

Society for Range Management Pacific Northwest Section

Properly functioning ecosystems provide for long-term sustainability of watersheds, plants, animals and people
Volume 65, Number 1 March 2014

President's Message Richard Fleenor, Medical Lake, Washington

SRM in Grand Coulee,
WA, June 11-13
Shrub steppe restora-
tion, Grouse, Pygmy
rabbit...

NEWSLETTER

Like many of you, I was unable to attend the SRM Annual Meeting in Orlando. From what I hear, the meeting was a great success, despite a lower attendance: great accommodations, top-notch technical sessions, and awesome extracurricular activities.

In Orlando, the Advisory Council (representatives from each Section) met and made recommendations to the SRM Board of Directors.

- ◆ Look strategically at all publications and ask, What is the Society trying to accomplish?
- ◆ Recommend St. George, Utah for 2017 meeting; Reno, Nevada for 2018.
- ◆ Seek action to regain support from federal agencies for their employees' participation in SRM. (*Jenny Pluhar and Pat Shaver emphasized that much is being done in this regard already.*)
- ◆ Issue a Resolution for agencies to take action concerning Wild Horse & Burro Management.
- ◆ Recommend Task Force Reports be published on the website and announced in a Range Flash.
- ◆ Recommend "Stewardship" as a trial publication with increased attention to editing and formatting.

Much of the West is in the midst of a severe drought. Governors of California and Oregon have declared states of emergency. Snow pack in some areas is only 35% of average. The next several months will prove

challenging for many people. Disaster relief in the new Farm Bill will no doubt help farmers and ranchers, but as they say, you can't get blood from a turnip.

Droughts, like other natural disasters, remind us how dependent we are on our environment. It's easy to get comfortable when weather and climate are relatively mild and consistent. We feel like we are in control and have a good handle on things. Then a drought, flood, or other unusual weather comes along; suddenly we scramble to hold our heads above water. These events make it clear just how vulnerable we are to the forces of nature. At my home outside Spokane, normal years are occasionally interrupted by years when wells go dry, and then there are years when the basement floods; both tend to keep me up at night.

What we learn from SRM and the management practices we apply because of SRM, help prepare us for weather extremes. A greater understanding of rangeland hydrology and ecosystem function doesn't make us invincible, but it can put us in the best position possible when these events happen.

We expect the drought to bring challenges, but SRMers, and our clients, will likely weather the drought better than less informed individuals. Now, if I could just stop worrying about the well going dry. . .

Richard

richard.fleenor@wa.usda.gov or rafleenor@yahoo.com

Is your membership current? If you can't log on to www.rangelands.org (using your membership number and password), either your membership has lapsed or there may be an error. We don't want to lose you! If you have any questions re: your renewal/membership please contact the SRM Business office at rschwien@allenpress.com or (785) 865-9215.

Orations & O-h-h-h -wows from Orlando!

Tim Ross, Cranbrook, BC: The news that many of the members wrote about Florida from the same perspective as I did is **another good reason to belong to SRM. Never fail to be amazed by our amazing surroundings!** (*Editors: Besides being a "range guy," Tim is a singer and song-writer. Read on to find Tim's "SRM Orlando 2014."*)

Tom Hilken, Portland, OR: Florida = Cattle, Gators and Oranges! I found the ESD workshops, Rancher's Forum and session on Strategies / Treatments to Maintain or Restore Long Leaf Pine Forests to be very informative. It's always great to network with professional folks that have similar interests. I feel recharged and re-energized. **Janet** and I toured, too. **EPCOT** had great displays of various countries. The "land" display had hydroponically grown plants, including Brussels sprouts! The spaceship ride to Mars was a thrill, but was too much speed for this ole guy!! **Deseret Ranch** had 40,000 cows on 300,000 acres of Florida rangeland; if they run short of water, they dig for more and that becomes habitat for gators and fish. Cowboys like gators (they keep predator populations low), but they have to keep close track of their cow dogs! **Manatee Refuge** is winter home to the manatee (sea cows), which are mostly herbivorous marine mammals. They migrate out as other waters become warmer. *Photos of manatee and refuge by Tom Hilken.*

Wendy Gardner, Kamloops, BC: As always, the SRM conference was a time to reconnect with old friends and make new ones. It was a wonderful learning opportunity and reminded me of the vast amount of knowledge that we collectively have within the Society for Range Management. I left re-energized and confident that we continue to make progress on understanding the complex issues and challenges involved in rangeland management.

Pat Shaver, Woodburn, OR: I had the opportunity to be on a panel during the Young Professional's Conclave (YPC), to address specific questions about SRM's role in career development and enhancement. The YPC (something that did not exist when I was a young professional) was established to address the retention of young professionals in the Society. It was a lively panel with SRM President **Jenny Pluhar**, Membership Chair **Sandy Wyman**, Past President (and icon)

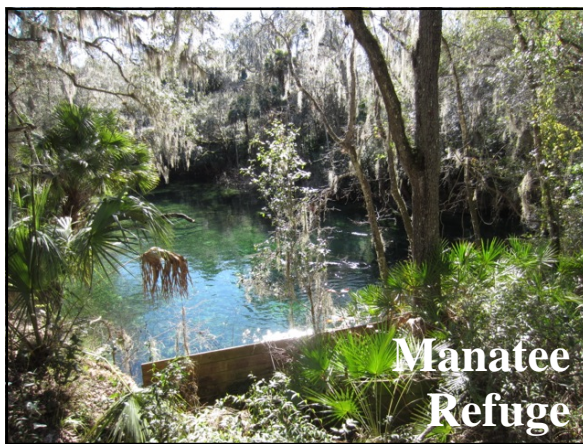
Thad Box and myself. As always the annual meetings are places to renew old friendships and to make new ones. The YPC is a great place to make those new friends.

Karen Raven, Entwistle, Alberta: My "a-ha" moment - - a climate that has humidity and is 50 degrees warmer in the winter. I plan on being a snowbird . . . somehow!

Professionally, it was great to be with the range family, as it always invigorates me with renewed passion for what I do. Highlights: the ease of setting up an international forum because of the professional relationships created as part of being a member of SRM, and the depth and breadth of talks that were of interest to me and to two colleagues from Alberta who are non-members (for now), and the exciting opportunities for collaboration that come out of these meetings. Also fun was seeing a former PhD student from Calgary (via Italy, now a post-doc in U.S.) that I had encouraged to present at SRM 2

years ago; he was again at this conference to present his work. One of his colleagues from Italy also presented, and happened to be the roommate of my co-worker from AB. **Encourage people to attend and they will encourage others!**

Gene Hickman, Bend, OR: Livestock were introduced into Florida very early; historically, it was a much bigger livestock producer than I had imagined. The role of fire in shaping Florida's ecosystems, by both Indians and lightning (the largest lightning corridor in the USA), was critical in maintaining extensive longleaf pine grasslands and savanna ecosystems that became ranching



Continued on next page . . .

O-h-h-h -wows, *continued from previous page*

enterprises. On the Deseret Ranch, we learned about the ranching techniques, preferred tropical breeds and pasturing systems used where there is an unbelievable abundance of ponds, canals and alligators. The ranch uses a combination of

logging, brush crushing rollers and fire to clear dense pine / saw palmetto stands (photo at right by Tom Hilken) and convert them to productive seeded grass pastures (African species) in just a two-year period.

Each 500-acre block of new land conversion to pasture added capacity for about another 100-cow unit to the ranch, while maintaining much wildlife diversity.

John Buckhouse, Corvallis, OR: Snakes, Gators, and feral Hogs, Oh My! On the airboat tour, **Vickie** and I saw gators galore, a nest with a dozen babies and an unhappy mama lurking nearby. Copperhead and Water Moccasin snakes made me think our rattlers were positively civilized. Feral hogs are present in 36 of our 50 states (determined by at least 2 years residency and a breeding population -- even Maine has them). In 1982, seventeen states were listed. Oregon made the list in 2004. In 2013, 37 states were listed, but Nebraska has since eliminated their feral hog population. The hogs carry Brucellosis and Psudorabies, making them health and economic hazards, and huge environmental problems due to uprooting forage plants and changing plant communities toward less palatable, woody species. Juan Ponce de Leon brought hogs, cattle and horses to Florida in 1513, allowing them to run feral; 500 years later, we still feel that repercussion. Feral hog location map: <http://www.feralswinemap.org> **Good friends, good conversations, and educational stimulation. You can't beat an SRM meeting!**

Robert Marheine, Madras, OR: The passion of the SRMers from the students to the retirees always renews my enthusiasm. I was impressed with Florida's invasive species management program. They've invested in education as a major component of their management program, and it is starting to pay dividends. Their task is daunting as their climate is very conducive to growing a huge number of different species, both plant and animal. Education will be

the key for them to win this battle. **It's actually the key for all of us to win the invasive species battle.**

Lesley Morris, La Grande, OR: Although I have attended many meetings as a graduate student and a post-doctoral researcher, this was my first time at SRM as an undergraduate advisor and coach for our Range Club. It was eye-opening and fun to see the meetings from a student's point of view. In contrast to these new beginnings, I also saw one of my former professors, **John Malechek**, receive the Fredric G. Renner Award for an amazing 38-year career at Utah State University, and 50 years of membership in SRM. I am so proud to have been his student, and hope that one day, my students will feel the same about me.

Mike Borman, Corvallis, OR: My highlight occurred when I stood in for **Kevin Guinn** to receive his Outstanding Achievement Award then watch **Sandy Wyman** receive her Outstanding Achievement Award. We can be honored that they represent PNW Section. At the Business meeting, **Pat Shaver** was elevated from 2nd VP to 1st VP of SRM; he will assume the Presidency at the Sacramento 2015 meeting. Hopefully our Section will be well represented to support Pat as he begins his year at the helm. We enjoyed the OSU/PNW Social with a good turnout from our Section, including university students from TRU, OSU La Grande and OSU Corvallis. Thank you to the Section for helping financially support the social. It was fun to watch students participate and interact with others.

Carlos Ochoa, Corvallis, OR: It was nice to make it to Orlando after that snow storm almost did not let us get to Portland to catch our flight! It was good to see some old friends and colleagues in the range community, but also to have the opportunity to meet new people and share ideas. It is always good to be up to date with the current level of discussion regarding the management of the rangelands in other parts of the country, and the world. The technical sessions I attended were generally good; wish more people had attended the meeting.

Grace Ray, OSU Corvallis, Carson City, NV: As a new SRM member and new graduate student, I was not sure what to expect. Once I arrived, my mission was clear: Be involved in anything and everything. I was so grateful to be a part of really interesting presentations, committee meetings, and meet and greets. I optimistically presented my first professional poster! My a-ha moment came from networking and getting to know many professionals, including some "infamous" range managers, and fellow graduate students, in preparation for future



Treating palmetto

Continued on page 6 . . .

Student Adventures in Orlando

University Range Club advisors **Mike Borman, Wendy Gardner** and **Lesley Morris** give huge thanks to **Andrea Mann**, PNW Student Activities Chair, and **Craig Obermiller**, PNW Treasurer for coordinating finances so that 10 university students traveled to Orlando. As Mike Borman says, "*We recognize **Tom Bedell** and his wife **Gretchen Bencene** for their substantial support to help Section students attend the meeting. **Joe Wagner** provided additional financial support to each of the Section's student chapters. The students and their advisors are very appreciative.*"

Andrew Volo, TRU, Kamloops, BC: I had the pleasure of attending SRM 2014 with assistance from the **Tom Bedell** travel funds. This gave me the opportunity to interact with fellow rangeland professionals. Through workshops and symposiums, I was exposed to the latest research on managing for sustainable rangelands. I was most inspired by **Thad Box'** talk, which looked at how range management has gone through changes over a 60 year period and what the future challenges will be.

Michael Birrenkott, OSU Corvallis, Choteau, MT: The SRM convention was exciting and intimidating for a new student member. But, within these emotions, a sense of bonding was present, with the knowledge of different professionals discussing current issues. The Kentucky Bluegrass symposium struck curiosity and questions. These curiosities would never have come to light if I hadn't been granted the opportunity to go to the convention. Talking to professionals dealing with it could never be read in a book, because of the passion, personal feelings and the ground experience that these individuals had. Foremost, the ability to travel, meet new people, engage in conversation with professionals and the businesses that they represent, shows a great representation of the SRM.

Janelle McIntosh, OSU La Grande, Redmond, OR: Orlando was a great escape from the cold weather, but that's not all. I attended talks I wanted to know more about. I mingled with fellow students from around the country, as well as professionals in the range field. Experiencing Rangeland Cup gave a

glimpse into graduate study presentations. SRM in Orlando was a great trip that I'm glad I got to be a part of.

Aaron Coelho, TRU, Kamloops, BC: Attending the SRM conference was a true learning experience. The passionate professionals and students, and their commitment to improving the balance between rangeland productivity and sustainability inspired me. Topics from invasive species, riparian ecosystems, water, and wildlife management to economics and policy left me with a broad understanding of the intricacies of range management and how they relate to the "big picture." Presenting my own research resulted in stimulating conversation with professionals from across North America; their ideas will be valuable to my work going forward.

Shanda Zettle, OSU La Grande, Pleasant Hill, OR: I had a wonderful time, and it was great to have the opportunity to meet with employers to prepare for a job. Meeting with BLM for practice gave me an idea what they look for in employees, and let me practice my interview skills. I enjoyed presenting our poster in the Rangeland Cup competition. Looking forward to SRM in Sacramento!

Austen Foley, OSU Corvallis, Coos Bay, OR: Coming from the coast, Oregon's desert is foreign to me, but I've grown to love it and am happy I changed my major from biology with marine option to range. Going into the conference, with URME and plant ID, I was terrified, but I cannot wait to go back. My favorites were symposiums, mixers and Wild Women of Range -- seeing all that is being done with range from plant species to endangered animals, to the impacts and roles that women play. As wide spread as range is, the community of people that make it up consist of some of the most sincere and good hearted people I've met.

Andrea Balch, OSU La Grande, Gresham, OR: This was my second SRM annual meeting, and it gave me a chance to see a part of the country that I've never seen. I met new people and learned new things in the study of rangeland management and natural resources. I look forward to Sacramento in 2015.

LeeAnn Pallett, OSU Corvallis, Banks, OR: In preparation for the Plant ID contest, I

Continued on next page . . .

Student Adventures, *continued from previous page*

spent a couple of hours in the study room. It was nice to see how other colleges prepare for the exam, and the strategies that they use to remember the species. Going on the social tours was a blast; I talked to students from Arizona State and Humboldt State about their classes and range programs. I am so thankful to have the experience of going to SRM and gaining perspective on different schools, programs, and agencies.

Patricia Stafford, OSU Corvallis, Keizer, OR: Every year of my college career, I have attended the SRM. Since the first, I have grown as an individual and professional, and have increased my academic knowledge. My knowledge about rangeland issues increases, I improve plant ID skills, become more comfortable talking to professionals, and am reminded how important to never stop learning about rangelands because it is ever-changing. SRM allows and provides opportunity for the past, present and future professionals to discuss rangelands, something important to us in a different way, but something we all have in common.

High School Youth Forum (HSYF) coordinators **Vic Wright, Tip Hudson** and **Brenda Smith** are equally appreciative to the PNW Section for helping to send three HSYF students to Orlando.

Makenna Cyr, Saanich (So. Vancouver Island), BC: Who would've known that eating skittles and unwrapping gum while wearing gloves could teach high school students leadership and range management knowledge? Every little thing we did during our time at the HSYF was extremely beneficial, even if we didn't realize it at the time. The day of our presentations, each of us awoke being nervous. However, the judges and HSYF leaders, as well as audience members who routinely watch presentations, agreed that the quality was great. Saying goodbye to the leaders and delegates was very difficult, but we all knew that we would keep in touch. I cannot thank everyone enough for making it possible for all of the students this year.

Dylan Howell, La Grande, OR: The 2014 SRM meeting was a great opportunity to meet professionals in the range management field. I really enjoyed meeting all of the delegates and learning about their backgrounds. I think it is safe to say that rangelands will be in good hands in the

future. I thank the PNW Section for sponsoring me!

Katie Boula, La Grande, OR: (HSYF Dylan Howell's Mom) Dylan was so honored to represent the PNW Section. Public speaking is not something he enjoys, but writing the paper and presenting to a group of peers and professionals was a great learning experience. He enjoyed interacting with kids "who actually think about something important," and having a chance to rub elbows with professionals in the field of range ecology and management. As parents (and natural resource professionals), we appreciated the high level of organization and professionalism evident in the event. We also appreciated the close supervision of a herd of teenagers - I think keeping them together helped foster communication and new friendships among kids from some very different backgrounds. Dylan said it was "the most fun four days of my life." I guess that pretty much says it all.

PNW Section Officers

President	Richard Fleenor, WA	509-323-2965
1st Vice Pres.	Bob Fowler, BC	250-692-2275
2nd Vice Pres.	Pete Schreder, OR	541-947-6054
Past President	Bob Gillaspay, WA	503-414-3233
Secretary	Emma Barnett, WA	719-250-0213
Treasurer	Craig Obermiller, OR	541-923-2777(h)
Director	Maura Laverty, OR	509-664-9384
Director	Julie Conley, WA	509-654-0297
Director	Jay Kerby, OR	541-573-8928
Director	John Williams, OR	541-426-3143
Director	Wendy Gardner, BC	250-371-5570
Director	Gene Hickman, OR	541-312-2512
HSYF	Brenda Smith, OR	541-573-4084
Awards	John Buckhouse, OR	541-737-1629
History	Joe Wagner, OR	541-947-6175
Membership	Pete Schreder, OR	541-947-6054
Outreach	Bob Gillaspay, WA	503-414-3233
Student Activities	Andrea Mann, OR	509-670-7743
Newsletter	Lynne Breese, OR	541-447-6762
	jlbreese@crestviewcable.com	
	Teal Purrington, OR	541-416-6772
	Matthew Braun, BC	250-614-7526
Webmaster	Sarah Troutman-Zahn	509-607-9004
	sarah.troutman.zahn@wa.usda.gov	

Message from SRM Headquarters

by Pat Shaver, SRM 1st Vice President, Woodburn, OR

The 67th Annual SRM Meeting is now officially in the books. With about 800 registrants, the meeting will end financially in the black, though not by much. This bottom line in no way reflects the quality and success of the meeting. We owe the Florida and Southern Section members a huge thank you for planning and running a meeting with a very professional, educational and entertaining program.

While I consider the meeting a success, there are many who see the lack of attendance and lack of revenue from it as something less than desirable. It was not too many years ago that we had nearly 1800 attendees and much larger profits from the annual meetings. When we had that attendance, we also had 5000 - 6000 members. That works out to be about 1/3 of our members attending the meeting. At the end of January 2014, we had 2800 members and 800 meeting registrants, between 1/4 and 1/3 of our members attending the annual meeting.

Why has membership declined by half? What keeps new, young professionals from joining, and what causes long-time members to let their membership lapse? Certainly the 'Great Recession' has had an impact as has the change in federal government support for being active in professional societies (less than 50 federal employees from ALL agencies were approved to attend the Orlando meeting). The SRM officers and staff are working hard to keep the federal agencies engaged and supportive, but that is a tough row in these times, and is only part of the solution.

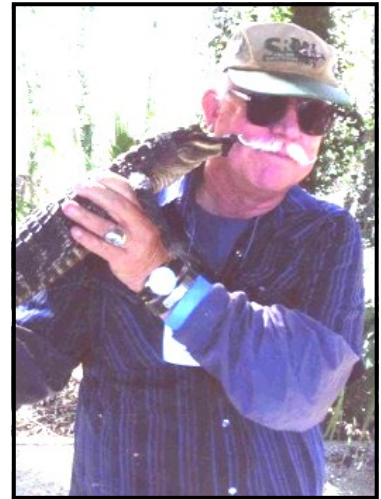
Why do you belong to the Society for Range Management? The next time you have some windshield time, give that question some thought. If you are with a non-member, have them ask themselves why not. I would like to hear what you come up with, and I know that Sandy Wyman, chair of the membership committee, would as well.

O-h-h-h - wows, *continued from p.3*

interactions with them. I was surprised to already know many from the BLM and academic communities. What a great experience!

Joe Wagner, Lakeview, OR:

Looking out the 10th floor of the hotel, turkey vultures were flying everywhere. There was so much vegetation it was like being in the woods. We explored southern ranch ecology and learned feral swine are a pain in the *****, and they breed like rabbits. My highlight? **I was kissed by an alligator!** —>



Sandy Wyman, Prineville, OR: As the Membership Committee Chair,

I visited several committees, Advisory Council, and NRCS and BLM Family Meetings, seeking input from our members on what SRM provides for them. One comment caught me completely by surprise: "SRM members do not show much passion about rangelands like other organizations such as Ecological Society of America." The one aspect of SRM that I have always noted and continue to see is **passion for rangelands!** President Jenny Pluhar is placing an emphasis on membership and how we can market SRM. Meeting with new and seasoned members gave me several ideas, and we will work towards implementing them this year! We will look to you, our current members to encourage potential members.

John Williams, Enterprise, OR: Attending the awards program where **Sandy Wyman** received her Outstanding Achievement Award in Stewardship was the best. Couple that with 65 to 75 degree weather, and reconnecting with folks you only see once in a while, made it all worth it. We could complain about the extra time to de-ice the planes, missed flights, and shuffling around because of the winter weather in the rest of the country (even down into Georgia), but then when we went out without our coat to places like downtown Disney for dinner, we have to just thank God we could enjoy a special time in the greatest nation on earth.

Calendar of Events

April 24 - 27, 2014

Science in the Sagebrush Steppe for University Range & Ag Clubs, Burns, Oregon

June 11 - 13, 2014

PNW Section Summer Workshop, Grand Coulee, Washington

October 15 - 17, 2014

PNW Section Annual Meeting & Workshop, Kamloops, British Columbia

January 30 - Feb.7, 2015

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

Summer 2015

PNW Section Summer Workshop, Oregon

Fall 2015

PNW Section Annual Meeting & Workshop, Washington

Three Cheers in Orlando!

by John Buckhouse, Awards Chairman, Corvallis, OR

Cheers and congratulations to **Kevin Guinn**, Ephrata, WA and **Sandra Wyman**, Prineville, OR who each received the Outstanding Achievement Award for Stewardship.

As a member of the National Riparian Service Team, **Sandy** travels North America with a strong message and the technical skills to mediate riparian area conflicts and disputes. Sandy calls it like she sees it. Her courage and honesty have earned her a reputation of being balanced, fair, and even handed. When tempers are short and voices are loud, everyone is quiet and listens when Sandy speaks. At the end of the day, most folks recognize that by working together with science-based approaches, we all receive the benefits of a sustainable resource.

Kevin is the NRCS Washington State Range Management Specialist who loves working with on-the-ground people! From planning and plant physiology to grazing management and endangered species, he shares his expertise and experience with agency personnel, citizens, schools, landowners and stewards. In SRM, he has served in nearly office in PNW Section and he did a superb job as one of the "Three Amigos" who co-



Sandra Wyman receives her award from SRM President Wally Butler in Orlando.

And now, for the song that pulls it all together,

SRM Orlando 2014

by Tim Ross, Cranbrook, BC

From the Plenary Session this much we learned
That Grassland and sawtooth pimento are burned
All through the winter, 'cause in summer Orlando gets the nod
As hurricane central and Florida's lightning rod.

Orlando has everything, including endless dinner bus rides
That always end up where that damned mouse resides.
Suburban sprawl that lightening, sadly, has missed
But the countryside is beautiful -- luscious, sun-kissed.

The Conference facilities, perfect it seemed
Landscaping with palms and impossible greens
For sun-starved and frozen northerners like us
Going through another winter of black and white mush.

Three kinds of palm trees we learned from Gene.
One kind of student -- still in boots, hats and jeans
Members slyly attending, like kids skipping school
The final tech session, from 3 to 4, by the pool.

Mid-winter blues can be licked it is true
By attending an SRM winter conference or two.
Whether warm climes or cold, too quickly they pass
'Cause it's all about us, and all about the grass.

chaired the 2012 SRM Annual Meeting in Spokane. Kevin is smart, logical, knowledgeable and kind; that makes a great combination.

As we cheer for our own **Pat Shaver, SRM 1st Vice President**, please share your questions, ideas, and how YOU will be willing to lend a hand to OUR Society for Range Management. Contact: plshaver@gmail.com



Kevin Guinn with his award. Kevin couldn't be in Orlando, but Michael Borman stood in for him at the awards ceremony.

**Pacific Northwest SRM Annual
Fall Meeting, Workshop & Tour**

October 15 - 17, 2014

Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, BC

**Sedges to Salmon: the hydrological science
behind BC rangelands**

Explore the relationships between rangelands and their hydrological processes. Gain insight into effects of climate change on grassland ecology, and the effects of local hydrology and rangeland management on one of the largest sockeye salmon spawning areas in North America. On the field tour, as part of the one-in-four dominant year run, you will help celebrate **Salute to the Sockeye 2014**.

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

British Columbia

Sonja Leverkus, Fort Nelson, 250-709-5118

Washington

Jeff Burnham, Ellensburg, 509-457-9303

Oregon State University

Michael Borman, Corvallis, 541-737-1614

Eastern Oregon University

Lesley Morris, La Grande, 541-962-3812

Central Oregon

Volunteers???

Southern Oregon

Les Boothe, Lakeview, 541-947-6141