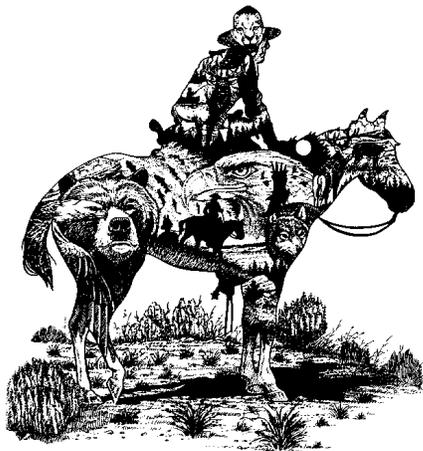


Society for Range Management Pacific Northwest Section

Properly functioning ecosystems provide for long-term sustainability of watersheds, plants, animals and people
Volume 60, Number 3 July 2009



See you in Clarkston
Washington
September 16-18!

President's Message Dana Peterson, Wenatchee, Washington

NEWSLETTER

Congratulations to the Central Oregon Chapter on an excellent summer tour with 91 participants. Thanks especially, to **Cici Brooks, Mary Beth Smith, Debra Bunch, Curt & Jennie Moffitt, and John & Lynne Breese** for an interesting and fun time. In addition to hard work, it was obvious that the meeting was the result of a lot of thought and creativity. The pot-luck and chili cook-off was a great idea. Congratulations to **Dustin Johnson**, Cook-off Winner. And a rousing thanks to **Tim Ross** and **Gary Banowetz** for the live western music. These guys played like they'd performed together for years, but they met for the first time that evening! If you weren't there, you missed a great "campfire".

Thanks to the **Fossil Beds National Monument** for hosting us on Thursday. The program, which emphasized successional processes and ecologically-based management, set the stage for the tour of prescribed and wildfire sites. The tour brought home the importance of understanding potential responses to treatment with fire, based on the ecological site and the current condition of the site. During evening campfire discussion, many folks felt that PNW SRM should play a role in educating people on the importance of understanding ecological sites and their responses to treatment, particularly when invasive species like medusahead and cheatgrass are present.

It was great to have **J.D. Wulforst, Maura Laverty** and **Meribeth Lomkin** of the Idaho Section join us. J.D. will be the Idaho co-chair of the 2012 SRM International meeting in Spokane. He is a rural community sociologist in the Department of Agricultural & Life Sciences at the University of Idaho. **Will Keller** and **Kevin Guinn** will lead the 2012 charge for PNW Section. Watch for a call for volunteers to help with the 2012 meeting. I have enjoyed my time as President of the PNW section, due in large part to the willingness of members to volunteer.

I am not sure if he volunteered, or if the railroad ran to his door, but kudos to **Courtney Smith** for heading up the organizing committee for our PNW Fall Meeting and tour, September 16-18. Be ready for a great program. Remember your **Silent Auction** items, and . . . you may want to polish up your **plant ID skills!**

Thanks to **Karen Raven** for heading up the nominating committee. We have an outstanding slate of candidates. **Please vote.** (see enclosed ballot)

In keeping with the summer spirit, we had an extremely informal blended Advisory Council and Board of Directors meeting. It was nice to hear that the PNW Section is in good shape financially. Funds are available to sponsor meeting registration and membership to encourage new members. We discussed interviewing our senior members and publishing the interviews in the newsletters. It will make for some good reading.

Speaking of senior members, **Happy Birthday to Bill Anderson** from all of us in the PNW SRM.

See you at our **Fall Rendezvous at the confluence of the Clearwater and Snake Rivers, September 16-18.**

Have a great summer!

Dana

PNW Section thanks many supporters of our Summer Tour: Wilbur-Ellis & Tobe Zweigart for the BBQ; Painted Hills Beef for hot dogs; Grant County Farm Bureau, Grant County Stockgrowers, and the Grant, Wheeler & Monument SWCDs for financial support. All of these folks were part of the summer tour "team".

Idaho Section Invades PNW Summer Tour

By **Maura Laverty & Meribeth Lomkin**

(Not all women in the Idaho Section have the initials ML!)

Maura is Supervisory Rangeland Management Specialist on the Payette National Forest. It is rumoured that she is a published author of a certain Irish Cookbook that **Hugh Barrett** possesses! In reality, her Irish father immigrated to the USA to serve in the Army in his 20's. Maura aspires to obtain her Irish citizenship.

Meribeth, a Senior Resource Specialist for Idaho Department of Lands in Jerome, manages a variety of leases on state endowment lands (school sections). Off the job, she grows and cans a variety of fruits and vegetables and has a cat that helps her herd sheep and change irrigation dams.

Having been members of both the Idaho and PNW Sections of SRM for years, we took this opportunity to come to Oregon to meet people we'd be working with when our two sections co-host the 2012 National SRM meeting in Spokane. We were delighted that **J.D. Wulfhorst** "invaded" also! We all learned new concepts about rangeland management, and we stole ideas for a chili cook-off for our Idaho summer meeting!

Maura's thoughts:

As for my recent visit to Dayville, Oregon, "fascinating" describes the setting for the summer meeting in the John Day Fossil Beds and surrounding area. As I traipse around the rangeland at home in the West Central Mountains of Idaho, I rarely consider the formation of the soils beneath my feet. I had no idea of the rich history in Grant County. The Thomas Condon Paleocenter center at the Fossil Beds National Monument was a great location.

Although I don't work in Ponderosa/Juniper/sagebrush ecosystems, I still brought home the basic question to ask when considering prescribed burning, "What is the objective?" Is burning going to do more harm than good? What a great reminder of the struggle to justify rangeland burns. The USFS Fuels Specialists I work with often prescribe fire to change age classes or PVGs (Potential Vegetation Groups), or simply to reduce the fuel loads. The cumulative effects of burning may not be so forgiving.

It was good to reconnect with friends from my former life in Colorado and Unity, OR., but I missed seeing some longtime friends of PNW. Hope to see you in Clarkston in September!

Meribeth's thoughts:

PNW's summer tour provided a diverse set of topics that likely included something new and interesting for everyone. Two of the most thought provoking presentations, from my perspective, were **Jason McClaughry's** "Ancient Supervolcanoes in Central & Eastern Oregon" and **Julie Beckstead's** "Novel approaches for Restoring Cheatgrass-Dominated Rangelands". The concept of super volcanoes and their landscape influence was a new one for me. The influence of geology on landscape and soils certainly plays a role in Central Oregon, South Central Idaho, and everywhere. The "Ancient Supervolcanoes" presentation, our field day stops on the Fossil Beds National Monument and the Paleocenter museum provided a fascinating view into the long time past of Central Oregon and gave a great background for the tour.

The on-going research into cheatgrass control using naturally occurring pathogens to reduce seed production and viability generates hope for help where cheatgrass is dominating rangelands. Cheatgrass invasion is so widespread that the possibility of adding more "tools to the toolbox" is great news! With names like Black Fingers of Death (a fungus that reduces cheatgrass seed viability), how can we go wrong? While Dr. Beckstead was quick to say there is still much work to be done, the information that she shared is certainly encouraging.

The PNW summer tour organizers did a wonderful job organizing tour stops and speakers, and arranging great meals. Thanks for a great summer meeting!

**See Fall Meeting Deadlines
August 16th – Quality Inn
August 28th - Early Registration**

2009 OSU Range Field Day

By **Jim Clawson and Tom Bedell**

Jim, from Dallas, OR, is a retired U. of California Extension Range Specialist and a past Polk Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) Director. He is active in forming a Polk County Extension Service District.

Tom, from Philomath, OR, retired as OSU Extension Range Specialist in 1992 and stays busy as chairman of the Benton SWCD, among other things. He was SRM President in 1989.

Over 100 folks attended the OSU Range Field Day at The Northern Great Basin Experimental Range. The Field Day was dedicated to **Dr. Dave Ganskopp** in recognition of his retirement from 27 years of research at the E. Oregon Agriculture Research Station. **Dave Bohnert**, OSU and **Tony Svejcar**, USDA/ARS kept the day on track.

Bedell remembers the first OSU Range Field Day in June 1979 with about 180 people in attendance. It was new College of Agriculture Dean Ernie Briskey's first exposure to the range program in Oregon, and Tom recalls his very positive remarks. It wasn't long afterward that the Rangeland Resources program became a full department. Much credit goes to the staff at Squaw Butte, as it was then called, and to the Corvallis faculty.

The program offered five presentations and two in-field sessions. **We suggest you go to the web page for your copy of "Field Day Report-Special Report 1092"**. It contains 12 articles, of which only six were presented at the Field Day. <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/sr/sr1092-e/>

Presentations focused on aspects of rangeland/animal relationships and behavior included:

- Wolf-cattle interactions in the Northern Rocky Mountains by **Pat Clark**;
- Factors influencing cattle, elk, and mule deer distribution in managed forests by **Marty Vavra**;
- Distribution of cattle grazing in a NE Oregon riparian pasture by **Doug Johnson**;
- Pre-and post-burn cattle distribution patterns in Sagebrush Steppe by **Dave Ganskopp**;
- Does disposition affect reproduction in beef cattle? By **Reinaldo Cooke**
- Post-burn cattle distribution and vegetation recovery by **Jon Bates, Dave Ganskopp & Tony Svejcar**. **Rick Miller** also discussed juniper and fire.

The remaining articles in "Special Report 1092" include:

- Crested wheatgrass impedes the spread of medusahead;
- Grazing history influences the response of sagebrush plant communities to fire;
- Promoting native vegetation in medusahead infestations;
- Cattle grazing strategies that limit stream bank degradation;
- Describing Greater sage-grouse nesting habitat at multiple spatial scales in SE Oregon;
- Relationship between seed bank density & juniper abundance in Oregon's Sagebrush Steppe;
- Shrub microsite influences post-fire perennial grass establishment.

Report from "Headquarters" (SRM Board of Directors)

By **Sandra Wyman, Director**

Sandy is "on the road again" with the National Riparian Team. When home, she is "dry-landscaping" her yard.

It was good to visit with many PNW folks (and mosquitoes) at the PNW Summer Tour. If you missed it, here's a quick catch-up. After much discussion regarding the cost of our journals and running in the red due to increasing publishing and shipping costs, the BOD has created a dues structure which will offer a "menu" of membership and subscription choices. Watch for the full

details in the next PNW newsletter or Rangeland News.

Jess Peterson, Western Skies Strategy, has been hired for six months to help the SRM improve our Washington D.C. presence and to help with membership. He brings enthusiasm and ideas and we look forward to his help.

Your BOD and Staff welcome your active participation. Questions, comments, recommendations? Please don't hesitate to call me at 541-447-0206 or email at wymansk@msn.com

PNW Section Elections 2009 – Vote by Sept. 9

Vice President Nominees – Vote for one (1) by September 9

Nominees are: **Lavona Liggins and Richard Fleenor**

Richard Fleenor, Spokane, WA

I grew up in Vancouver, WA, served in the U. S. Marine Corps and graduated from Oregon State U. With my Rangeland Resources degree, I started in 1991 as a Range Technician for Oregon BLM. My next move was to Washington as a Range Conservationist and Vegetation Ecologist for the Colville Confederated Tribes. Currently with NRCS, I have worked as a Range Management Specialist and am now a Plant Materials Specialist in Spokane. I am married to a wonderful person, Susan, and have two great children, Daneal (24) and Ryan (18).

I belong to SRM for pragmatic reasons. Presentations and field trips at the national, section and chapter meetings are great sources of information. These are second only to the wealth of information I get from the many experienced SRM members who participate. Officially, I served as Okanogan Chapter president in '97 & '98 and Washington Chapter president in '06. Currently, I am a director on the PNW Section Board. Unofficially, I've joined with many members in putting together SRM chapter & section meetings and field trips.

SRM is outstanding, and should continue to do what it does best – facilitate understanding and management of rangeland ecosystems. We (SRM) should continue to challenge ourselves to find other arenas where our knowledge of, and experience with rangeland ecosystems could contribute to improving or solving unaddressed or unresolved environmental problems, both locally and abroad. Partnering with groups that have similar natural resource values and concerns is a good way to network, build relationships, and communicate the values of SRM.

In my off-time, I ride bikes (pedal and motor), work around the house, and when we can, go sailing with my family.

Support our Students

**Bring Silent Auction Items to the
Fall Rendezvous in Clarkston, WA.**

Lavona Liggins, Kamloops, B.C.

Greetings from BC! I thank the nominations committee for the opportunity to run for 2nd Vice-president of the PNW Section. At present, I work as a Range Management Biologist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. I arrived in Kamloops ten years ago, after a journey that yielded me a B.Sc. and a M.Sc. from UBC; that took me from coastal BC, to a great year in Corvallis, OR, and to some incredible time in the Williams Lake area.

I have been in SRM and the PNW Section since 1997. In that time, I have transitioned from graduate student to federal employee, first as a Range Research Technician and now in my current role. Through these shifts, the Section and the BC Chapter have been a big part of my professional development. I have learned from the continuing education opportunities, and also from the formal and informal mentoring and resource networks that we create. Work with the BC Chapter as secretary and/or treasurer since 2000, and my recent experience on the PNW Board of Directors, has provided opportunities to develop valuable relationships and skills.

Many good initiatives have been championed and come into being in our Section; support for high school and university students, creating the First Response Team, and new approaches to outreach and membership are a few examples. These are not one-time efforts; we need to foster these programs so they continue to grow and thrive. In addition, I am interested in how we can further encourage active participation at the section and chapter levels by new members and new graduates. Participation leads to retention, but more importantly it provides opportunities for personal and professional growth, and for our existing members to share the wealth of knowledge and experience they have developed. I would be pleased to serve and thank you for your consideration.

Fun for me is time with friends & family, good music and even better food, a new route to hike or paddle, taking a photo in just the right light, or finally figuring out the rules to my nephews' version of road hockey.

PNW Section Elections 2009, *continued*

Board of Director Nominees – Vote for two (2) by September 9

Nominees are: **Sarah Troutman-Zahn, Dustin Johnson, and Kelly Birkmaier**

Kelly Birkmaier, Enterprise, OR

I am a Range Specialist/Range NEPA Coordinator for the USFS. I have been on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest since 2006, prior to which I was a graduate student at Oregon State U. My graduate work focused on changes in cattle behavior based on temperature. In my current position, I spend most of my time completing rangeland assessments and inventories on public lands. My husband and I also work together on our family's cattle ranch.

For me, SRM is an entity where researchers, biologists, ecologists, ranchers, livestock operators, and interested persons, basically, people of all "walks of life", can come together to learn, teach, coordinate and understand rangelands. Although we are from different backgrounds and come to SRM for different purposes, we all have the same underlying goal: to improve rangelands across the globe. This is why I belong to SRM. During my SRM time, I have presented two posters and a presentation, helped the OSU undergraduates with their booth presentations, and sat in on both the wildlife and riparian workshop committees.

My dream for SRM is for the continuation and refinement of supplying sound scientific research to the public. This includes acting as a liaison between the different entities that are incorporated in our society, and moving research towards whatever the "hot topics" are at that time.

For fun, I love working with my family on the ranch, especially gathering cattle, as well as hiking and camping.

Dustin Johnson, Burns, OR

Since 1998, I've been with SRM, first as a student in the Dept. of Rangeland Resources at Eastern Oregon U. Professionally, I've continued in Burns as a Graduate Research Assistant and Rangeland Research Technician with E.OR Agricultural Research Center, BLM Rangeland Management Specialist and now as Harney County/ OSU Extension Faculty in Rangeland Ecology & Management. A lot has changed since that first year of membership, but for me, SRM has always been asso-

ciated with professional development, networking, collaboration, educational opportunities for students, exchange of information and ideas, and interdisciplinary problem solving – all centered around a shared goal of sustainable management of rangeland resources.

As we look forward, there are many formidable environmental, social, and economic challenges for sustainable management of rangeland resources. Through its diverse and dedicated membership, SRM has been at the forefront of informing and addressing those challenges. In other words, the success of SRM is found in the network of people who work on the rangeland landscapes which they are passionate about.

Of primary concern to me, currently, is the alarming rate at which our profession is losing invaluable experience and critical mass to retirement. Therefore, recruitment and education of young professionals will be critically important as we move forward. The future of the SRM and the PNW Section exists with these young people. Better awareness campaigns and educational opportunities focused on youth at high school and university levels will increase the recruitment of motivated young people into SRM and the profession.

We have 3 kids now getting to the age that we can get back to hiking, fishing, hunting & enjoying the PNW.

Sarah Troutman-Zahn, Ellensburg, WA

I am honored to be nominated for director of PNW SRM. Growing up in the shrub steppe of northern Douglas Co., WA, I worked with 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 met the great folks of the PNW Section, and served two years as president of the Palouse Student Chapter of SRM. After graduating with a B.S. in natural resources with emphasis on range management, I came on board with NRCS as a Rangeland Management Specialist in Ellensburg. I have been active in the Washington Chapter ever since,

. . . continued on next page . . .

Member Update

Bill Anderson is 95 on July 26. Bill knows folks all across and up & down the PNW. He worked everywhere in his career, and, he knew everyone and every place along the way. What a treat to have ridden with him on Hwy. 97 north to Canada a few years ago. It was living history of everything from the geology to the people.

Fred Hall writes: I am realizing that many long years of service and age are catching up with me. My leg difficulties just make it “not safe” for me to be in the field any longer. I am not through writing, though; I do plan to complete my summaries, and look forward to sharing them with you.

John Hook writes: **Bob Hamner**, a former member of the PNW Section passed away June 23, in Grand Junction, CO. With a graduate degree in Range Management from the U. of Wyoming, Bob worked for BLM, served in Viet Nam, then began a lifelong career with the USFS. Plans are being made for a tribute to Bob at the 63rd Annual SRM meeting in Denver next February. Discussions of a scholarship are also underway.



The PNW Website address has changed to:
<http://pnw.rangelands.org>

PNW Section Election. . . continued from previous page . . .

and served as chapter president.

I believe that outreach and membership recruitment is a huge key in keeping SRM the organization it is today. The PNW Section has made great strides in this arena, but I believe outreach to young members and ranchers is essential as we continue to engage them. I also feel it is very important to educate the public on resource management to help resolve scrutiny from uneducated opponents to land management. 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 are what I consider a good time!



SRM at the John Day Fossil Beds

Photo by Joe Wagner

PNW Section Officers

President	Dana Peterson	509-665-2119
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	541-207-1266
Director	Richard Fleenor	509-323-2965
Membership	Tessa Teems	541-417-1784
HSYF	Pete Schreder	541-947-6054
Awards	John Buckhouse	541-737-1629
History	Joe Wagner	541-947-6175
Newsletter	Lynne Breese	541-447-6762
	jlbreese@crestviewcable.com	
	Teal Purrington	541-410-7728
	Debbie Bunch	541-462-3383
Parent Society Director	Sandra Wyman	541-447-0206

Travelling to the U.S.

As of June 1, people entering the U.S., including returning U.S. citizens, will need a passport, NEXUS or Free and Secure trade (FAST) card, or an enhanced driver's license/enhanced identification card. Children younger than 16 can present a copy of their birth certificate. See www.travel.state.gov and click on passports for information.

First Response Team

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** at Karen.Raven@gov.ab.ca or 780-644-8521. 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. Contact **Fred Hall** at Fred_C_Hall@plantecolnw.com

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

Mike Borman, Corvallis, 541-737-1614

Eastern Oregon University

Mike McInnis, La Grande, 541-962-3812

Central Oregon

Robert Marheine, 541-460-2878

Southern Oregon

Les Boothe, Lakeview, 541-947-6141

Calendar of Events

September 16-18, 2009	PNW Section Annual Meeting & Workshop, Clarkston, Washington
February 2010	63rd Annual Meeting of the Society for Range Management, Denver, CO
Summer 2010	PNW Section Field Workshop, British Columbia
Fall 2010	PNW Section Annual Meeting & Workshop, Oregon/California
February 2011	64th Annual Meeting of the Society for Range Management, Billings, MT
Summer 2011	PNW Section Field Workshop, Washington
Fall 2011	PNW Section Annual Meeting & Workshop, British Columbia
February 2012	65th Annual Meeting of the Society for Range Management, Spokane, WA
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