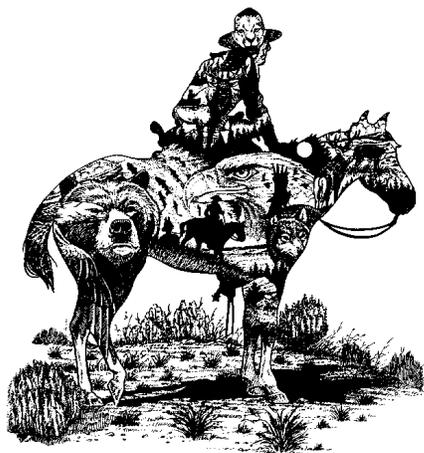


# Society for Range Management Pacific Northwest Section

Properly functioning ecosystems provide for long-term sustainability of watersheds, plants, animals and people  
Volume 62, Number 2 July 2011

## President's Message Tipton Hudson, Ellensburg, WA



# NEWSLETTER

Israel Feldman, chair of the International Range Congress in Argentina this April, argued in his keynote address that managing rangelands to serve people is appropriate. His comments were met with some resistance in discussions around coffee tables that week. Certainly these arid and semi-arid grass and shrub-dominated ecosystems have intrinsic value. But, is it wrong to bend them to human will to meet human needs? We recognize that there are multiple stable rangeland systems, many of them with equal ecological value. We have to use some reasoning to decide, at least on private lands, which stable system we are managing for.

Perhaps the most under-examined undercurrent in the social conflict over rangeland is a conflict of world-view. Many rangeland managers subscribe to some version of a Judeo-Christian view of land ethics: man is above the animals and responsible for taking care of them and the land they depend on. The view of others, philosophical materialism, is that man is but a plain member of the ecosystem. Ingrid Newkirk, founder of PETA, stated this graphically: "A rat is a pig is a dog is a boy". In this view, humans have no more intrinsic value than a sparrow. The outworkings of this are profound - ideas have consequences. Members of each of these camps of thought recognize some of these consequences, even if subconsciously. And they draw battle lines. I am optimistic that we can make progress by focusing on the middle ground of rangeland condition and function, but there are differences of opinion on how to get there, and stay there, that we dare not ignore.

One ideological consequence that often lies just below the surface of polite conversation among rangeland professionals is population control. In a provocative December 2009 *Rangelands* column, Thad Box made a case for a new moral law based on ecological analysis. He presented an argument for abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia of the elderly in

the name of protecting the carrying capacity of the land. He quotes Leopold, "No important change in ethics was ever accomplished without an internal change in our intellectual emphasis, loyalties, affections and convictions . . . Examine each question in terms of what is ethically and esthetically right, as well as what is economically expedient. A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."

This is the logical conclusion of Leopold's worldview; he just had enough guts to say it out loud. Is this where we want to go? Is this the solution to global sustainability, killing babies and grandmothers when they are no longer economically expedient? In making that claim, he ironically makes himself a god, deciding who lives and who dies. And he would impose this will on others who disagree, because that's what is best for the land. These are serious subjects that demand serious conversation. But, we live in serious times; take a look at the headlines this month. It is incumbent on us as professionals to engage on why we do what we do, not just the how.

There is much more at stake than whether it is biologically and politically appropriate to graze rangelands. A central tenet of conflict resolution is understanding the other side's point of view. Those points of view cannot be understood if they cannot be articulated. In calling attention to these things, I write as a volunteer officer for the Society for Range Management, not as a faculty of WSU. I believe we have a responsibility to examine these things, with gratitude for the protection of free speech that allows us to do so.

Dr. Box said, "Think about your own land ethic". Yes, by all means. Be sure to follow it all the way out to see where it goes. We live in a free society -- let's be brave enough to exercise our freedom. **Spokane 2012 would be a great time and place to get some exercise.**

*Tip*

# 2011 PNW Summer Meeting and Tour, Yakima, WA

**By Tom Brannon, Malaga, WA**

*Editors' note: Tom joined SRM as a WSU range student in 1958. Since retiring as supervisor of the WSU Colockum Field Station near Wenatchee, he is active in managing the family hardwood forest in SE Ohio. He and Kathy are centrally located for a great overnight stop for SRM'ers going between Oregon and BC to meetings. They like company.*

A big "thank you" to the Washington Chapter and all their helpers for a great summer meeting! Participants had a fine time in Yakima. With multiple meetings and multiple tours, there was plenty to do.

Wednesday noon started the affair. The afternoon was mostly meetings: Advisory Council, Board of Directors, and the Spokane 2012 Committee. A highlight of these meetings is that the PNW Section has set up two new awards. The **Jim Brunner Award** is a traveling award to recognize individuals who have excelled in on-the-ground resource management such as Jim did during his long career. The second award, honoring **Bill Anderson**, is a fund to promote professional development by new range professionals. PNW also has a new-member promotion whereby the Section may pay new member's costs for attending their first two Section meetings.

**Aleta Rudeen**, SRM Director of Outreach & Leadership Development from national headquarters joined us to help plan the 2012 National SRM meeting which PNW & ID are hosting in Spokane. Before the wine and cheese social, **Julie Conley** introduced us to the local range landscape, its geology, ownership patterns, and fire history. This was excellent background for the next day's field trips.

On Thursday, Pete Nissen, Natural Resources Manager for the Yakima Training Center, hosted us on an interesting and informative tour. Pete gave a history of the development of the center, and explained how military training has come to be the primary use for this large shrub-steppe resource. We visited plots with trials of several species of grasses and shrubs which may be suitable to this eight inch precipitation zone. These plots also were part of a study of effects of military vehicle traffic on shrub-steppe habitat. Another set of ungrazed plots, established 50 years ago in a 12 inch

precipitation zone, showed long range trends for several grasses popular in 1961. Crested wheatgrass and hard fescue seem to be most competitive on that site. On a recent burn, 500,000 bare root big sage had been hand-planted to enhance critical sage grouse habitat. And thanks to close adherence to procedure, none of the tour was used for target practice!

Our lunch stop was on a hill on the Martinez' range, where our view was from the Colockum Hills in the north to the Blue Mountains to the southeast. Awesome!! At this stop, several speakers presented on sheep ranching, wildlife management, predators, and local topics.

For those who could not go on the Training Center tour, an alternate tour was held at Eaton ranch, next to the Training Center. This group saw management and response on a livestock operation, and looked at a variety of methods for measuring and evaluating vegetation.

The evening BBQ and wine tasting, hosted by Cox Canyon Vineyards, consisted of a meal where the variety of wine was matched with the food selection. We experienced an excellent demonstration of how wine and food can complement each other. As we tasted, our host Gary Cox presented an informative slide show to explain why the Yakima area is so well suited to grape culture. Fascinating!

After the BBQ, around a fire ring at the campground, we enjoyed an impromptu concert by **Tim Ross** and **Julie Conley**. Great songs. Good friends. Shared memories that bring us together. It was a full day. Time went fast. So much to see. So much to crowd into one day.

It is interesting that within our group, one could see items from past meetings: ball caps from Oregon and BC, commemorative belt buckles, a well-worn t-shirt from the '98 Caribou meeting. All were reminders that this meeting is a continuation of our coming together with a common goal of becoming better resource stewards.

The Yakima "gathering" was successful, informative, and enjoyable, with *See YAKIMA, next page. . . . .*

# PNW SRM Creates Opportunities

*by John Buckhouse, Awards Chair*

The **Bill & Lois Anderson Memorial Fund**, in keeping with the Anderson's philosophy, will support member education and recognize high achievement. Monies donated will support travel expenses of PNW members in their quest for continuing education. Activities may include SRM meetings and workshops, and university and other educational workshops featuring rangeland, watershed, habitat and other natural resource subjects. Preference will be given to young professionals, students and independents. SRM membership is mandatory. To apply for a travel award, submit a letter to the Section President, detailing the educational venue and anticipated value to the individual. Applications will be forwarded to a selection committee.

In addition, a portion of the funds will support the creation and preparation of PNW's ongoing Awards program. Finally, a warm reminder of the Andersons will be made each year to the PNW Fall meeting as a bottle of Pendleton whiskey (Bill's favorite) will be auctioned at the Silent Auction. Proceeds will go to the PNW scholarship program.

Over \$6,000 has been raised in honor of Bill and Lois. You are encouraged to make a tax-exempt contribu-

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**See you  
September 21  
in Cranbrook!**

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tion to keep this memory and educational program growing. Please send contributions to the "E. William and Lois Anderson Memorial Fund" to Craig Obermiller, PNW SRM treasurer, 9605 Reif Road, Powell Butte, OR 97753.

The **Jim Brunner Achievement Award** was approved by the PNW Board at the 2011 Summer Meeting. This traveling award will be a mounted belt buckle which belonged to Charter Member James Brunner. The buckle depicts the Trail Boss and is inscribed with the words "American Society of Range Management". ASRM was the name adopted by our Society when it was chartered in 1948; it has evolved to become SRM. The mounted belt buckle will be awarded to a PNW member in keeping with Mr. Brunner's "in for the long haul" spirit.

## *YAKIMA, continued from previous page. . . . .*

one exception . . . On Wednesday, Vancouver lost the Stanley Cup in the 3rd quarter of the game, which brings up another problem. Some in the US can't understand why in hockey, the Canadians only play three quarters and call it finished. This question about the rules of their national sport may cause the Canadians to deny the US SRM'ers entry into their country until we get it straight! **Hugh Barrett** is in charge of PNW hockey education south of the border so that we may all get to the fall meeting in Cranbrook. See you there -- maybe! :)

## PNW Section Officers

President	Tip Hudson	509-962-7507
1st Vice Pres.	Lavona Liggons	250-554-5211
2nd Vice Pres.	Bob Gillaspay	503-414-3233
Past President	Les Boothe	541-947-6141
Secretary		
Treasurer	Craig Obermiller	541-923-2777
Director	Craig Carr	541-740-4771
Director	Richard Fleenor	509-323-2965
Director	Dustin Johnson	541-573-8386
Director	Sarah Troutman-Zahn	509-925-8585
Director	Rob Dinwoodie	250-558-1768
Director	Courtney Smith	509-758-8012
Membership		
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	
Parent Society Director	Sandra Wyman	541-447-0206

# PNW Section Elections 2011

## Vice President Nominees – Vote for one (1)

Nominees are: **Richard Fleenor and Bob Fowler**

**Richard Fleenor,  
Medical Lake, WA**

I grew up in Vancouver, Washington. Since receiving my Rangeland Resources degree from OSU in 1991, I've worked in Oregon as a BLM Range Technician, and in Washington as a Range Conservationist and Vegetation Ecologist for the Colville Confederated Tribes. With NRCS, I have worked as a Range Management Specialist and, currently, in Spokane, as a Plant Materials Specialist. My wonderful wife Susan, and I have two great children, Daneal, 26 and Ryan, 20.

Initially, I belonged to SRM because I believed in its mission and it had great educational opportunities. As we all know, presentations and field trips at the international, section, and chapter meetings are great sources of information. As time goes by, however, I find that equally important to the mission of, and educational opportunities provided by SRM, are the people I've met while attending these meetings. It's like having an environmentally conscious extended family: a family who combines love and knowledge of rangeland ecosystems with reality and common sense. My official efforts include Okanogan Chapter president in '97 and '98, and Washington Chapter president in '06. Currently, I'm serving on the PNW Section board and the Spokane 2012 Committee.

SRM is an outstanding organization and should continue to do what it does best: facilitate understanding and management of rangeland ecosystems. SRM should continue to challenge itself to find "new" areas where its knowledge of rangeland ecosystems can contribute to solving problems and improving conditions. I believe that partnering with other 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 (both pedal and motor), work around the house, and when I get the chance, go sailing with my family.

**Bob Fowler, Burns Lake, BC**

As an Agrologist with the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Resource Operations since 1982, I've taken brief breaks to cowboy, log, and guide hunts. I am a "hands-on" type, and love to fix things with my hands, or take things apart and put them back together. On the side, I have a construction business, plow snow in the winter, and have a basement leather shop. My wonderful wife supports my various hobbies. My three kids are married, live in Burns Lake and raise my four grandchildren.

SRM allows me to connect and communicate with peers that have the same love for the land, agriculture, wildlife and people that use the land. SRM is the best of the best in grass roots land management practices as well as the science of range management. I have been president of the BC Chapter and helped organize tours for the promotion of good range management. The health of the land is only as good as we make it; my involvement with SRM, as well as an original member of the NW Invasive Plant Council of BC, is my way of contributing where and when possible.

SRM will only get better because of the new generation of people, like my children, who all wish to have a healthy environment and a healthy lifestyle. They show this by the way they eat, the way they raise their kids, and the healthier lifestyle they try to live. These people will drive us to do better on the land base and manage for all the resources. We have a strong sense of the science of range management; that improves with all the research that has been done, is done, and will be done. I believe we need to go back a bit to the users of the land; look at their skills in management of the land -- look at the ART of range management. That is something that together, we can and need to do. The art (practical range management) is what will be lost if we do not record it. Science is recorded and continues to be recorded for future reference. Learn from the cowboys, the trappers, guides, and various users of the land. How do they utilize the resources which they manage? This, to me, is what will support the science in maintaining healthy and productive ecosystems for the future.

What do I do for fun? Love my family, play with grandchildren, camp, build things, garden, chase cows with my horse, fish, hunt, learn guitar, ride my Honda Gold wing, look for new challenges, and travel to Scotland and Ireland to drive on the wrong side of the road.

**Vote by September 14**

# Board of Director Nominees – Vote for two (2)

Nominees are: **Julie Conley, Gene Hickman, and Maura Laverty**

## Julie Conley, Yakima, WA

I was raised in eastern Washington, Oregon and Colorado, all rural rangeland towns. I obtained my BA in International Studies with a minor in French from University of the Pacific before heading to the Peace Corps in Mali, West Africa.

I have been an SRM member since 1997, when I pursued my MS in Range Management at the University of Arizona. I joined to network with other "grass nerds". I stayed because of the friendships developed over the years. Throughout my career, I have held non-traditional range jobs -- policy research and writing for Extension, coordinating a conservation district, a stint with the Nature Conservancy, contract employee for the Army. I now work for the U.S. Fish and wildlife Service where I coordinate a partnership of state and federal agencies and NGOs focused on shrub steppe conservation. I am on the Spokane 2012 Committee and co-hosted the 2011 summer tour in Yakima. Since 2006, I am a Certified Professional in Rangeland Management.

As a PNW director, I would emphasize what I was told in Tucson, "Rangeland is a kind of land, not necessarily a use of the land". I would encourage greater interaction between those that focus on grazing lands and those that manage rangelands for other diverse purposes and emphasize our common challenges as vegetation managers.

In my spare time, I hike and backpack with my husband and two daughters, sing and play guitar, and visit our extended families.

## Gene Hickman, Bend, OR

My introduction to SRM was as a student member at Oregon State University, earning a BS in Mechanical Technology in Agriculture, and a MS in Agriculture (1966). A Masters thesis in the Range Management Department titled "Seasonal Trends in the Nutritive Content of Important Range Forage Species near Silver Lake, OR," was later published as a USFS Research Paper (PNW-1987) in 1975.

A 35-year career as a Range Specialist for NRCS (Oregon) began at Medford, with ranch planning, field inventories and plant materials field trials for testing adaptability to SW Oregon ecosystems. From central Oregon, I continued with inventories, ranch and watershed planning, seeding evaluations, ecological site work, soil-vegetation correlation for soil surveys, and Coordinated Planning leadership. I have authored oral papers, technical reports and publications on range and ecology, and worked with USFS, BLM and State Lands to do rangeland inventory, wildlife habitat research, and National Monument ecology plot sampling.

Since retiring from USDA, I do range ecology consulting, being registered as a CPRM with SRM. This involves historic vegetation research and recovering plant data from old land survey records.

With my wife Linda, we manage rental properties, and operate a custom bakery, The Cake Lady Shoppe. Other interests include old-growth and relict landscapes, old west history, travel and technical writing. I have never been an SRM officer, but, if elected, would be willing to assist and contribute to making SRM stronger and more visible.

## Maura Laverty, Peshastin, WA

The Pacific Northwest has been my home for many years. I mostly grew up in Clarkston, WA, having just returned to Washington State as the Range and Invasive Species Program Manager for the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest last fall. I spent the past 23 years with the Forest Service in Oregon, Colorado, and Idaho. I've been an SRM member since 1986, when I was studying for my BS in Range Management at WSU.

I am an SRM CPRM and have served the SRM as a member and Chair of the Information & Education Committee (now Outreach & Communication), as well as the Western Chapter Director for Idaho Section. In 2010, after attending the PNW summer meeting, I was persuaded by the enthusiastic Lynne Breese to co-chair the Publicity Committee for Spokane 2012. I thought it would be a great way to maintain ties to the Idaho section members and get re-acquainted with PNW members.

I believe educating and gaining support from the public about rangeland management is the key to our survival as a Society. As a publicity co-chair for Spokane 2012, I find we have numerous outreach opportunities to spread the word. I would be honored to serve on the PNW Section Board.

In my spare time, I like trail riding (horse or bike), hiking, camping, boating (raft or jet) and travel to new areas.

**Vote by  
September 14**

## PNW Summer 2012! See you in Baker City, OR

It doesn't get better than this. At the Yakima summer meeting, **Mitch Thomas** said, "Y'all come to Baker City, OR for next summer's workshop". The Baker Field Tour Committee is exploring topics and options as they aim for next June. There could be a medusahead research project, the Baker County Grass Bank -- even wind energy. You might ride the historic Sumpter Valley narrow gauge train and see the restoration of the gold dredging. And there is the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center -- you might want to bring your family!

Mark your calendar for next June, and "listen" for news from the Baker Committee. Thanks Mitch!

## 1st Annual High Desert Youth Range Camp

Of the HDYRC, **Brenda Smith**, Burns, OR, ARS, writes that it was "a terrific learning experience for 16 high school age campers from Oregon and Idaho. It was a joy to get to know these kids. They were interested, engaged, adventurous and worked extremely well together. We think it is safe to say that it was just a downright fun learning experience. The camp staff and presenters were all absolutely outstanding and put a tremendous amount of work and sacrifice to make range camp a reality."

**Isaac Studtmann**, Long Creek, will represent Oregon well at HSYF in Spokane, "but honestly, there were at least 12 students who would be top notch, and the remaining four would hang right in there also".

## Society for Range Management Pacific Northwest Section



### First Time Member Incentive

*The SRM PNW Section is offering a new membership incentive program for first time SRM members or student members who are transitioning into their new careers. To help offset the costs associated with membership, the PNW section will reimburse new members (upon proof of membership) the cost of meeting registration fees for two (2) PNW section meetings in their first two (2) years of membership. If you have never before been a member of SRM or are a young professional transitioning into your new career, this is a great opportunity to save money and be involved in SRM.*

To take advantage of this **New Member Incentive** please:

1. REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT, pay for your registration to the PNW event and come to the meeting.
2. If you aren't already one, sign up as an SRM member while at the meeting; we will have membership forms available at the registration desk (please bring credit card information to complete the form).
3. Leave your name at the registration desk indicating your interest in the New Member Incentive. A sign up sheet will be provided.
4. Once first time membership is confirmed, the PNW Section will reimburse you, the new member, for the event registration. Please be aware that this process may take a bit of time.

## Spokane 2012 Needs YOU!

Volunteers will be needed to do tasks from stuffing registration packets to "directing traffic" and setting up signs. Don't wait to be called. **Volunteer now!!** Contact **Jamie McCormack** at 541-233-3438 or [jamiesmccormack@gmail.com](mailto:jamiesmccormack@gmail.com) or **Rae Haddow** at 250-426-1780 or [Rae.Haddow@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Rae.Haddow@gov.bc.ca)

## Billings Hold-over, by our Far North Cub Reporter

*By Darryl Kroeker, BC Chapter president, Tomslake, BC. Editors' note: Warning us that he could not confine his Billings Buzz to six lines, we said, "just go for it". He did; it is good food for thought and discussion.*

A couple of sessions really stood out. The first, put on by the RTEC, sounded like a pretty exclusive group, and I didn't know if I could afford the membership fee! However, they were talking about crested wheatgrass (a whole day, no less!) and I've used it before where I wanted to get some grass established on dry knolls. There were good presentations on the history of plant development, introduction to N. America, and its ardent adoption as a wonderful replacement for some of our native grasses. We listened to scientific presentations on experimental trials with a variety of techniques to eliminate crested wheatgrass and establish native grasses. Now, the thing about scientists, and I consider myself one, is that they like to keep all the treatments separate so they can measure precisely the contribution that each treatment has towards a particular result. Unfortunately, none of the presenters demonstrated proven, long-term control results that could be relied upon to work every time. Then along came Jerry Benson. Jerry's job is to make something else grow in stands of crested wheatgrass and cheatgrass. He shared his approach that uses the scientific information and biology of the plant, combined with the practical, results-oriented approach of a farmer to establish grass. Mowing, harrowing, seeding and several applications of herbicide over three years were components of his approach to establish grasses such as Idaho fescue in previous stands of crested and cheatgrass. While the whole session was informative in its approach of bringing together history, biology and science, Jerry's presentation, in particular, combined each of those components into a practical, how-to lesson.

The second session was the all-day Producers' Forum, "The Art of Grazing Management". I've spent a bit of time on the delivery end of the process, providing information on how to improve grazing and grass management. It was refreshing to hear from practitioners who apply the theory on more than a quarter section! Everyone had a monitoring system that measured the components important to their individual operation. While one producer included wildlife as an important part of their overall business, every presenter documented the positive changes to populations of wildlife and songbirds that resulted from their management improvements. Listening to their presentations, I was humbled by the dedication and commitment these grazing practitioners made to garner improvements on the range.

What made these two sessions stand out was the fact they brought together the information we generate from our scientific research with the people who take this information and deliver the product: well-managed rangelands. We can't go wrong if we include more of that in our upcoming Annual Meetings.

**Idaho Section invites you to their 2011 Summer Tour, August 17-19,**  
at Dworshak State Park, near Orofino, ID. Topics include management of dryland pastures and grazed riparian zones, Nez Perce Biocontrol Program, predator depredations. See scenic vistas of N. Idaho's grazing lands. For complete schedule/registration, see [http://idaho.rangelands.org/summertour\\_2011.pdf](http://idaho.rangelands.org/summertour_2011.pdf)

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

**British Columbia** Darryl Kroeker, Tomslake, 250-786-0220

**Washington** Celeste Avila, 509-422-2750 x109

**Oregon State University** Michael Borman, Corvallis, 541-737-1614

**Eastern Oregon University** Larry Larson, La Grande, 541-963-7338

**Central Oregon** Tory Kurtz, Prineville, 541-419-5479

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

# Calendar of Events

August 17-19, 2011	Idaho Section Meeting, Orofino, ID
September 21-23, 2011	PNW Section Annual Meeting & Workshop, Cranbrook, British Columbia
January 29-February 3, 2012	65th Annual Meeting of the Society for Range Management, Spokane, WA
Summer 2012	PNW Section Field Workshop, Baker City, Oregon
Fall 2012	PNW Section Annual Meeting & Workshop, Washington
February 4-7, 2013	66th Annual Meeting of the Society for Range Management, Oklahoma City

PNW Website address: <http://pnw.rangelands.org>

*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 Editor!

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