



# *Society for Range Management* *Pacific Northwest Section*

*Properly functioning ecosystems provide for long-term sustainability of watersheds, plants, animals and people*  
*Volume 64, Number 3* *November 2013*

## President's Message

*Richard Fleenor, Medical Lake, Washington*

# NEWSLETTER

I'm always pleasantly surprised at how well our Section meetings turn out. I don't expect them to be boring, but how can we expect each meeting, year-in and year-out, to be great? **They are!** Our fall meet was no exception. Experiencing the unique Zumwalt Prairie, beautiful Wallowa Lake, and majestic Hell's Canyon was well worth "admission," let alone getting to pick the brains of long-time ranchers **Mack Birkmaier** and **Scott McClaran**. **Tom & Kelly Birkmaier** talked about riparian management and **Bruce Dunn** (Forester/Regional manager for RY Timber) discussed timber management in the area. The Zumwalt was highlighted when **Pat Kennedy** presented, "Can Cows and Birds Co-exist on the Zumwalt Prairie?" and The Nature Conservancy's **Jeff Fields** discussed elk and wildlife management. Both were eye-opening and informative. Thank you, **John Williams** and your **Team** for your time and hard work in planning the meeting. We know it takes great effort to put these meetings on.

Welcome **Pete Schreder** as your PNW 2nd Vice-president, and **Gene Hickman** and **Wendy Gardner** to your Board of Directors. Even though our Section membership, in numbers, isn't what it used to be, we continue to elect exceptional people to our board, as those who know the ones above can attest. You who ran for office, but were not elected this time, thank you. Our Section would have been blessed to have any of you on board. Secretary **Brian Haddow** "retired" and **Fara Brummer** volunteered, immediately jumping in to record minutes from our fall meeting. Thanks to Everyone!

It is great to hear that Oregon's **High Desert Youth Range Camp** continues to be a success. They are very appreciative of our sponsorship. I hope the Section can support them for many years.

As mentioned earlier, Section membership is down.

I hope this is a temporary situation, and in the not too distant future our numbers will climb to what they once were. However, in my opinion, quality is as important as quantity. Just a few weeks back, we experienced a US government shutdown caused by stubborn congressmen with divergent views of how the government should operate. Efforts to understand the other side, compromise, or even tolerate the others' opinions were scarce to nonexistent.

We in the PNW Section possess quite different views as well. We differ in where we grew up, what school and how much school we attended, our experiences, our political and religious affiliations, and what jobs we do currently. Think about it; we have ranchers, wildlife biologists, college professors, range conservationists, tree huggers (that's what Mom calls me), and the list goes on. But, you get my point; we not only rationally discuss and look for solutions to all sorts of sensitive issues, we also enjoy the friendly debate. Time spent with Section members has shown me that most of us want to understand the "other side's" opinion. They (we) go on field trips and meetings, trying, in part, to learn what it is that is important to other people. We know that we need to understand all sides if we are going to come up with any real, long-term solution, a common trait of quality people. So, even if we don't have as many members today, the ones we have are of the highest quality. Does anyone feel like running for Congress?

I am honored and proud to serve as Section President. I look forward to working with the other officers to manage the business of the Section, and to ensure that our organization thrives and fulfills its mission.

**Richard**

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# PNW SRM's annual "Round-up" in Enterprise, OR

## PNW Fall Meeting in Enterprise: A Reason to Believe

by **Julie Conley**, Yakima, WA & **Ricardo Mata-Gonzalez**, Corvallis, OR. Julie is a Range Management Specialist with US Fish & Wildlife. She backpacks & kayaks with her family, and hits the SRM stage with guitar & song!

Ricardo is an Assistant Professor in OSU Dept. of Animal & Rangeland Sciences. He hikes with his family around Corvallis and helps his son navigate through the vagaries of high school.

Beautiful NE Oregon is always a pleasure to visit. An extra gratifying experience, that few folks have, is to be there for a meeting and field trip with SRM people. It started with great weather and a mouth-watering cookout at the city park, followed by a highly informative talk on the research that has been conducted by **Dr. Pat Kennedy** and a large group of collaborators at the Zumwalt Prairie.

The Zumwalt Prairie Preserve has been managed by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) since 2000. It represents the last remaining and largest undisturbed plateau grassland, and the largest remaining bunch grass ecosystem in the PNW. Because of its uniqueness, part of the preserve has been designated as a National Natural Landmark. Historically, the Zumwalt has been a working landscape of livestock grazing and the management intention is to continue that trend. However, recognizing the need for scientific knowledge to better



support the management decisions on the preserve, the TNC started collaboration with ranchers, universities, and land management agencies. For over 10 years, this collaboration has resulted in a better understanding of the ecology of the area, as well as better tools for management and conservation of the rangeland and wildlife resource. More information on the products of this successful collaboration can be found on the Conservancy's Conservation Gateway on the web at [nature.ly/zumwaltprairie](http://nature.ly/zumwaltprairie). Dr. Kennedy's research has shown that a successful livestock grazing operation can be consistent with grassland songbird conservation.

The field trip began at the southern tip of the Zumwalt Prairie. This vantage point looking south to the moraine that holds back Wallowa Lake, and to the forest beyond, was a perfect place to discuss county history and the issue of wolves. Rancher **Mack Birkmaier** gave us an appreciation of the harsh prairie along with his family's commitment to it. His ancestor's first home in the late 1800s was a dugout hole in the ground due to the scarcity of wood for structures. They endured deep snows, ceaseless winds, and drought. "It would take dynamite to blow us out of here now," said Mack. While most farmers were starved out by the 1940s (a key reason much of the prairie remained in its native state),

*Continued on page 7...*

## 2013 Annual Business Meeting

When **Craig Obermiller** presented the PNW financial report, **President Bob** asked, "Who knows what OWIC is?" Only a few raised hands, so Bob asked, "**John Buckhouse** would you explain OWIC?"

"You bet." **What is OWIC** and how did it get in the budget? Back in the early 1980s, a group of OSU folks returned from an SRM Annual Meeting. **Tom Bedell** exclaimed, "Gosh, I wish there was a way to make the combatants of the 'eco-wars' see the other guy's point of view." "Yeah," **Bill Krueger** dryly responded, "we ought to lock them in a room together and not let them out until they talk to each other."

With that, an idea was born. Oregon Watershed Improvement Coalition, **OWIC**, was sponsored by the PNW Section as an outreach to bring community involvement into natural resource issues -- mostly in riparian and watershed conflicts. PNW voted it into the annual budget. Years later, when **Wayne Elmore** was granted a \$10,000 award for the work he and OWIC had done, PNW Section was the beneficiary.

How did the OWIC idea work? A 15-person grass-roots coalition of people with vision and passion was formed. It represented 5 environmental groups, 5 commodity groups, and 5

*Continued on page 6...*

# More "Round-up" news

## PNW 2013 Awards

*John Buckhouse, Awards chairman, Corvallis, OR, is an Emeritus Professor of Rangeland Watershed Management at OSU. He leads occasional field trips, consults, and plays with his grandkids.*

**Jim Brunner "In for the Long Haul" Award to Don Blumenauer!** Our PNW members represent solid thinking and strong concern for the rangelands of the world. For decades, some have carried this banner with a passion and a will to make a difference. That describes Don Blumenauer who was a leader in PNW and Parent Society during his active career. He has kept this passion in retirement. Don is a friend and mentor to everyone. With a word of encouragement to all, he is enjoyable and valuable. No stuffed shirt here; **Don Blumenauer** is good, strong common sense coupled with warmth and enthusiasm.

**Exemplary Service Award to Sandra Wyman!** She does it all. As a member of the National Riparian Service Team, Sandy works across the rangelands of North America to evaluate riparian condition and teach riparian users (and others) about riparian ecology. She works a more "basic" education beat, too, teaching with Extension Service, University, public schools and professional organizations. As a 3- year Director on the board of the SRM "Parent Society," Sandy was a voice of reason and an advocate for science-based policy decisions. When rational, thoughtful counsel is called for, look to **Sandy Wyman!**

*Sandy says, "Thank you. It is humbling to receive such a gift from my range management peers, to be in company with Don Blumenauer and Mike Borman, and to receive it from my buddy President Bob!"*

**Trail Boss Award to Dr. Michael Borman!** Collegiate days in Colorado & Oregon, Peace Corps, range specialist in Tunisia, OSU state Rangeland Specialist, researcher, professor in Department of Animal and Rangeland Sciences. . . Mike Borman excels and inspires. Everyone is comfortable in his presence . . . yet, clearly respectful of his position, authority, and knowledge. He is diligent in his efforts to help fellow professionals, students, practitioners, and the public to understand, appreciate, and respect rangelands and their myriad ecological interrelationships. Precise, honest, thorough, competent, and demanding, and at the same time approachable, friendly and willing to listen -- **Mike Borman** is a leader and a friend.

**Austin Piper**, Eastern Oregon University, received the 2013 PNW Student Education Scholarship.

## Members News from Enterprise and beyond

En route to Enterprise, three PNW members were caught in collisions. On his motorcycle, **Brian Radford**, Salt Spring Island, BC, met a cow. Fortunately, Marjorie who always comes with him, wasn't on the cycle this time. After several days in the hospital, Marjorie wrote, "*his right arm is in a splint. . . , Dr. says Brian should be good as new by Christmas.*" **Bob & Jacquie Keenan**, coming from Cochrane, AB, rounded a corner to find a boulder and an oncoming car. They were not injured, but with a back-order on engines, their car was in the shop until October 31. Bob wrote, "*We are recent members of SRM and thoroughly enjoyed the workshop and tours in Baker City in 2012.*"

**Congratulations Doug Warnock**, Prescott, WA. While we were in Enterprise, Doug was in Pittsburgh, PA to receive the Hall of Fame Award from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. Retired from WSU Extension, Doug writes monthly pasture management articles for the "Capital Press."

**Congratulations Tamzen Stringham**, Reno, NV (formerly at OSU), on receiving the Secretary of Agriculture Honor Award for her work on the Interagency Ecological Site Handbook for Rangelands.

**Kamloops Research Centre:** This past summer, the Canadian federal government announced the closure of several **Agriculture and Agri-Food** Canada offices and research facilities, eliminating approximately 700 positions and consolidating several programs. The closure included the centre in Kamloops, BC, which was established in 1935 (entomological studies actually began in 1928). The Kamloops centre has consistently provided on the ground research useful not only in Canada, but also in the US. Many BC organizations, plus SRM PNW Section and the SRM "Parent Society", wrote letters to the Canadian government expressing serious concern over these losses. But, the decision remained. Effective September 2013, the Kamloops research centre was closed. Through the years, many PNW SRM members researched and worked with the public out of this centre, including **Lavona Liggins**, PNW SRM President in 2011-2012. Fortunately, Lavona was recently successful in competing for a position with the BC Ministry of Agriculture in Prince George, BC -- still in the PNW Section. This is a relief to SRM'ers together for the Annual Meeting in Oregon; at that time, Lavona did not know what the future would hold.

**Welcome new members: Janet Hilken**, Canby, OR, **Trent Smith**, Paulina, OR, and **Dylan Howell**, HSYF delegate, La Grande, OR.

## Society for Range Management, "Parent Society"

by **Pat Shaver**, Woodburn, OR, 2nd Vice President of the SRM "Parent Society". After 40 years as Rangeland Management Specialist with SCS/Natural Resource Conservation Service, he now teaches range management courses at OSU. He and his wife enjoy their grandchildren and OSU sports.

Much has happened since the successful Annual Meeting (AM) in Oklahoma City. The 2014 AM in Orlando, FL promises to be one of the best. Hopefully you can attend! Up-to-date information is at <http://www.rangelands.org/orlando2014> SRM is working with agency leadership to ensure all AMs offer the training needs of the agencies, and are recognized as the premiere opportunity for technical training. Some of the Orlando workshops may be live broadcasts and available to agency employees, as well as archived for later use.

With SRM President **Wally Butler**, Boise, ID., I traveled to Washington DC to meet with agency leadership and congressional representatives. The "Interagency Eco-

logical Site Handbook for Rangelands" was released at the Interior Department. Many USDA and USDI leaders were present as we talked about the history of the work accomplished to develop this handbook. We met with Farm Bill staff and various appropriations committees to stress the need for continued support for rangelands. Meeting with NRCS staff, we learned that the letter sent by SRM was instrumental in the decision to fill the position of National Rangeland Management Specialist. The position had been vacant for more than 2 years.

SRM is in real financial hard times as membership declines and attendance at AMs drops. This year, your Board passed a budget that does not rely on income from an upcoming AM. We hope to budget with known income and not rely on unknown resources from a meeting planned six months after the fiscal year starts. Many items have been dropped or reduced from the budget, and it was necessary to increase dues for all members. Regular membership dues are now \$100/year; student membership is \$45. As a membership benefit, the electronic copy of "Rangelands" is now accessible to all paid members.

In response to a clear demand for a source of practical application of the art and science of range management, the Board approved the electronic publication of a new member service called "Stewardship." Targeted to those of us who put the science into action through wise management decisions and actions, it will publish articles such as case studies and experiences, both good and bad, illustrating management actions. Opinions, historical happenings, and pro and con debates are encouraged.

"Stewardship" features practical, easy to read information, no scientific citations necessary. We envision "Stewardship" as a publication to share with producers, commodity groups, conservation groups . . . anyone with an interest in stewardship of rangelands. Send material, original or something you saw that you really liked, maybe from our Section newsletter. The first issue is available to all members at: <http://www.rangelands.org/stewardship.shtml>

Stay in touch and let me hear from you on the issues that are important to you. [plshaver@gmail.com](mailto:plshaver@gmail.com) Please follow SRM activities on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn, along with Range Flashes and Rangeland News.

### PNW Section Officers

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History	Joe Wagner, OR	541-947-6175
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	Matthew Braun, BC	250-614-7526
	Emma Barnett, WA	719-250-0213

## SRM Membership: The Next Generation

by **Emma Barnett**, Ephrata, WA, who joined SRM as a student at South Dakota State U. She is a Range/Lease Specialist for Washington Dept. of Natural Resources, and for fun she backpacks, flyfishes, and hunts with her husband and her dog!

Students and young professionals have a big part to play in the future of the Society for Range Management. With membership in decline, we need to reach out to this new generation. As a new graduate and young professional myself, I see opportunities for the PNW Section to do that.

The next generation brings a new perspective on rangeland science and management. Not only are students with rangeland related degrees interested, but so too are their wildlife, botany and ecology counterparts. We should target college range clubs and other natural resource clubs to reach a wider audience and boost membership.

Social media provides a chance to connect the SRM's message with a wide audience. For many, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, and YouTube have become part of daily life. Here you can network, create groups, promote events, share multimedia presentations, and pass along news. These are easy ways to help people feel more connected to the Society and the Section.

Attending section meetings and field tours could amplify student interest. Holding these events during the school year is an excellent way to encourage involvement. Enlist the support of professors already in the society. This is essential as they can encourage and provide students the academic opportunity to attend. Between course schedules, seasonal jobs, and paying for tuition, attending meetings can be a challenge. Providing lodging and meal assistance is an option to encourage student attendance. The Section does a great job helping cover attendance costs for the international meetings. Going one step further and aiding in section meeting attendance could solidify student's interest in the Society.

One phrase that piques the interest of nearly any student or young professional is "career opportunities." Encouraging networking and sharing job opportunities at meetings could encourage membership. Gaining relevant work experience is essential to finding a career in supporting the stewardship of rangeland resources.

My final suggestion would be a mentorship program. Connecting young professionals with their experienced counterparts provides an opportunity for professional growth. I can't stress enough how important a good mentor really is for someone just starting out in the field. Embracing the next generation of rangeland professionals will extend SRM's mission of promoting further education and encouraging rangeland stewardship.

**South Dakota Ranch Relief Fund** has been established to assist livestock producers who were hit hard by the disastrous winter storm named Atlas that pounded SD in early October. Propelled by 60 mph winds, snow caught cattle still on summer pastures. Livestock drifted with the wind and snow into fences and draws, where they were buried and suffocated. To give to the Rancher Relief Fund, call 605-342-0429. Thanks to Andrea Mann for this information.



**Herding the "herd" off the bus at the annual PNW SRM meeting in Enterprise (story, page 2). Rancher Tom Birkmaier catching Ricardo Mata-Gonzalez, OSU.**

## Calendar of Events

**February 8-13, 2014**

67th Annual Meeting, Society for Range Management, Orlando, Florida

**June 11-13, 2014**

PNW Section Summer Workshop, Grand Coulee, Washington

**Fall 2014**

PNW Section Annual Meeting & Workshop, British Columbia

**January 30-Feb.7, 2015**

68th Annual Meeting, Society for Range Management, Sacramento, California

## 2013 Annual Business Meeting

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PNW/SRM non-voting technical advisors. Members knew that they would be working with the same people each time, and that each was authorized to speak on behalf of their organization. Apprehensively, they discussed ideas and goals. Gradually, as they understood and respected one another, they agreed on the end product, **healthy environments and viable communities**.

After pioneering the collaborative path, OWIC needed money to put on the ground. They asked Governor Goldschmidt to establish a fund to put environmental concepts to work in realistic and practical ways. When he replied, "*I can't put up monies which don't support interests across the board,*" they pointed out that he was talking to a unified coalition of environmentalists and industry representatives. With that, the Governor's Watershed Enhancement Board, GWEB, was formed with about \$80K. Ranchers, schools, small landowners and others could apply for funds to conduct pilot projects to improve watersheds. Stream enhancement projects included off-site water developments, willow plantings, in-stream salmon nest boxes, changes in livestock grazing, . . . It was wildly successful!

Working to bring order from chaos, OWIC followed many of the concepts of CRMP - Coordinated Resource Management Planning which evolved throughout BC, WA, and OR under the guidance of **E. William (Bill) Anderson**. OWIC disbanded in early 2000 because they had "worked themselves out of a job." GWEB had become **OWEB** (Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board). It funded Watershed Councils across the state, fulfilling the vision and mission upon which OWIC was begun. Looking around the west, you see a number of groups that have followed the OWIC concept and enjoy success.

**The Silent Auction** added \$506 to PNW budget. Thanks to the contributors and buyers of treasures which included **Mike Malmberg's** Saskatoon-blueberry pie, **Berta Youtie's** Tanzanian cowbell, a print originally owned by **Jim Brunner**, Pendleton Whiskey in memory of **Bill Anderson**, and 23 more items!

**Thanks to our new officers** for accepting the opportunity and the challenge: 2nd Vice-President, **Pete Schreder**, Lakeview, OR, and Directors **Wendy Gardner**, Kamloops, BC and **Gene Hickman**, Bend, OR. **Bob Fowler**, Francois Lake, BC becomes 1st VP and **Bob Gillaspay**, Vancouver, WA is Past-president.

**Thanks to our outgoing officers** who helped guide our trek through the range: Past-president **Lavona Liggins**, Kamloops, BC, and Directors **Rob Dinwoodie**, Vernon, BC and **Courtney Smith**, Lewiston, ID.



## PNW Summer Workshop

June 11-13, 2014

The summer workshop will be in Grand Coulee with a field trip to Swanson Lake Wildlife Refuge. At the refuge and surrounding area, you'll see shrub steppe restoration and sage and sharp-tail grouse reintroductions by WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife. BLM and State biologists will talk about reintroduction of pygmy rabbits back into the wild. Nearby attractions include Grand Coulee (the dam AND the coulee) and the Lake Roosevelt Recreation Area. We plan to see YOU there!

**Aspen stands and Duckett Barn on Zumwalt Prairie.**  
Story page 2.



## A Reason to Believe, continued from page 2

he stressed the transformative nature of the D-7 Cat in the county's ranching and timber economies. The dozer could construct ponds to store snowmelt and build logging roads.

As **John Williams** brought us fast-forward into the day-to-day concerns of today's ranchers who live with the Imnaha wolf pack, we all tried to get our heads around the issue of SCALE. While many predators can be a localized habitat-specific problem, research has shown that the Imnaha wolves move through many habitats in search of food, and will cover 30 miles from feeding site to den in 6 hours. Cow GPS collars collecting millions of data points per ranch over the past 5 years will provide insights into livestock/wolf interactions, and hopefully guide mitigation strategies. Ranchers have found that mother cows, unlike elk, will fight to the death while protecting a calf and may even trample their calf to death trying to protect it. Ranchers are experiencing agitated cows that won't respond to stock dogs; lower calf weaning weights; and lower body scores on their animals in the fall. They are finding that the only effective non-lethal deterrent for wolves is human presence, but that presence has no residual. The issue is proving very difficult.

Driving to our second stop, the scabland biscuits of the prairie sparked lively discussion. Were they formed by glaciations, wind erosion, earthquakes, or water? What role did the Nez Perce play in shaping the landscape through the use of fire? Arriving at the homestead-era Duckett Barn (we discovered that someone forgot to shut the port-a-potty door and we had been streaming toilet paper down the road!! :)), we were herded up the hill to gaze out on the prairie, observe the heavily browsed hillside shrubbery, and discuss elk management. **Rob Taylor** described TNC research to identify the causes of poor health in aspen and deciduous shrub stands. Results point to elk and deer, but other questions remain regarding poor aspen recruitment prior to the elk population increase. Aspen cores show recruitment until 1970, but elk populations didn't really start increasing until after 2000. **Mark Porter** with Wallowa Resources gave stats on the elk population that has grown markedly since 2000 from +/- 500 head to upwards of 3500 head from 2007 to 2012. Elk have shifted their use patterns to spend more time on the prairie, consuming more forage on some ranches and making rotational grazing difficult, according

to rancher **Tom Birkmaier**. Mitigation strategies include hazing and increasing hunting opportunities. Though it seemed difficult to get our "herd" off the hill, we were eventually on our way again.



Climbing almost to the top of the old Buckhorn Lookout to get a better view of the canyons.

At Buckhorn Lookout, with a wonderful view of the canyon below and the Seven Devils Mountains beyond, **Eileen William's 4-H club** treated us to a delicious lunch. Rancher **Scott McClaran** described the unique aspects of running a cattle operation that annually migrates from the bottom of steep canyons to the forest above. "*Ranching this country is like being a cork in a crick. Whatever Mother Nature delivers is what you get.*" He showed the special horse shoes critical to travel the slick, steep canyon trails once used by the Nez Perce, and talked of his cows and dogs, all bred and adapted to the canyons.

**Jamie McCormack**, talked about US Forest Service rangeland restoration and wildfire control. In an overstocked lodgepole forest, she pointed to positive results of mastication projects designed to create breaks in fuel continuity. Arriving at the edge of Swamp Creek, **Tom & Kellie Birkmaier** explained riparian management on their communal grazing allotment. **Sandy Wyman**, of the National Riparian Service Team, while curious about the use of English willow (non-native) to stabilize banks, added, "*Management is key to riparian grazing; we see the positive results in northeast Oregon.*"

Throughout the field trip, ranchers, Nature Conservancy, OSU Extension, US Forest Service and others provided perspectives on issues which at times can appear conflictive. However, the conversation was clear that there is plenty of common ground on the efforts of providing thriving livestock operations while maintaining healthy and sustainable ecosystems. The Upper Joseph Creek Watershed Assessment, a county planning effort, is a positive example. The whole trip provided a good reason to believe that synergistic and successful collaboration between ranchers, researchers, land managers, and conservationists is alive and well. It is always a reason for pride that the Society for Range Management can serve as a catalyst to this type of collaboration.

Our full day in the field ended with an evening meal that was divine, toe tapping to the music of "Up the Creek," and cheering for our 2013 PNW Award recipients.

**PNW Section, Society for Rangeland Management**

Newsletter Editor

C/O John & Lynne Breese

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← **Jamie McCormack**, USFS & SRM'er, talking about the work which the USFS and ranchers do together. Below Jamie you see three canyons, Imnaha, Cow, and Hell's Canyon with Idaho's Seven Devils Mountains on the horizon. This is why Scott McClaren's cows and dogs are bred to climb, and he has special shoes for his horses. See "Round-up" stories on pages 2 and 3, inside.

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

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