshop, Washington
Fall 2011	PNW Section Annual Meeting & Workshop, British Columbia
Winter 2012	65th Annual Meeting of the Society for Range Management, Spokane, Washington
Summer 2012	PNW Section Field Workshop, Oregon
Fall 2012	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@blm.gov