



Society for Range Management Pacific Northwest Section

Properly functioning ecosystems provide for long-term sustainability of watersheds, plants, animals and people
Volume 60, Number 4 November 2009

President's Message

Les Boothe, Lakeview, OR

NEWSLETTER

As I started to write, I came to the unfortunate realization that I have no wonderful words of wisdom to dazzle the readers. Alas, I will have to settle for passing on information and thanking the **Washington Chapter** members who put on a great PNW fall meeting at Clarkston. My personal thanks to **Courtney Smith, Elayne Hovde, and John Kouns** for their work, and I ask them to pass on the Section's gratitude to all who helped make the meeting a success. It was the first time I had been to that part of Washington; the Snake River there is much bigger than the Snake River I saw in Wyoming! Another first was learning about *Ventenata dubia* (wiregrass), and what a serious problem it is in some areas. Just what we need, another introduced annual grass.

Congratulations to the new PNW officers: Directors **Dustin Johnson** and **Sarah Troutman-Zahn**, and 2nd Vice-president **Lavona Liggins**. They will do a fine job; I look forward to working with them. Thanks to **Pete Schreder** and **Brian Haddow** for their great work the last three years.

An important item during the BOD meeting was the decision to print 100 copies of *Wildland Worker's Handbook* and sell them at the Denver meeting in February. This excellent book was written by **Jim Brunner**, and he generously donated the copyright to PNW SRM. We will need book sellers in Denver, so if you plan to be there and would help, please notify a PNW officer so we can be in touch.

In case you've "been out of the country", the **PNW and Idaho SRM Sections are co-hosting the 2012 International Meeting in Spokane**. Co-chairs **Kevin Guinn** and **Will Keller** from PNW and **J.D. Wulfhorst** from Idaho have been organizing committees and have several members already in place. I thank them for their hard work, and encourage everyone to attend in 2012, and be prepared to help! This is a big undertaking, but the planning is in good hands. With the help of everyone in our two Sections, we will put on a great meeting.

There is news outside the Section that I want to pass on, and thank **Lynne Breese** for sending it to me. There is a lot of bad news in the world today; sometimes it is hard to find anything to be optimistic about! However, this news made me feel there is hope, at least on the issue of sustaining working ranches and protecting rangelands. A press release of Sept. 14th, 2009, came from the **Coalition for Conservation through Ranching**. This is a coalition between national conservation-minded groups that share an

interest in promoting open space for ranching and healthy landscapes. Some of the members caught my attention: Public Lands Council, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, National Association of Conservation Districts, Family Farms Alliance, American Forage and Grassland Council, California Farm Bureau Federation and the SRM. So . . . , what is the big deal? These groups often form alliances, and the battle continues. However, other groups in the coalition include World Wildlife Fund, Wild Sheep Foundation and Wilderness Society. The only times I've seen these groups listed on the same page has been when they are on opposite sides of a lawsuit!

The press release explains that the coalition will work on common ground issues which may include a pro-grasslands agenda, including grassland research projects, specific species conservation projects and the important role of grasslands in carbon sequestration. Martha Kauffman, Managing Director of the World Wildlife Fund Northern Great Plains Program is quoted: "Intact working ranches that are managed with wildlife in mind, can help support habitat for grassland birds, mammals, and fish, all of which face uncertain prospects without the large spaces they need to survive. By working together, we can encourage ranching practices that ensure the preservation of wildlife, and develop incentives that help ranchers to do so." There are similar quotes from ranchers and other members of the coalition. To learn more, contact: Jeff Eisenberg, PLC/NCBA at 202-879-9136 or Bryan Weech, Director of Livestock, World Wildlife Fund, 202-495-4643.

I am optimistic about a coalition like this because I have seen this model work on the local level. When conservation groups, sportsmen and ranchers realize they have common goals, they can influence policy and regulations that help promote and sustain viable working ranches. They all realize that economically sound ranches maintain the open space that environmental groups support and which are critically important habitat for wildlife. As an example, this kind of cooperation can reduce the loss of valuable meadows to subdivisions and will reduce lawsuits.

I would ask each of you to learn about this coalition and look for opportunities to support them or form your own local coalition which can do good things for the rangelands and the people who use them.

Hope to see you in Canada next summer; it is always fun up there!

Les

PNW in Clarkston, at the Confluence of the Clearwater & Snake Rivers

By Rae Haddow, P.Ag.

Rae is Range Agrologist with the Ministry of Forests and Range in Cranbrook, B.C. Among her favourite activities are cycling and snowboarding in the SE corner of the Rocky Mountain Trench.

This was my first tour since 2007, and I must say it was well worth it! It can't get much better than being able to attend the SRM tour in a new, exciting and beautiful place, have fabulous weather and be able to do it with my Dad. (*Brian Haddow*).

The two days were packed with great information, enthusiastic speakers, and some of the most intriguing scenery I've seen. In this part-one of a two-part series, I will reveal some of the great information passed to us during the two-day tour. Watch for part-two in the next newsletter!

The whirlwind tour started with three excellent presentations at the Nez Perce National Historical Park (NHP). Discussions integrated the history and traditional ways of the Nez Perce Tribe with the science currently being used to better understand ecosystem function and help maintain the landscape for the future. Jannis Jocius, Nez Perce NHP Biological Technician provided a clear picture of one of the most important food sources to the Nez Perce – Camas. This plant provided critical sustenance to the tribe, but has declined in abundance as large harvests have tapered over time. To collect a large amount of data in various locations, the Nez Perce NHP team used an innovative program called the Citizen Science Monitoring Program. This program allowed them to collect information on the Camas and get high school students and local citizens involved in scientific research and exposure to methods of scientific data collection. This provided an excellent opportunity to introduce citizens to the history of their area and the tribe which inhabits it. Adding context to the Camas discussion, Aaron Miles, Nez Perce Tribal Member and Natural Resource Manager outlined the history of the tribe and their current direction in resource management. We then walked through the museum to see many beautifully decorated tribal articles such as headdresses, saddles and bridles, and various clothing and jewellery.

Our next stop was the Nez Perce Bio-Control Center where we toured with coordinator Paul Brusven and biologist Marvin Hanks. We were able to see work they are doing to decrease weed populations and help manage further invasions into rangelands across the Northwest. In their on-site nursery, they have been raising populations of various bio-control insects: root-feeding weevils for knapweed, stem-boring weevils for Dalmatian toadflax, and a new root

weevil – hoped to be released in 2010 – for star thistle, among others. They are leaders in rearing bio-control insects on completely artificial diets. The dedication and enthusiasm that this group has towards their work is infectious and the invitation is out to SRM to have a day-long bio-control workshop at the center.

We ventured back to Clarkston for a great lunch and afternoon talks. Highlighting the current issues associated with the “dubious” invasive grass *Ventenata dubia*, was Pamela Scheinost from the NRCS Pullman Plant Materials Research Center. The only *Ventenata* in North America, this plant has many invasive properties and is growing in abundance across the northwest. Due to its high silica content, it is less palatable than both cheatgrass and medusahead which pose obvious challenges in management.

“Bighorn Sheep Recovery in Hell’s Canyon” was presented by wildlife biologist Paul Wik. He noted that all native populations of bighorn sheep had been wiped out of the Canyon by 1939 due to the devastating effects of pneumonia – a disease introduced by mixing domestic sheep herds into an area with abundant wild sheep. However, due to committed recovery efforts since 1971, sheep populations now exist, although there are still many obstacles to full recovery. In 1996, there was a serious all-age die-off induced by a rogue domestic goat running with an otherwise healthy herd of sheep. At this time 44% of the sheep herds died. This mass die-off stimulated collaboration between state and national governments. Although there are still serious disease issues, there is an excellent collective effort to ensure that any possible means are used to maintain these populations. The group dedicated to sheep recovery has built an action plan (currently in review) for protecting the sheep’s home range and continue to monitor the recovery of the once abundant herds of bighorn sheep.

These diverse presentations provided our group with great insight and an excellent jumping board for later evening discussions over a well deserved “cold one”!

Stay tuned for part-two of the series for discussions around BFI Native Seed – a company providing source-identified native grass and forb species; the intricacies of the Conservation Reserve Program; a stream reconstruction project for at-risk fish species; and finally, look at an endeavour by the US Fish & Wildlife Service to take a historically working ranch and manage it (with livestock) for wildlife values.

Until next time – happy ranging!

Society Update -- A Few Words from Sandy

By Sandra Wyman

Sandy, from Prineville, OR, is on the Board of SRM. Representing all of us, she wants to hear your ideas and questions. Sandy grew up in Wisconsin, and always contributes real Wisconsin Maple Syrup at SRM Silent Auctions!

Once again, the PNW Section delivered a wonderful fall meeting and tour. Kudos to **Courtney Smith**, his committee, and the **Washington Chapter** for their good work. Clarkston, WA was a new location for me. It was another beautiful spot in the world, and it was great to see both familiar and new faces!

The tour showed innovative off-site watering devices and restoration of riparian area.

Traveling to Clarkston, we met briefly with **Fred Hall** at the truck stop in Biggs. Regretting that he wasn't able to go on with us, **Fred sent his best to all!** I thank **John Breese** for

More from Clarkston. . .

The annual **Silent Auction** added \$750 to the PNW SRM Student Scholarship Fund. Thanks to the 12 folks who donated 34 items to the auction (**Jim Brunner** donated 14 treasures!), and thanks to the 17 winning bidders. (*ed. hint: Next year, bring your gift list for birthdays & Christmas; you'll be surprised by what you can find!*)

Courtney Smith, chair, presented "official" SRM glasses to **Elayne Hovde** for keeping track of everything and everyone, and to **Brian Radford** for handling the unplanned adventures of getting to the meeting. (*ed. Be sure to ask Brian about it next June in BC!*)



At the Clarkston field tour, Linda Hardesty, WSU, not only taught us in the field, but we learned about training guide dogs, too! In the photo above, Linda "cradles" Yutaka, to calm the dog and to teach submissiveness. In this position, a disabled owner could rub the tummy, cut nails, or clean ears.

stopping several times on our return to Prineville so we could capture the elusive fresh Walla Walla onions – they are tasty! I know others are thanking **Jim Brunner** for his wonderful contributions to the Silent Auction, but I want to personally thank Jim for his continued support of our youth as well! **Jim, we missed you and Mae and hope you are both doing well.**

The PNW showed they are in the forefront with a new endeavour to introduce and retain new members to SRM. In the October "Rangeland News", **Ken Johnson**, SRM's Executive Vice President, shared your idea with the rest of the Society as an example of a way to encourage and retain new members. Way to go, **Tessa Teems**, and the rest of the Section membership committee! As you know, the Society's Membership Task Force is working diligently to garner new members and maintain the ones we have. To do that, we must show a benefit to our members; finding ways to encourage folks to attend section and annual meetings is a great start!

I also thank **Will Keller**, **Kevin Guinn** and **J.D. Wulfhorst** for agreeing to co-chair the 2102 Annual Meeting in Spokane, WA. They say the facilities have been upgraded since the last annual meeting in Spokane, and should facilitate another great meeting in the Northwest. I hope all our PNW and Idaho Section members are able to help. When it was my task to call for volunteers for the 2006 meeting in Vancouver, it was a great opportunity for me to get to know so many of our members!

Your SRM Executive Committee is again going to Washington, DC to meet with a variety of agencies and groups. I will accompany them, and look forward to the opportunity to promote SRM. There are many issues, including climate change, expansion or changes to the Wild Horse & Burro Act, and the Coalition for Conservation through Ranching.

The Coalition for Conservation through Ranching recognizes that economically viable working ranches depend on healthy and productive landscapes on both public and private lands in the West. The health and productivity of landscapes cannot be fairly considered without looking at an entire landscape across jurisdictional boundaries. Watersheds do not function on man-made boundaries. The coalition supports working ranches and will work to achieve our goals on both public and private lands in the West.

I hope you can attend the Annual SRM meeting in Denver, February 8-12. We are partnering with the Weed Science Society of America, and a great meeting is planned. If you have not received your pre-convention handbook, contact the Colorado office for assistance or see www.rangelands.org

Thanks to all who support the sustainable use and well-being of our world's rangelands!

Oct 13/09

The 1st Response Team

Early in 2009 I asked our first response team how Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*) is treated in jurisdictions outside of B.C. when assessing range condition. I now realize the question was too general and I really meant to confine my question to the dry upland sites. The responses were generally directed to riparian sites where it may be possible to control KBG by adjusting the water table in favour of native species.

With regard to the presence of KBG on upland sites an insightful response was received from Karen Zamudio in Lakeview, OR. Karen is an ecologist for the Fremont-Winema National Forest in south central Oregon. Karen states that *Poa pratensis* is generally considered to be a "decreaser" on drier meadow settings but is considered to be a "palatable increaser" on moist or wetter meadows. She says that in the Southcentral Oregon Riparian Fieldguide (Piegel et al., 2006 draft) *Poa pratensis* is considered an indicator of early seral status in wet environments, an indicator of mid seral status in moist environments and an indicator of late seral status in dry environments where the water table is below one metre in mid summer.

Karen further states that in dry areas the restoration of ecological function revolves around managing for vigorous individual KBG plants and she describes strategies for increasing plant vigor and litter conditions and improvement of the rooting and water/soil conserving capabilities of the site.

Range condition on public lands in BC is heavily weighted in favor of the large native bunchgrasses such as bluebunch wheatgrass and rough fescue. Kentucky bluegrass is treated as an invasive species much like crested wheatgrass or knapweed and range condition is downgraded accordingly.

I believe it would be of interest to our members to hear of other ways . . . KBG is treated when present in upland sites. How does it affect range condition assessments and what management strategies are used where it is present?

Cheers
alf Bawtree

The 1st Response Team Works!

As you read the above article by **Alf Bawtree**, know that the KBG discussion is still open, and Alf welcomes a continuation of this discussion. Send your comments to the Team's chair, **Dana Peterson**:
dana_peterson@or.blm.gov

At Alf's request, **Karen Zamudio** reviewed the article and adds: "Credit for the management suggestion to improve KBG individual plant vigor where it occurs should be give to Leonard Volland, 1985. *Guidelines for Forage Resource Evaluation within Central Oregon Pumice Zone*. USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region".

*Alf Bawtree, Celista, BC, is passionate about the preservation and continuing proper use of rangeland resources. He is active in the BC Naturalist Society and the SRM at the chapter, section and parent society levels. Prior to "retirement", he was Provincial Range Management Specialist with the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food in Kamloops and Forest Range Agrologist with the Ministry of Forests in Nelson. Alf consults on rangeland issues, plays bridge, restores old cars, and, according to his good friend **Don Blumenauer**, "still delights in causing trouble"!*

PNW Member Update

A huge Thank You to our “retiring” PNW Officers: President **Dana Peterson**, Wenatchee, WA; Past-president **Karen Raven**, Seba Beach, AB; and Directors **Brian Haddow**, Dawson Creek, BC, and **Pete Schreder**, Lakeview, OR. You led us in many positive steps. We still have your number; you can’t hide!

Welcome to our new officers: 2nd Vice-president **Lavona Liggins**, Kamloops, BC (she will be in training for the presidency); and Directors **Dustin Johnson**, Burns, OR, and **Sarah Troutman-Zahn**, Ellensburg, WA. **Dana Peterson** continues to serve the Board as past-president.

AWARDS

By John Buckhouse

PNW 2009 Trail Boss Award to – Rick Miller

Rick is in constant demand to conduct workshops throughout the West – and such was the case when PNW gathered this fall. While we applauded his being named our Trail Boss, Rick was in Utah and California leading seminars! Rick’s research has focused on plant community dynamics and disturbance regimes within semi-arid woodlands and sagebrush steppe communities. Specific work has involved wild and prescribed fire, fire history, plant succession, avian response to fire, and identifying plant community thresholds and patterns of habitat use by the greater sage-grouse. He is currently one of three co-editors working on a new Range Fire Ecology book.

Rick has worked hard to advance the science of rangeland ecology and management. He is known, respected and liked in the PNW, the West and the Nation. Unable to receive the Trail Boss in person, Rick sent word that, “It is a great honor to receive the Trail Boss Award from my peers, a group of professionals all working the field of range management. I am both humbled and honored to receive the Trail Boss. Thank you.”

PNW 2009 Exemplary Service Award to – Kevin Guinn

Before heading to Washington, Kevin began work with SCS/NRCS in Arkansas. He considers it “an honor and a privilege” to have worked with landowners in 11 central Washington counties, and to have collaborated with state and federal agencies and the Colville and Yakama Tribes. He has helped initiate Coordinated Resource Management in Naneum, Saddle Mountain, Ahtaneum and Sagebrush Flats.

Active in SRM nearly 30 years, Kevin is the person who never backs off when asked, nor fails to volunteer when needed. He served as president of the Mid-Columbia Chapter and director and President of PNW Section. Kevin is Co-Leader of the 2012 International Annual Meeting of SRM in Spokane. He is what we admire in our members – a fine individual with great intellect and a wonderful work ethic.

High School Youth Forum

Blake Soreano, Chelan WA, will go to Denver. Blake participates in all aspects of FFA, from swine and vegetable production to forestry and public speaking. He plans to attend either WSU or U. of Idaho to major in natural resources or horticulture.

Read his writings!

Doug Warnock, College Place, WA, is a regular writer for the *Capital Press*, with readers throughout the PNW and beyond. Though retired from WSU Extension, Doug’s interest in range and pasture continues. In a July article titled “Carefully watch your rangeland”, Doug reminds us, “*No matter what system one employs, monitoring is a necessary part of adaptive management.*” His articles get right to the point and are always timely. Thanks, Doug!

John Tanaka goes to Wyoming!

“I am the Department Head of Renewable Resources at the University of Wyoming. Renewable Resources includes Rangeland Ecology and Watershed Management, Soil Science and Entomology in an integrated department. We have about 100 undergraduate range students and 40 graduate students spread across the 3 disciplines. I am fairly well settled in Laramie. Ann and our youngest daughter, Briana, have stayed in Cove, OR, as Briana is a senior at Union High School and the FFA district president. Ann will move to Laramie after graduation next spring. In the meantime, I get occasional trips back to Oregon, and we make great use of Skype.”

Lost Resource

Henry “Hank” Kipp, retired forester and range conservationist, died in June. He was active in SRM when his work took him to Montana, New Mexico and Washington D.C. We, in the PNW, last visited with Hank when he and Elaine travelled from their Olympia, WA home to Kamloops, BC.

At the Celebration of Life for Mr. Kipp, his family and friends joined their voices in an Apache Blessing: “*May the sun bring us new energy by day; May the moon softly restore us by night; May the rain wash away our worries; May the breeze blow new strength into our being; May we walk gently through the world and know its beauty all the days of our lives. Amen*”

Welcome New Members!

Laura Applegate, Pullman, WA; **Gary Banowetz**, and **Dana Sanchez**, Corvallis, OR; **Debbi Weber**, Prince George, B.C., **Marcus Nichols**, Ontario, OR. We look forward to getting to know you and working with you in SRM programs!

2010 Calendar

PNW SRM Summer Field Workshop in the BC Okanagan, June 16-18

Presentations and field sites will focus on the complexity of managing rangelands in an urban backdrop, with community watersheds, recreation, sensitive grasslands, timber harvest and post fire rehab. There WILL be something for everyone! **Vic Wright & Rob Dinwoodie** are coordinating the work sessions.

PNW Fall Meeting & Workshop will be a joint venture with the Cal-PAC Section at the **Lava Beds National Monument**, just across the border from Klamath Falls, OR. *Keep your calendar open!*

First Response Team

If you need ideas, counsel, or advice in technical or controversial topics, a team of PNW past-presidents and others is here for you. The immediate Past-president coordinates this team. Call or send your question to **Dana Peterson**, 509-665-2119 or dana_peterson@or.blm.gov This works. Try it – you’ll like it!

PNW Bulletin Board

A fine tri-fold felt-covered board, ideal for many uses, is available for SRM chapters to use. **Mary Beth Smith**, Condon, OR., “houses” the board. Contact Mary Beth at 541-965-0451 or 541-384-5543.

PNW Section Officers

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|--------------|
| President | Les Boothe | 541-947-6147 |
| 1st Vice Pres. | Tip Hudson | 509-962-7507 |
| 2nd Vice Pres. | Lavona Liggons | 250-554-5211 |
| Past President | Dana Peterson | 509-665-2119 |
| Secretary | Marti Butow | 530-233-4666 |
| Treasurer | Craig Obermiller | 541-923-2777 |
| Director | Mike Dedels | 250-371-6500 |
| Director | Michael Fisher | 541-383-7755 |
| Director | Craig Carr | 541-737-1608 |
| Director | Richard Fleenor | 509-323-2965 |
| Director | Dustin Johnson | 541-573-8386 |
| Director | Sarah Troutman-Zahn | 509-573-8386 |
| Membership | Tessa Teems | 541-417-1784 |
| HSYF | Pete Schreder | 541-947-6054 |
| Awards | John Buckhouse | 541-737-1629 |
| History | Joe Wagner | 541-947-6175 |
| Newsletter | Lynne Breese | 541-447-6762 |
| | jlbreese@crestviewcable.com | |
| | Teal Purrington | 541-410-7728 |
| Parent Society Director | Sandra Wyman | 541-447-0206 |

The PNW Website address has changed to:

<http://pnw.rangelands.org>

**PNW’s Strength
is in its Chapters!**
Contact yours today!

British Columbia

Wendy Gardner, Kamloops, 250-371-5570

Washington

Tip Hudson, Ellensburg, 509-962-7507

Oregon State University

Michael Borman, Corvallis, 541-737-1614

Eastern Oregon University

Mike McInnis, La Grande, 541-962-3812

Central Oregon

Robert Marheine, 541-460-2878

Southern Oregon

Les Boothe, Lakeview, 541-947-6141



Calendar of Events

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| January 13-15, 2010 | Idaho Section Meeting, Boise |
| February 2010 | 63rd Annual Meeting of the Society for Range Management, Denver, CO |
| June 16-18, 2010 | PNW Section Field Workshop, British Columbia |
| Fall 2010 | PNW Section Annual Meeting & Workshop, Oregon/California |
| February 2011 | 64th Annual Meeting of the Society for Range Management, Billings, MT |
| Summer 2011 | PNW Section Field Workshop, Washington |
| Fall 2011 | PNW Section Annual Meeting & Workshop, British Columbia |
| February 2012 | 65th Annual Meeting of the Society for Range Management, Spokane, WA |
| Summer 2012 | PNW Section Field Workshop, Oregon |
| Fall 2012 | PNW Section Annual Meeting & Workshop, Washington |

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@blm.gov