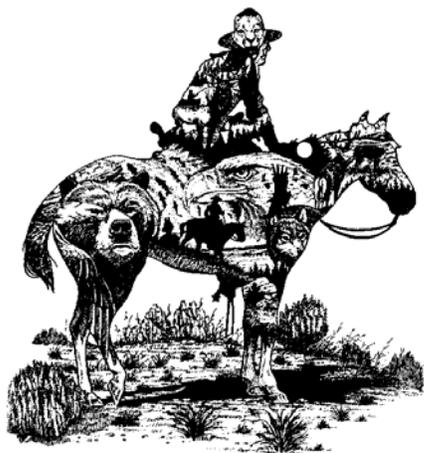


Society for Range Management Pacific Northwest Section

*Properly functioning ecosystems provide for long-term sustainability of watersheds, plants, animals and people
Volume 57, Number 4* *December 2006*



President's Message

Joe Wagner, Lakeview, Oregon

This is my first letter to the PNW Section, and I look forward to an event-filled year. We started off with an excellent meeting at Kelso, WA, followed by a very interesting tour of the Mount St. Helens volcanic area. **Bill Anderson**, SRM Charter member, was a special guest; **Fred Hall's** video-tape of Bill talking about SRM history was a special treat. Thanks to **Kevin Guinn** and the Washington crew for putting the program together.

Like a little boy, I was intrigued by the Mount St. Helens Volcano. We had a unique opportunity to view the workings of nature: a mountain was ripped apart and is rebuilding before our eyes; plants and animals survive and grow in an environment that at first looked like a moonscape. We normally think of geologic time in millions of years. Mount St. Helens brought geology into our time-frame. It gave us a chance to view Nature and Man's restoration processes at work.

I am glad to see the Section take such an interest in our youth. **Will Hudson**, the national High School Youth Forum (HSYF) President, told us how his experience at the Vancouver Annual Meeting helped make his decision to study range management in college. Several actions were taken by the Board of Directors to emphasize and provide yearly funding for the HSYF. We also had a successful Silent Auction which raised \$530 for the college students to participate at the Reno Annual Meeting in February '07.

The SRM parent society is proposing a major change for selecting Annual Meeting locations.

See the related article and, if you have thoughts, get them to me at jawagner@or.blm.gov

The Endowment Fund Committee is seeking items for Reno Annual Meeting silent auction. See the article and contact Lynne Breese.

Congratulations to **Dana Peterson** on his election as our Section 2nd Vice-president and to **Brian Haddow** and **Pete Schreder** on their election to the Board of Directors. Congratulations also to **Jim Brunner** recognized with the PNW "Trailboss" Award and **Michael Borman** recipients of the PNW Exemplary Service Award.

Our Section put on an excellent Annual Meeting at Vancouver; we had a lot of volunteer help. The Nevada Section is hosting the '07 meeting. Their Section is small and they would welcome your help in Reno. Please volunteer if you can, to **Marti Butow**, mbutow@ca.blm.gov or to **Patti Novak-Echenique**, patti.novak@nv.usda.gov

And at Reno, the Young Professionals Conclave and Leadership & Development Committee will have a brainstorming workshop on the new Mentoring Program, February 13, from 1 –5 p.m. Take your thinking-caps and a welcoming handshake to help create the future SRM.

I leave you with Joe's Tid-bit of Wisdom: "A moment of safety. . .can last a lifetime".

NEWSLETTER

PNW's Year in Review

Could it get any better than Vancouver '06? Well, it continued at least as good as! Do you know how lucky you are to be a part of PNW Section? If you don't, you CAN change that.

Join us. There is room for everyone to be active in PNW Section!

July -- Burns, OR, for the PNW Field Workshop & Campout at the Experimental Range and Agricultural Research Center. **Darren Brumback** and **Jeff Rose** set the stage for "*Finding the Decision Zone*" against a background of great friends, campfire, fine food, brilliant skies and howling coyotes. **Tony Svejcar** defined challenges facing research and management. Though objectives may be the same, the way each does business is divergent. Landscape scale research is difficult or impossible. From a manager's view, observations may suggest causal factors, but do not provide proof. Tony suggests that researchers could be more useful to managers if priorities are developed. When there is agreement on high priority (usually a "hot-button"), adaptive management – "test by doing" – may be an option.

From there, **Mike Borman** tackled the challenge to balance multiple objectives at the ranch or allotment scale. Summing it up, "If we manage for ecosystem processes, time and timing will do it, if we remember that climate is always changing. Managing for a single species will always fail." Or, as **Jimmy Eisner** (a fish biologist who raises cows) says, "What is good for my cows is good for my fish."

Roger Sheeley, "the weed guy", challenged us not to limit what we do by the tools at hand. Don't just kill the weed; manage for the underlying problem. What is the real problem? Don't just treat symptoms. Choose tools to address the cause of the problem.

Jon Bates, Jane Mangold, Jeremy James and **Rick Miller** walked us through on-going research plots on grazing and burning, seeding establishment and juniper management which led to more questions – and emerging answers.

Ideas and questions continued around the campfire and into meetings "unrushed, informative, and a great connection for members who could attend", led by **Bob Drinkwater** and **Joe Wagner**.

September – Mt. St. Helens -- "**Awe**, *noun*: reverent, fear and wonder; *adjective*: awe-struck. . . "

This line from Webster's came to life for PNW folks at our Annual Fall Meeting & Tour at Mt. St. Helens. Why is SRM going to a mountain – an alive volcano, at that? "*Mount St. Helens: 26 Years of Ecological Succession*" is why. **Kevin Guinn, Richard Fleenor, Bob Leonard, Sarah Troutman-Zahn, Will Keller, Tip Hudson, Dana Peterson . . . Thank you for taking us back to the mountain.** You take us to Johnston Ridge Observatory. We look around, point, and then -- "*Vancouver, Vancouver, this is it!*" Silence. We shudder. Our flesh crawls. May 18, 1980. Silence. David Johnston, USGS volcanologist on duty that morning, called in --then died at his observation post. We shudder again. The silence is heavy. That was the voice on the air-waves that day in May, 1980. We remember.

But, this is 2006. Sure, we read in the paper that the mountain is doing this or that, but, isn't that just the media? Nope. It is happening, by the minute, every hour of every day. We moan a bit because it is overcast – raining, too. We can't see the mountain. Suddenly, the clouds part – and we see a tall column of steam rise above us. Our guides say, "It is just like your breath. You don't see your breath on a sunny summer day, but when the weather cools, it is there. It is the same with the mountain. It is cold. You got to see the steam cloud." THAT makes our day. Let it snow in September! Hurray!!

A USGS geologist and USFS plant ecologist, both at the mountain since the early 80s, guide our day on the mountain. They help us see their world. Are there things they would do differently to "bring back the system"? Sure. Hindsight is great. Could there have been (and still be) benefit in riparian and range folks working with them? Yes. Easy to say, while they and their peers work in a world unlike one that any of us have seen. -- And all the while, the mountain is alive; it oozes magma by the minute. **Awesome.**

In age, our group was 6 years to 92 years. **Tip Hudson**, father of 6 year-old **David**, wrote, "The story about David Johnston, the geologist who was stationed on the ridge when the volcano blew, made quite an impression on my David, but not because of the name. He is still talking about the 330-mph lateral blast (yes, the velocity is the part he remembered) that came across the Toutle

Continued on next page...

PNW Discussions & Decisions in 2006

Before January 31, please let **Joe Wagner** jawagner@or.blm.gov know your thoughts on the proposal to rotate the international SRM Annual Meetings between just a few locations. SRM meetings have grown in size and complexity and there are fewer venues capable of housing the meeting. Sections would be divided into new regions, based on the selection of cities in the rotation schedule. Because this would eliminate some locations, the Society would reinstate the “national” summer tour & meetings and would add regional symposia and workshops. This is a complex issue and will be well discussed by the Advisory Council in Reno. Joe does want any ideas which you have.

Eastern Oregon University Chapter is the newest PNW SRM Chapter. It’s “territory” reaches out to neighboring counties. Why wait? Call **Mike McInnis** today! 541-962-3812 or mmcinnis@eou.edu

High School Youth Forum – we are committed to it and will continue to find ways to support it. Volunteers to advertise HSYF, do “outreach” and explore support ideas are welcome! The Section can send up to three high school students to SRM International Annual Meetings.

Fred Hall’s interview of Charter Member **Bill Anderson** has been put on a DVD by Bob Drinkwater. This wonder-

ful history of range management is available for \$5.00. Proceeds will support the HSYF. Get smart and get your copy today! Contact **Bob Drinkwater**, 250-565-6139

Section meetings: ’07 – summer in BC, fall in western OR; ’08 – summer in WA, fall in BC

Jim Brunner wishes to transfer the copyright of “Wildland Workers Handbook” to the Section. This would include regular update & reprint. A committee is working on this.

Les Boothe will complete the term of Director **Jim Dobrowski** who has moved to Washington DC.

PNW Section wrote to the parent society **urging caution in accreditation of universities** – it is critical to ensure the quality and depth of education available to rangeland ecology graduates.

Mark your calendar: **PNW Summer Field Workshop at Kamloops, BC, June 21- 22, 2007!!**

Thanks to Tip Hudson & Brian Haddow for superior note-taking during business meetings!

PNW’s Year in Review (continued from previous page)

River Valley, and about huge mudslides. He liked the hike into the valley best, and worked pretty hard to grasp that we were walking upon the insides of the volcano. The business meetings were easily the low point for David, and, but for **Brian Haddow’s** dried fruit, he might not have seemed quite so well-behaved. The real best part was he had one-on-one attention from Dad for two days.” (Tip, bring David again. We’ll all bring fruit!)

Reminiscing, **Bill Anderson** and **Bob Drinkwater** mention that children used to come along on PNW field trips. Charter Member Bill, says that in the 60s & 70s, the meetings were often campouts and the whole family came along. Bob says that his son, now 25, came with him when PNW Section made its first trek to Mt. St. Helens in the late 1980s; he was about the same age as young David Hudson.

“Snippets from the Mountain” will show up in ’07 newsletters. Be watching!



David Hudson and others at PNW fall tour

2006 PNW Awards Go to . . . Two B's, Brunner and Borman!

John Buckhouse, Awards Chairman

Michael Borman Recognized with the Exemplary Service Award

Michael (Mike to most of us), a “go-to-guy” for all things range management, is known for excellent programs and follow-through in the short courses he leads across Oregon and western North America. He has been OSU Extension Rangelands Specialist since '94, but earlier worked on rangelands of Idaho and Nevada, was an ecologist with National Biological Survey, an advisor in northern Africa and a Peace Corp volunteer in Majuro, Marshall Islands. Michael has been recognized by BLM and SRM.

Most recently, PNW Section knows Michael as the Local Arrangements Chair for Vancouver '06. He made huge logistic decisions and he put many to work as volunteers! Does he know how to motivate folks? You bet. He did it to about 150 of us and just look what was accomplished!

Michael Borman represents the pride in PNW Section SRM, and the confidence in self that is hallmark to our Section.



Michael Borman, left, and Bob Drinkwater

Charter Member Jim Brunner Receives the PNW Trail Boss Award



Jim Brunner, left, and Bob Drinkwater

In 1941, BS degree in hand, Jim did USFS range surveys in Idaho and Colorado. With SCS (now NRCS), he trained under Dr. Dyksterhuis to learn range sites and condition classes. After managing a Texas ranch on the Pecos River, he was with BLM in Nevada & Arizona to do land & mineral adjudication, land examinations, Cadastral surveys and planning with emphasis on environmental studies. During WWII, Jim led a cadre across the English Channel and was involved with the liberation of Paris.

Jim is a life-long scholar, innovator, lecturer and avid writer who has been recognized by USDI, OSU and SRM. Current writings and presentations include sage grouse and the vagaries of “global warming”. His “Wildlands Workers’ Handbook”, is a hands-on guide to practical rangeland projects. Jim has donated this book, its copyright, and its profit potential to PNW Section for its fundraising efforts.

Jim quietly and effectively leads and motivates. He is a living example of the spirit of the PNW. Thank you, Jim, for the example you set for us.



New Members

Welcome to the PNW Section SRM! Sure hope we can meet you at the Summer Field Workshop in Kamloops!!

Celeste Avila, Canyon City, OR
Debbie Bunch, Prineville, OR
Paula Coon, Benge, WA
Kurtis Doerfling, Yarro, B.C.
Lisa Grant, Hines, OR
Kelsey Kennedy, Sheridan, OR
Holly Myers, Prineville, OR
Elisabeth Nelson, Cathlamet, WA
Steve Picard, La Grande, OR
Anne Skinner, Summerland, B.C.
Dave Torell, Lolo, MT
Noel Winegeart, Pomeroy, WA
Adele Woerz, Corvallis, OR

PNW Section At Your Service

Do you KNOW what your Section can do for you?

PNW's Tri-fold Flannel Board is for your Chapter to use. Think ahead. When can you put it to good use? Student Career Days? County Fair? Fish Fest??? Fred Hall is the "Keeper" of the board. Contact Fred to schedule it and to plan ahead for transporting it.
Fred_C_Hall@plantecolnw.com

PNW's First Response Team is for you. Have an issue that is getting you down? Don't fear, there is help. Your First Response Team is ready & waiting. All you have to do is send a request to any Section Officer, who will contact the Past President, who will then post the request. The First Response Team is made up of former Section Presidents and Trail Boss recipients, as well as anyone willing to participate.

PNW Members in the News

Charter Member **Bill Anderson** had not been able to attend Section activities for several years, so it was an incredibly special treat for everyone when he showed up at Mt. St. Helens. Bill worked throughout our Section during his long career and is well-known and much loved. He entertained us with recollections of his work and a reminder of how our Section began. Thanks to **Fred Hall** and **Bob Drinkwater**, you can have your own DVD of Bill Anderson observations. It is a must for all students of rangeland ecology. \$5.00 plus shipping will get it to you. Contact Bob Drinkwater at bob.drinkwater@gems6.gov.bc.ca

Following one career with the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, **Bob France** has begun a second career as Executive Director of the B.C. Cattlemen's Association. Correction: make this his third career – his second career was General Co-Chair of Vancouver '06!!

Tom Platt, area Extension Agent in Washington, was featured for his efforts to help farmers conduct a financial analysis of their operation through the Western Center for Risk Management Education. The goal is to answer questions: Where am I? Where do I want to go? How do I get there?

And, she's not yet a member, but **Megan Tanaka**, daughter of **SRM President John Tanaka**, created the "Grown in Oregon" map used in 800 classrooms using the Ag in the Classroom program.

At the summer campout, **Fred Hall** conferred a task upon all members of SRM. "We have a responsibility to change humanity's concept of 60% of the earth's land mass. SRM is a relatively young organization – half of the original, founding members are still with us. In that short time there have been tremendous strides in our knowledge about managing very dry ecosystems; the importance of this task will increase. The population is increasing and people can't eat grass – there has to be a converter, i.e., livestock. Concepts are nice, but the world runs on anthropological systems. With intelligent management, we can have wildlife, livestock, and people (who are fed). Two-thirds of the earth's surface cannot be farmed. Range managers know more than anyone what to do with this land. **Go and do good!**

University Student Opportunities



*Andrea Mann, Student Affairs Chair,
Andrea.Mann@wa.usda.gov*

Traveling to Reno? College/university students may receive travel scholarships. Interested? Contact your advisor, indicating interest and involvement at meetings. Your advisor must verify and sign off. Advisors must assemble names into one document per school and submit to Andrea Mann by **January 15**.

A \$500 Undergraduate Scholarship is available for a student of range management or a natural resource management related major. Student must be in a B.C., WA, or OR college/university and remain an undergraduate in this field the following school year. **Beginning in 2007, students from WSU attending the U. of Idaho range management program will be eligible for the scholarship.** Selection is based on academic standing, leadership, activities on and off campus, and financial need. Candidates must submit a letter detailing their background, professional goals, current transcript, at least two letters of reference, with at least one letter from a current SRM member.

Applications are due to your academic department head by **March 15** for initial ranking. By **May 1**, the application and ranking should be forwarded to Andrea Mann.



Jane Mangold and Jeremy James field questions at the PNW Summer Field Workshop & Campout in Burns (story on page 2)



Inside the mountain (see story on page 2)

PNW Section Officers

President	Joe Wagner	541-947-6175
1 st Vice Pres.	Karen Raven	250-577-3712
2 nd Vice Pres.	Dana Peterson	509-662-6951
Past President	Bob Drinkwater	250-565-6139
Secretary	Brian Haddow	250-719-1414
Treasurer	Craig Obermiller	541-923-2777
Director	Les Boothe	541-947-6147
Director	Andy McDonald	604-887-3426
Director	Lavona Liggins	250-554-5211
Director	Tip Hudson	509-962-7507
Director	Brian Haddow	250-719-1414
Director	Pete Schreder	541-947-6054
Membership	Les Boothe	541-947-6147
Student Affairs	Andrea Mann	509-663-6670
Awards	John Buckhouse	541-737-1629
Newsletter	Lynne Breese	541-447-6762
	jlbreese@crestviewcable.com	
	Teal Purrington	541-923-6924

SRM 60th Annual Meeting, Reno, February 9-16 – Will you be there?

Check in with PNW **President Joe Wagner** for details on an informal PNW gathering. It could be Tuesday evening, but then again. . . so check with Joe.

Please greet and support our three delegates to **High School Youth Forum (HSYF)**.

Kurtis Doerfling, Yarro, BC and **Kelsey Kennedy**, Sheridan, OR will join **Will Hudson** at the High School Youth Forum in Reno. Will, from Goldendale, WA and Eastern Oregon State University, La Grande, OR, returns to HSYF as the President. He was elected by his peers at the Vancouver meeting.

Kurtis, a senior at Sardis Secondary School, east of Vancouver, and Kelsey, a junior at Willamina High School in the northern coast range will participate in the HSYF Speech Contest. Check the speech schedule and cheer for them! You will be impressed by all the students' speeches.



The Silent Auction to support SRM's Endowment Fund will be a good event. Look for it. This adds significantly to the Endowment Fund which is important to our Society's mission. Sections typically donate "large ticket" items to the auction. Individual contributions of items are also welcome! Please email Stan Tixier, edenutstix@netutah.net to say what you will bring and take the item with you to Reno. Then, have fun at the auction!

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

British Columbia — Vic Wright — 250-558-1787
Washington — Richard Fleenor — 509-754-3023 x102
Oregon State U. — Jimmie Hayes
Eastern Oregon U. — Mike McInnis — 541-962-3812
Central Oregon — John Swanson — 541-447-1735
Southern Oregon — Les Boothe — 541-947-6141



Upcoming Events

- February 11-16, 2007 SRM International Meeting, Reno, Nevada
Managed Rangelands: Traditions & Transitions
- June 21-22, 2007 PNW Section Summer Field Workshop, Kamloops, BC
- Fall 2007 PNW Section Annual Meeting & Workshop, Corvallis, OR
- January 26-Feb. 1 2008 SRM International Meeting, Louisville, Kentucky
Building Bridges: Grasslands to Rangelands

Pacific Northwest Section, Society for Range Management — Caring for basic range resources: soil, plants and water

Want to alert members to an upcoming event? Comment on an article? Give us your new address? Brag about another member's contribution to range management? Tell us a story? Contact the Newsletter Editors! jlbreese@crestviewcable.com or Teal_Purrington@or.blm.gov