



Society for Range Management Pacific Northwest Section

Properly functioning ecosystems provide for long-term sustainability of watersheds, plants, animals and people
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President's Message Tipton Hudson, Ellensburg, WA

NEWSLETTER

The discipline of rangeland ecology and management has always excelled in integrating the basic sciences of soils, plant physiology, animal science, wildlife biology, and sociology. However, most of us prefer to leave the sociology to sociologists, who are usually viewed as sociologists, even if they work on rural/natural resource issues. With the conflicts raging around the West over the highest and best use of rangelands, I am reminded of opening comments given by the dean of the College of Forestry, Wildlife, and Range at the University of Idaho in an introductory natural resources course. He said that if we (the students, mostly freshmen) were looking for a field where we could disappear into the wilds and do field work for a career, we were in the wrong place. Unless one is content to remain at the bottom of the pay scale, a career in any natural resource field will necessarily include working with people, not just soils, plants, or animals. People are much more challenging to work with. We have different values, different worldviews, different life experiences, different knowledge bases, and we don't always apply the Golden Rule (love your neighbor as yourself).

Following a conversation with Jess Peterson, SRM's EVP, who happened to be at the Washington Cattlemen's Association meeting at the same time I was, I have given more thought than I had time for on the nature and future of the Society for Range Management. His thoughts reinforced discussion at the Board of Directors meeting at the excellent **PNW/CalPac SRM Meeting at Lava Beds National Monument**, on the necessity of bringing more people into our fold than just strict range types. Most employees of the various wildlife agencies, both federal and state, do more range work than they do wildlife work. They are often engaged in manipulating habitat more than they are studying

population dynamics, for example. And they are usually involved, at some level, in the high-profile conflicts over use of public lands. Livestock producers, fast becoming an endangered species, should be more actively engaged in the SRM than they are. Modern (and very old) sociology affirms their experiential knowledge as critical to the success of any large-scale strategy to improve or conserve rangelands. If we are not relevant to ranchers, we are failing. It is not enough to be the keeper of the science. Communication must go both ways; knowledge is useless unless rangeland users are engaged in application. Incidentally, or not, this is the theme of the **2012 SRM Annual Meeting in Spokane: Winter Dance: Lessons from the Past; Strategies for the Future**. Be there for the conversation.

Many organizations recognize that unless we maintain critical habitat for this keystone species, ranchers, the social and environmental cost will be high. **The limiting factor may well be the social component of range management.** We know enough to manage land and livestock sustainably. We know enough to do that profitably. I believe that we have also come full circle in the social response to livestock grazing, such that most people value this truly sustainable food and fiber production system. I can't resist passing along this quote from Jim Corbett of the Malpai Borderlands Group: "Ranching is now the only livelihood that is based on human adaptation to wild biotic communities . . . From an ecological perspective, range livestock production is probably the most sustainable part of our nation's beef industry, and more sustainable than most of our agriculture. When grass grows by itself, without plowing, fertilizer, pesticides, or irrigation, and livestock eat the grass and grow and reproduce, and humans harvest the livestock for food -- what could

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PNW & CalPac SRM gather at the Lava Beds National Monument

By Darryl Kroeker

As the Regional Planning & Research Biologist for Ducks Unlimited Canada in the BC Peace Region, I look after the securement and management of wetland projects, working with agricultural producers, industry and government. I do annual waterfowl surveys, help present the BC Rangeland Management School, and work with the oil and gas industry on best management practices. We live on a quarter section near Tomslake where we grow hay, feed horses, and raise chickens (and white-tailed and mule deer, moose and elk).

About 100 people showed up for the 2010 Annual Fall Workshop, jointly hosted by the PNW and CalPac Sections, at the Lava Beds National Monument in northern California. I think I can safely say that Brian Haddow and I travelled the farthest to attend the meeting, driving for two and a half days from the Peace region in northern British Columbia! Our trip was enjoyable thanks to the accommodations provided along the way by fellow SRM members **Alf Bawtree** (who joined our travelling band of rogues) at Magna Bay, BC, and **John & Lynne Breese** and **Berta Youtie** at Prineville, OR.

Most of the attendees arrived Wednesday afternoon. Camping was generously provided at the Monument for those interested. Although John Breese needed some advice from local law enforcement regarding parking his RV, most folks found their campsites without trouble! While meetings aren't necessarily about food, the excellent catering at this event kept everyone in good spirits. After a terrific supper at the Lava Beds research centre, the entire band hiked the short distance to the fire hall, conveniently evacuated of engines and stocked with chairs for the evening's presentations. **Dr. Rick Miller's keynote presentation on "The History of Fire East of the Cascades"** was a short course in fire ecology in this fire-prone rain-shadow region. Rick illustrated the relationship between historical fire intervals and local climate, how wetter years are necessary to increase the fuel load necessary for fires to occur. European settlement of the region, together with developing technologies, influenced the evolution of plant communities in several ways, including altering the fire regime. Rick's presentation set the background for many of the field discussions.

Ron Cole, USFWS Refuge Manager, presented information on the Klamath Basin complex of refuges,

including Tule Lake. Some of the refuge wildlife and agricultural objectives are achieved by the "**Walking Wetlands**" program. Sequentially flooding agricultural lands provides seasonal habitat for waterfowl and water-birds, controls certain agricultural pests, increases agricultural productivity subsequent to dewatering, and qualifies agricultural producers for organic certification. Chad Bell, USFWS Biological Technician, gave an overview of the history of local sage grouse populations and the successes of a project to trans-locate grouse in an effort to fortify threatened resident populations. Habitat characteristics and timing of trans-locations are important to the project's success. His presentation included some video on the effects of predators on nesting sage grouse!

The evening concluded with cake, celebrating the birthday milestones of **Rick Miller** and **Hugh Barrett**. Thus fortified, the attendees attempted to find their ways back to the research centre. Judging by the paucity of flashlights, I wasn't the only one who didn't realize how dark it was going to get. Our group found a house as we wandered in the darkness and asked directions. **Don Blumenauer** tried to smooth the trail for his group by valiantly crushing boulders using only his body. Don's bruised ribs are a testament that it requires glaciers or volcanoes to move these rocks! Eventually, everyone found their way back, anticipating an early Thursday start.

The new day began bright and early with an excellent breakfast! Two school busses ferried our group into the field, where at Merrill Cave and Valentine Cave we could see firsthand, the influence of different fire intervals on vegetation communities. Longer fire intervals favoured juniper-dominated communities while shorter intervals favoured grasses. The tour was temporarily delayed while a small group of our more ardent spelunkers had to be retrieved from Valentine Cave!

While enjoying "meals on wheels" (lunch on the bus), we travelled to the Clear Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Several folks shared their experiences and challenges with range management, juniper control, archaeological considerations, and grazing. Mike Burns, a local grazing permittee, shared his observations on the influence of fire suppression on juniper encroachment and subsequent reductions in sage grouse populations. During the

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A Student's View of SRM and the Lava Beds Workshop

By Stacy Shutts

In 2007, I moved from Cincinnati, Ohio, to discover the values and biodiversity of the west. Next June, I will graduate with a degree in Environmental Management and Protection from California Polytechnic State University. I enjoy observing contrasts between environments and values, from place to place and people to people.

In October of 2010, I had the opportunity to attend a Society for Range Management meeting held at Lava Beds National Monument. The 10-hour drive north turned out to be one highlight of the trip; I got to speak one-on-one with someone experienced in natural resources management -- my rangeland professor, **Dr. Marc Horney**. From our discussions, I learned about how natural resource management scenarios play out in the "real world". Many scenarios arise from an opposition between politics and science, such as oak losses and regeneration or water contention issues.

Once at the SRM meeting, it did not take long to realize that the local sage grouse population is a source of contention in the Modoc Plateau region. Scientific statements about low local sage grouse populations have become a set of value questions: What is valuable to the local people? How do we pick which values to manage

for? Should management be based on values in the first place, or on the long-term survival of a specific ecosystem? I realized where there are local species of interest or concern, there are often local people who become involved in order to protect their own interests and needs. Managing for fire and protecting archaeological relics are two other interests that have come into play in the case of the sage grouse. To me, this highlights the difficulty in managing natural resources. It also points out the importance of seeing one's specialized knowledge or personal interest as part of the greater picture - part of a whole - rather than the whole picture.

The lessons I learned at the conference have guided me to understand that managing natural resources is not about solutions, but about balance. In the same way, it is not about finding answers, as much as it is about adjusting to value changes and changes in the environment. The "**Walking Wetlands**" program was a great example of how to creatively combine farmers' needs with the needs for bird habitat. **Thank you to everyone who shared their expertise.** I will refer to the experience for inspiration in my professional career.



Spelunkers emerge from Valentine Cave at the Lava Beds National Monument. Photo by Brian Haddow

PNW SRM has a Mascot!

A 4-legged bundle of enthusiasm accompanied Humboldt State student Ross Olson to the Lava Beds. The last of Ross' five puppies, this 3+ month old German shorthair/blue heeler puppy, named Captain Jack by the Humboldt students, came to SRM looking for a home. Though we were all new faces, Captain Jack eagerly greeted each of while searching for his new master, **Richard Fleenor**! From the pup's new home in Medical Lake, WA, Richard writes: "Captain Jack (we call him CJ) is doing great. He tears around the yard at full speed, fetches a stick, brings it back and places it in my hand. He listens to both of us, but when Sue speaks, he really listens!"



Photo by Brian Haddow

... PNW & CalPac gather, continued from page 4

presentations, the group stood surrounded by a healthy stand of medusahead, an invasive plant that local managers have to contend with!

On to Hospital Rock, where Dave Larsen talked about fire management and how they use old photos to provide plant community objectives for the fire program. Brigitte Nielsen gave additional information on the management of the Tule Lake and Southern Klamath refuges and the importance of these refuges to waterfowl as they provide migration habitat for 2/3 of the Pacific Flyway population.

Our final stop was at Captain Jack's Stronghold where Devri Saluskin told the story of the Modocs' life around Tule Lake, going back as far as 11,000 years. The story climaxed with the confrontation between the Modocs and the army at this site, where 60 Modocs held off an army 20 times their size for nearly five months before being captured. Devri's Modoc heritage added to the power of the story of his ancestors.

Thursday's banquet was another feast fit for hungry SRM folks, featuring prime rib and chicken. I don't know how the caterers managed to provide us with so much excellent food in the middle of a wildlife refuge! Several **awards** and a **silent auction**, which added \$460 to the Student Scholarship Fund, rounded out the evening's events. Friday morning, another fabulous breakfast, some final meeting, and folks headed their separate ways. It was a great opportunity to be educated about range issues, and to reconnect with other SRM folks. It sounds like many plan to be at the Annual International Meeting in Billings in February. See you there!



At Captain Jack's Stronghold, Devri Saluskin tells SRMers about his Modoc ancestors and the U.S. Cavalry. Tule Lake is in the background. Photo by Darryl Kroeker

High Desert Youth Range

By Brenda Smith, Outreach and Education Coordinator, EBIPM, USDA-ARS, Burns, OR

An enthusiastic eleven-person team will present the High Desert Youth Range Camp at the Northern Great Basin Experimental Range, near Burns, OR, June 19-23, 2011. The team includes range scientists and educators from USDA-ARS, OSU Extension, The Nature Conservancy, Treasure Valley Community College (Ontario), and Harney County High School.

The goals:

1. Provide to PNW youth an opportunity to become aware of current issues and rangeland management practices;
2. Develop leadership and basic range skills;
3. Earn college credit; and
4. Discover educational and career options in rangeland management.

The planning team would welcome your

involvement: a) financial assistance for scholarships, meals, equipment and transportation; and b) volunteers for camp counselors, leading/teaching activities, camp cook, . . .

Details: 1. youth must be in grades 9-12 at time of application; 2. fee of \$175 includes all meals; 3. applications available January 15, 2011 will be due April 30, 2011; 4. enrollment is limited to 30 students; 5. students completing camp may earn college credit at Treasure Valley Community College, at no cost to the student.

For more information (applications, volunteer, questions), contact Brenda Smith, 541-573-4084.

High School Youth Forum

Mackenze Braun, Odessa, WA and **Tyrel Warnock**, Imnaha, OR, both active in 4-H and FFA, will represent the PNW at the HSYF in Billings. Tyrel is most interested in the weed management aspect of range management on the family ranch, and plans to remain in ranching. Learning "the ins-and-outs of life in a small agriculture-based town", Mackenze hopes to study some aspect of agriculture at the University of Montana-Western.

PNW Member Update

"Changing of the Guard"

Our outgoing officers led us well, and fine-tuned many of our activities, including HSYF, membership, and Jim Brunner's Wildland Workers' Handbook. As they don different "hats", they will continue to be strong members of the PNW team. Thank you President **Les Boothe**, Lakeview, OR; Past-president **Dana Peterson**, Wenatchee, WA; and Directors **Mike Dedels**, Kamloops, BC and **Michael Fisher**, Redmond, OR.

Welcome, congratulations and best wishes to our new officers: 2nd vice-president **Bob Gillaspay**, Vancouver-Portland; and Directors **Rob Dinwoodie**, Vernon, BC and **Courtney Smith**, Clarkston, WA. **Les Boothe** continues on the Board as Past-president. There are more opportunities for action, and you can do it!



After receiving the president's gavel from **Les Boothe**, in-coming PNW SRM president **Tipton Hudson** presents the past-president plaque to Les. *Photo by Brian Haddow*

Welcome New Members!

Kelsey Hayes, 100 Mile House, BC; **Shawna LaRade**, Cranbrook, BC; **Khadka Mahesh**, Kamloops, BC; **Bromwyn Maier**, Provo, UT. Welcome to the SRM Team -- we look forward to knowing and working with you.

Awards

By John Buckhouse, Awards Committee

PNW 2010 Exemplary Service Award to -- **Michael Borman**

Bright-eyed, ramrod straight, clear thinking, and straight shooting former Marine, Michael Borman, is OSU's Rangeland Ecology & Management Department Head. Dr. Borman is serving during very trying times. In spite of dwindling resources in terms of personnel and financial flexibility, Michael strives to find workable solutions to extremely difficult challenges. Though the Department, at the Corvallis campus, has lost students, faculty, staff and budget, it has not lost a champion in Dr. Borman. We can be extremely proud of the steadfast way with which Mike has dealt with these difficulties.

Michael has never lost faith in the profession of range management or the people who are tied to this land. Just knowing that he represents range management not only at OSU, but across the PNW region and the nation is a great comfort. Michael, we are proud to recognize you as a stalwart and dedicated professional.

PNW 2010 Trail Boss Award to -- **Joe Wagner**

Joe Wagner is a tireless worker for natural resources in general, and rangeland ecology in particular. His dedication to the land resources extends beyond this region, to the nation, and indeed to the world as he travels the globe on rangeland education safaris. He brings rangeland experts to his local area for the continuing education of co-workers and clientele. Within SRM, Joe has assisted three international SRM annual meetings (Hawaii, Vancouver & Spokane), served as PNW President and chair of various committees. He has a near perfect attendance record at SRM parent society and section activities.

Humble and personable, Joe is a friend to all. One exception to his modest demeanor is the broad smile he flashes when asked about the lovely young Chinese women who asked to pose with him on the Great Wall of China. In characteristic modesty, he will say, "they saw my mustache and thought I was a cowboy". Joe, you are an excellent range person, a dedicated professional, and a good friend. We are proud to honor you.

PNW Fall Meeting & Workshop, Cranbrook British Columbia, September 21-23, 2011

By Rae Haddow, PAG; Range Agrologist, BC Ministry of Natural Resource Operations

The "centre of operations" will be at Fort Steele Heritage Town, approximately 10 km east of Cranbrook. Perched on the western slopes of the Rockies since the beginning of its gold rush in 1864, it has gone from boomtown, to regional centre, to ghost town, and is now an important heritage attraction. We will see fantastic rangeland partnerships and indulge in the deep history of the area. Accommodations are available at the Fort Steele Resort and RV Park (<http://www.fortsteele.com/>). We look forward to welcoming everyone to the East Kootenay and are thrilled to be hosting the 2011 PNW Fall Tour!

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be more sustainable than that? Any agriculture that does not require fossil fuel inputs is, today, remarkably sustainable."

And along the same lines, from Nathan Sayre: "Ranching has been around longer than most of the livelihoods and land uses that we presently have in the West, such as suburban development and tourism. It has outlasted beaver trapping and bison hunting. Beaver and bison look like cases where an activity was ecologically unsustainable. But in truth, it wasn't the activities, per se, that were unsustainable, but the way they were practiced in the 19th century, which can be traced to economic forces and property relations, rather than ecology. They might have been sustainable, had they been done differently. Instead, they exceeded thresholds of resilience in the ecological systems which they exploited, and beyond those thresholds there was no way they could persist. As practiced in the late 19th century, ranching also was unsustainable, again for reasons that were as much economic as ecological. But the excesses of the cattle boom did not permanently render ranching impossible. The ecological conditions for it were altered and weakened, but not destroyed. The way it is practiced today is radically different from the way it was practiced then, even if we call it by the same name."

I'm sure I will be castigated for advocating sustainable ranching. I am not saying that rangelands are not valuable when they are not grazed. Personally, I believe sustainable ranching is necessary because agriculture is a prerequisite for civilization (**Sherm Swanson's byline**), and, to the extent that we can produce food and fiber without destroying native plant communities (tillage) we should explore that and do it well. Professionally, I believe ranching remains important for conserving open space, that grazing serves a valuable role in enhancing ecosystem function when executed correctly, and that rehabilitating areas damaged by livestock grazing can most effectively be accomplished by the creative application of the same forces which caused the problem in the first place (an idea that Aldo Leopold set out decades ago).

If these things are true, range professionals should be continually reevaluating: Who are we? What are we about? Where are we going? At the Lava Beds workshop, no one left unaffected by the novelty and success of USFWS' "**Walking Wetlands**" program. Major conflicts, nearly all of which are social, are also significant opportunities to do something new. If we look at all the high-profile conflicts in the West, the social component is the dominant and driving feature. I would challenge you to consider in what ways SRM can be relevant to these social issues. To be relevant, we must not only continue to provide knowledge, but we must help people succeed. We may have to get dirty under the fingernails, and wade into deeper water, bridging some of these science/policy gaps. **Perhaps we can begin that conversation when Washington State welcomes you to one of the driest part of the PNW for the PNW SRM Summer Workshop in June of 2011.**

Tip

Society Update — Words from Sandy

Howdy PNW Section Members! Can you believe it is December? The SRM Annual Meeting is just around the corner. We will be looking to many of you to help with the 2012 Spokane Meeting, so this will be a good time to "job shadow" the Billings folks.

Remember that you can register online. You received an email (or hard copy) with a new membership identification number and directions for logging on to the SRM website. Type in your 4-number identification number; your last name is your password. If you have any problems, or cannot find your number, contact the SRM Allen Press folks listed on the rangelands.org website.

I recently attended the Ecological Site Description (ESD) Workshop in New Mexico. It was a policy overview and review of ESD's and how they will be developed. A Memorandum of Agreement has been signed by BLM, NRCS, and USFS regarding the development on all lands in a consistent format. The ESD Handbook will soon be out for review. Look for details early next year regarding three workshops that SRM is organizing.

I was sorry to miss the PNW Section fall meeting, but I heard rave reviews from folks who did attend, including Will Keller and his

Mom, Joanne. What great fun to meet Joanne -- we hope she joins us again.

Have a wonderful Christmas Holiday and Happy New Year! As always, please don't hesitate to call (541-447-0206) or email me (Sandra_Wyman@blm.gov)

with any suggestions, comments or concerns that may help SRM or rangelands.

PNW Section Officers Making your Section grow!

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

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Southern Oregon Les Boothe, Lakeview, 541-947-6141

2011 CALENDAR

PNW SRM

Summer Field Workshop

Central Washington

June 15-17 or 20-22

Mark your calendars!

Calendar of Events

February 5-11, 2011	64th Annual Meeting of the Society for Range Management, Billings, MT
June 15-17 or 20-22, 2011	PNW Section Field Workshop, central Washington
June 19-23	High Desert Youth Range Camp, Burns, OR
September 21-23, 2011	PNW Section Annual Meeting & Workshop, Cranbrook, 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

PNW Website address: <http://pnw.rangelands.org>

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

Want to alert members to an upcoming event? Comment on an article? Give us your new address? Brag about another member's contribution to range management? Tell us a story? Contact the Newsletter Editors!

jlbreese@crestviewcable.com or Teal_Purrington@blm.gov