



Society for Range Management *Pacific Northwest Section*

Properly functioning ecosystems provide for long-term sustainability of watersheds, plants, animals and people
Volume 63, Number 3 *November 2012*

President's Message

Bob Gillaspy, Vancouver, WA -- works in Portland, OR

NEWSLETTER

If you attended the PNW Section Fall 2012 meeting and tour in Long Beach, WA, you know what a great gathering it was. For those unable to make it, read **Eileen Obermiller's** article, "Teach a Cow in 3 Days. . ." on page 6, to see what you missed. A big thank you to **Celeste Acord** and her committee for putting together and hosting such a wonderful event.

I extend a warm welcome to the Section's new board members. **John Williams** and **Jay Kerby** join the board as Directors, and **Bob Fowler** rejoins the board to serve as 2nd Vice-President.

While speaking of board members, I thank **Sarah Troutman-Zahn** and **Dustin Johnson** for their many contributions to the section while they served as Directors. **Lavona Liggins** steps down as President (I have some amazing shoes to fill!), and into the role of Past President. Lavona provided a good, thoughtful background tapestry, into which many of us poked our individual thoughts.

Congratulations to **Pat Shaver**. Pat, a long-time member of the PNW section, has been elected to the 2nd Vice-President of our Parent Society. The PNW section has been well represented in the leadership of our society in the past. Pat will provide similar leadership during his upcoming tenure.

There are many opportunities for you to become involved in Section activities. Our PNW

committees need members to help with the work. These committees include Membership, Outreach and Communication (especially the social media group), Awards, History, and Student Activities. The Board could also use someone to take notes during our teleconferences and meetings. Please contact the committee chair (listed in this newsletter) or a board member to discover what you can do to help.

As I write about committees, here's an update on our 2013 PNW meetings. The summer gathering is being hosted by the BC Chapter in **Dawson Creek, BC, June 19 - 21**. This will be an interesting visit to an area which many of us rarely get to see, especially if we are south of the border. I urge you to make plans to attend. Ride-sharing, car-pooling, caravanning are all possible ways to make the trip more enjoyable. Please see the article on page 3 for more information.

The Fall 2013 meeting and tour will be **September 19-21 in Enterprise, OR**. More details inside!

This is all for now. I hope you enjoy your holidays.

Bob

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rangebob47@gmail.com

SRM's Annual "Round-up" in Long Beach, WA

PNW 2012 Awards to . . .

by John Buckhouse, Awards chairman, Corvallis, OR

Trail Boss Award to Tim Deboodt! For nearly two decades, Tim has monitored water relationships under both managed and unmanaged areas of juniper encroachment in Central Oregon. This study has definitively proved that the water lost from a site due to juniper presence is not always what one sees: groundwater recharge has proven to be the critical factor in the semi-arid landscape. One may not see dramatic changes in surface water flows, but capturing raindrops where they fall and storing them in the soil profile is HUGE! Tim has served SRM, assisted landowners, influenced decision-makers and taught students of all interests. As an OSU educator, Tim has led the way for clear rangeland improvement concepts and efforts. As a voice for good science, good management and common sense, Tim has made a difference in Oregon, in the Pacific Northwest, in North America, and globally. We are proud to recognize our **2012 Trail Boss, Tim Deboodt.**

Exemplary Service Award to Will Keller! Long time PNW SRM member, Washington NRCS Rangeland Management Specialist, motorcycle rider, and all-round good guy, Will is recognized for years of high quality, selfless service to the profession of Rangeland Management. Will cares, and it shows in everything he does. He accepts jobs with dignity and grace, and gets them done correctly, without fanfare, and on time! He has served the PNW SRM in every way -- most recently as one of the Three Amigos who chaired the 2012 Parent Society Annual Meeting in Spokane. Like always, Will did his job cheerfully, without fuss or flamboyance, and exceptionally well. This has been his operating mode from the get-go. For his untiring desire to make a difference, and untiring service to SRM, we recognize **Exemplary Will Keller.**

Jim Brunner Long Haul Award to Alf Bawtree! Jim was the PNW SRM'er who failed to "hang up his spurs", serving SRM for decades, throughout a distinguished career, into retirement, and until his death. This award recognizes people who devote their careers, and their entire lives to the betterment of rangelands and the people associated with them. Alf Bawtree has served British Columbia, and all of North America long and well. He is recognized for excellent hosting of field excursions, and his equally excellent hosting of post-tour activities; for constant support of PNW and especially its younger members; for his constant good humour (BC spelling!); and near perfect attendance at PNW Section activities. Alf is an example of what a professional should be. We are proud to honor **Alf Bawtree with the Brunner Long Haul Award.**

2012 Fall Business Meeting & Member News

Congratulations to our new officers and thank you for accepting the opportunity and the challenge:

2nd Vice-President **Bob Fowler**, Francois Lake, BC; and Directors **Jay Kerby**, Burns, OR and **John Williams**, Enterprise, OR. **Richard Fleenor**, Medical Lake, WA moves to 1st Vice President and **Lavona Liggins**, Kamloops, BC moves to Past President (!).

Thank you to our outgoing officers who did yeoman's work to support and build the PNW Section: Past President **Tip Hudson**, Ellensburg, WA; and Directors **Sarah Troutman-Zahn**, Ellensburg and **Dustin Johnson**, Burns, OR.

Fall Annual Meeting Scheduling: The Fall 2012 ballot vote by PNW members approved a change to the Section By-laws. As approved, Article V now reads: "An annual meeting of the Section for the presentation and discussion of professional papers and exchange ideas and for professional intercourse shall be held annually **between September 1 and November 30** at such place as the Board of directors may determine". Prior to this vote, the By-laws stated that the meeting "shall be held annually in October".

PNW SRM Committees want YOU! Don't be shy. Our section can only be as strong as we, its members, make it. See the list of committee chairs on page 3. Call to learn more. Volunteer. Make PNW SRM grow.

Karen Raven sends this note to all: *"I wasn't successful in the vote for the board (for the Parent Society SRM), but I wanted to pass on to everyone how much I appreciated their support and votes. It was an honour to represent the Section. Warmest regards, Karen."*

What's Coming Up for YOU in 2013?

North to Alaska -- well, almost!

by Matthew Braun, Prince George, BC

Planning for the 2013 Pacific Northwest Section Meeting in BC's Peace country is underway. It is scheduled for June 19-21 to provide you with plenty of driving daylight. We will meet in Dawson Creek at the start of the Alaska Highway, just in case you want to continue north. You can almost see, and definitely feel the pull of the fabled hinterland from the Mile Zero post in downtown Dawson Creek.

The 2013 PNW Summer Tour is going to be good. On the 19th we will feed you and show you the midnight sun. The following day we will cheer on some goats as they mow through the invasive plant toadflax, tour the northern extent of the mixed-grass prairie while witnessing the overlapping resource uses of grazing, logging, oil and gas activities, wind power develop-



Mile Zero. June isn't usually as snowy as this photo implies. Photo by Brian Haddow.

ment, and hydro-electrical dam expansion, and finally explore aspen management using grazing, fire and timing of logging. On the final day, we will visit some long-term range productivity sites and discuss forage and soil

productivity. That's the end of what we have planned, but not the end of what the country has to offer. You should come. It is a long ways, but we always appreciate our visitors and make sure your trip is worthwhile. More details to come.

Fall Round-up for Annual Meeting & Workshop

by John Williams, OSU Extension Service, Enterprise, OR

The PNW Section of the SRM will meet in Wallowa County, September 19 - 21. Plans are still in the works, but topics will include fire, wolves, animal behavior, and elk over-population. The tour will include the Zumwalt Prairie, the last piece of the Palouse Prairie; an overlook into The Hells Canyon Country and the Wallowa Whitman National Forest. During the tour we will pass through the area which wolves have used as the "wolf highway"; an area where elk have changed their patterns over the past 25 years and there are now over 3500 elk year-round on the Zumwalt; and see the nearly 75,000 acre fire of 2012 and discuss fire rehabilitation and more.

PNW Section Officers

President	Bob Gillaspay	503-414-3233
1st Vice Pres.	Richard Fleenor	509-323-2965
2nd Vice Pres.	Bob Fowler	250-692-2275
Past President	Lavona Liggons	250-554-5211
Treasurer	Craig Obermiller	541-923-2777(h)
Director	Rob Dinwoodie	250-558-1768(h)
Director	Courtney Smith	509-758-8012
Director	Maura Laverty	509-664-9384
Director	Julie Conley	509-654-0297
Director	Jay Kerby	541-573-8928
Director	John Williams	541-426-3143
HSYF	Pete Schreder	541-947-6054
Awards	John Buckhouse	541-737-1629
History	Joe Wagner	541-947-6175
Membership	Bob Fowler	250-692-2275
Outreach	Bob Gillaspay	503-414-3233
Student Activities	Andrea Mann	509-670-7743
History	Joe Wagner	541-947-6175
Newsletter	Lynne Breese	541-447-6762
	jlbreese@crestviewcable.com	
	Teal Purrington	541-416-6772
	Matthew Braun	250-614-7526

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

British Columbia Sonja Leverkus, Fort Nelson, 250-709-5118
Washington Celeste Avila, 509-422-2750 x109
Oregon State University Michael Borman, Corvallis, 541-737-1614
Eastern Oregon University Ryan Limb, 541-962-3812
Central Oregon Tory Kurtz, Prineville, 541-419-5479
Southern Oregon Les Boothe, Lakeview, 541-947-6141

Student Opportunities

Bedell Internship 2012

by Trenton J. Manns

A little more than a year ago, I was a 23-year old devout northwest coast wave-rider whose extracurricular life revolved around a metaphorical and physical lifestyle concept known as the shred. You will be surprised to hear of my adventures in Oregon's Buckaroo and pastoral culture. I spent summer of 2012 as OSU's Bedell Internship student. This program provides an OSU Range student, without a ranching background, the opportunity to live and work with two ranching families in Oregon. I had a chance to visit with Tom Bedell at his home shortly before he passed away last July. I shook his hand and thanked him. Tom's internship proved to be one of the best summers of my life. Enjoy the two short stories below.

SE Oregon on the O'Keefe Ranch: The O'Keefe Ranch headquarters are located roughly 1/4 mile north of the Adel store. Most days we'd gather at the barn, talk some story or tell a few jokes over coffee, and lay out our work for the day. I went wherever I was useful. The learning curve was steep, so I learned fast. Close observation of those who were skilled, and learning by doing, was the perfect recipe for proficiency. Every day was different: brandings, fixing fence, doctoring cows, spraying weeds, haying, mechanic-ing, irrigation, checking allotments, moving cows, social functions, cattle drives, and a few weekend ranch rodeos. You name it. Did I mention that before this summer, I'd never ridden a horse? Well, I took to it; the horsemanship was one of the most personally inspiring aspects of my summer. I certainly had my share of story-worthy moments and tasteful screw-ups on the ranch! The O'Keefes are wonderful folks and I enjoyed every bit of my stay with them. Evenings were spent over hearty

meals, and usually heartier discussion about some aspect of ranching or politics, both of which I consider John and Jane to be experts in. So, another thanks to John, Jane, and Patrick O'Keefe, and to the community of Adel. You all are better teachers than you know.

SW Oregon on the JRL Ranch: The JRL Ranch is roughly 15 miles as the crow flies, NW of Mt. McLoughlin. Each day Bob, Judy, and I sat down together for 3 delicious homemade meals! Judy had a wonderful garden and the two are very holistic in their health, professors of the "slow food movement". The first half of our day was spent moving hand lines and wheel lines. JRL Ranch irrigation water is supplied by 5 miles of an open, gravity fed, hand-dug ditch. Needless to say, irrigation is an involved and dynamic maintenance operation. Afternoons were spent working with horses, riding, checking allotments and leased pastures, moving cows, doctoring, fixing corrals, and other such projects. Because JRL Ranch is smaller in operation, I was really able to dial in skill sets learned in Adel, and gain new valuable ones. Bob was instrumental in teaching me horsemanship, ranch roping, the basics of farrier work, and traditions of the Buckaroo Cowboy. Also, I hadn't seen "Lonesome Dove" before this summer, so thanks Bob! Bob and Judy Lozano are very large-in-life people. I fully enjoyed my time at the ranch. Thanks to you both for everything.

Tom Bedell Student Travel Scholarship

Tom Bedell's dying wish was that there be monies available for students to travel to both Section and Parent Society meetings. To that goal, he and his wife Gretchen gifted PNW Section with \$40,000, with \$10,000 available to assist PNW students in attending the 2013 national meeting in Oklahoma. College advisors within the Section will create a list of interested students,

Continued on next page...

Student Opportunities

North American Envirothon for High School Students

by Courtney Smith, PNW Director and NRCS, Clarkston, WA

Since 1987, the North American Envirothon has promoted environmental education in high schools throughout Canada and the United States. It is sponsored by Canon USA, land management agencies and conservation districts, the Canadian Forestry Association and volunteers. It provides instruction in environmental sciences and conducts team competitions in natural resource knowledge and problem solving. The 2013 Envirothon will be centered on "Sustainable Rangeland Management: Achieving a Balance between Traditional Agricultural Uses with Non-agricultural Uses on Montana Rangelands" -- a subject which, by analogy, should be near and dear to PNW SRM members. Regional competitions will be held next spring; the final competition will be August 4-9, 2013 in Bozeman, MT, sponsored by MSU.

At the regional and state/province levels, there is opportunity for PNW SRM'ers to give to high school students a background on rangeland conservation and best management practices, to promote wider understanding of the uses and values of rangelands, and to interact with a younger generation of concerned citizens. Learn more about the Envirothon at www.envirothon.org/

If you would like to help, please contact one of the coordinators to find a competition near you.

Oregon: Ron Crouse, Marion Soil & Water Conserv. Dist., 503-391-9927 or ron.crouse@marionswcd.net

Washington: Cindy Pierce, Skagit Conservation District, 360-428-4313, or cindy@skagitcd.org

British Columbia: Robert Clark, 604-737-1112 or envirothon@rbc.bc.ca

Bedell

...continued from previous page

stating their local participation and work in fundraising. That list will be sent to Student Affairs Chair, Andrea Mann, for equitable distribution among the schools based on the number of students. Tom's goal was to give students a hands-up to attend. Lists must reach Andrea by January 1, 2013. Send to: mannandrea@aol.com



Tom Bedell, OSU's State-wide Extension Rangeland Specialist, admires wild begonia and Indian rice grass in Malheur County in 1991, a wet year. He served as President of the Parent Society of SRM in 1989.

Teach a Cow in 3 Days . . . Much Longer Teach a Man or, What we learned in Long Beach

By Eileen Obermiller, aka the Dragon Lady, (and related to Craig Obermiller, PNW Treasurer). Principal landscape architect with Dappled Earth - designs to nurture life!

How delightful: a fall SRM meeting on the coast at the end of summer! Of course I was coming along. Events started indoors, in the afternoon, in a meeting. Though SRM members appeared enthralled, I felt I could best serve the group by skipping the meeting and exploring recreational and eating opportunities.

There is easy access to the beach, and many yummy places to eat. The beach is long and deep, with an extensive beach grass community on the dunes. An 8.5 mile paved path runs from Ilwaco to north Long Beach, wending through dunes with opportunities to look at statues of Clark with a 10 foot long sturgeon, a whale skeleton, and several other landmarks commemorating Lewis and Clark's visit. There is also a boardwalk through the dunes. No neon lights and roller coasters here. The path and boardwalk are tucked sensitively in the dunes, providing a refreshing experience along the coast line. Okay, back to the meeting.

John Williams, OSU Extension Service, Wallowa County, Agriculture and Natural Resources, used slides, facts and figures, to present a very interesting discussion about wolves. To me, the more memorable facts are that wolves are large animals ranging from 115 lbs. in summer to 92 lbs. in spring. They have been recorded to travel 11 miles in one day, with a territory of 210 square miles. Their tracks are significantly larger than a dog, almost the size of a human hand, and the hind foot steps into the track of the front foot, creating a distinct pattern. Bones as large as your thumb are typically found in their scat.

Based on John's research, it is easy to determine if a kill is by a wolf. It's kind of macabre, actually. Crows and magpies come in; the flank or anus of the dead animal is opened, the tail may be bitten off, the heart and liver are missing. You may see tooth bites on the

ball joint (big jaws), legs are detached, meat is bloodshot, and within 8-10 hours there is almost nothing left but bone.

Signs of wolves in the area are nervous and agitated cattle, a change in the pattern of cow activity, cows chasing dogs, and weight loss. Cows that have been bitten and survive, become depressed and kind of wither away. John estimates a loss of about \$1200 per cow attack, plus time and medicine expenses.

How does one manage the wolf/livestock interaction? John suggests moving livestock within 350 meters of the home; keeping dogs quiet (barking dogs may draw in wolves); and nightly patrols since wolves strike at night. Other non-lethal methods are being used, but with limited success.

The next day, we loaded up on a school bus to look at **geese and butterfly habitat restoration**. **Marty Chaney**, NRCS Area Agronomist, gave an overview and introduced

Bill Ritchie, biologist with the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge. The wetlands are managed for local bird habitat, migratory bird recharge, and the Oregon silver spot butterfly. The USDA's goal is to create and maintain a short grass community that mimics those created by the native people through a repeated fire regime. Without the fires, the vegetation would consist of woody shrubs and trees, much of what surrounds the treated area.



Tide coming in at Willapa Nat'l Wildlife Refuge. Photo by John Breese.

Desired species were planted and fertilized, and unwanted species killed with herbicides. Mowing and burning was done to keep desired plants from being out competed. Success has been mixed. Burning is hard since it is almost never dry. Bill trades ranchers free pasture in exchange for their cows keeping the vegetation down. This is challenging, however, as land use is moving away from agriculture toward development. In fact, ranchers and USDA now have to go to the Willamette Valley for basic supplies.

Teach a Cow, continued

In addition to providing bird habitat, the reserve houses deer, elk and coyotes who gave an inspired chorus just as they were mentioned! It was a treat.

Returning to the bus to head to Fort Clatsop, we first did a slight detour. Hugh Barrett, SRM member and local resident, had encouraged the Long Beach location for the fall meeting. Hugh, however, was in France. To show him how much we cared and missed him, we stopped by his house and took a photograph of the group. (We didn't find the cooler of beer someone mentioned, but it was a fun diversion!)

Fort Clatsop was impressive. The Corps of Discovery resided there from November through March. During that time, there were only 12 days that it did not rain. Due to the duration of rain, they were unable to make new clothes to replace the ones that were literally rotting off of them. Visit the fort for more wet details!

We next moved to the family operated **Cowan Dairy** along the Oregon coast. Until recently, Mr. Cowan practiced confinement dairy farming. Once the cost of feed consumed 60% of his income, he began looking for a better method. He researched dairy farming in other coastal and temperate zones, finding his best options with New Zealand and Irish dairy farms. He now manages his cows with high intensity grazing over a short season. Cows winter indoors in a large Quonset hut, grazing seasonally on tidal pastures.

Mr. Cowan owns, leases and borrows pastures for grazing. Typically, in April he turns the cows out for 3 hours a day, allowing a longer stay as the season progresses. He watches carefully to be certain that the soil is dry enough so that there is no "pugging" - the holes created from cattle feet sinking into to soil. It ruins the soil structure and grass productivity. He is experimenting with light tilling, keeping within the upper few inches of the soil to protect its structure. He seeds with rye, plantain, chicory and some native grasses. Bull rush, which is common in the area, is controlled by regular grazing.

Mr. Cowan entertained us with several great slogans. The first: more cows equal more grass. He has found that grass at the 3-leaf stage is ideal for grazing; the more you graze it, the more it grows. Cows are on a

pasture long enough to take the grass down, then moved to another pasture ready with 3 leaves per tiller.

Cows are kept close to pastures and milking so that they don't walk off their weight going back and forth.

Mr. Cowan's fascinating milking system is from New Zealand. Cows queue up and step onto a revolving carousel, then into a dock where they are treated to a snack. While munching away, someone in the pit adjacent to the carousel sprays and wipes their teats. As the cows rotate away on the carousel, another person attaches a suction milking devise that collects the milk and transports it to a refrigerated holding tank.

The cows are done eating before they are a quarter of the way around, and the milking is completed about half way around. Suction



The milking carousel. Photo by John Breese.

devices are removed. Cows reach their departure location and back out. Mr. Cowan's motto for this activity: 3 days teach a cow -- much more teach a man.

Mr. Cowan keeps cows 6 years rather than the typical 4 years. He is moving to Jersey cows, believing they have better quality milk. His goal is to increase his herd, and leave this farm for a bigger place without marginal lands. His thought: I'm married to my wife, not my land. He is looking for quality land with the hope to set up 2 more dairy operations down the coast for his children to run.

We didn't go to the Tillamook Creamery which buys the Cowan's milk, but it was a great trip. I've been to 3 of these meetings, and find that SRM members set up great tours in unique locations, and are great company. SRM'ers readily share their professional knowledge and observations. For example, we learned from our Canadian members that more sophisticated milking carousels are available. For an entertaining and musical look at cows being milked, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bHuEM1xlgw>

Calendar of Events

February 3-7, 2013	66th SRM Annual Meeting Technical Training and Tradeshow, Oklahoma City
June 19-21, 2013	PNW Section Summer Workshop, Dawson Creek, British Columbia
September 19-21, 2013	PNW Section Annual Meeting & Workshop, Enterprise, Oregon
February 7-15, 2014	67th Annual Meeting, Society for Range Management, Orlando, Florida
January 30-Feb.7, 2015	68th Annual Meeting, Society for Range Management, Sacramento, CA

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 Editors!** 

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