



Society for Range Management *Pacific Northwest Section*

Properly functioning ecosystems provide for long-term sustainability of watersheds, plants, animals and people
Volume 62, Number 3 *November 2011*

President's Message

Lavona Liggins, Kamloops, B.C.

NEWSLETTER

It has been a busy year for our Section. I will highlight some of our latest news and business. Thank you to our outgoing officers, President **Tip Hudson**, and Director **Craig Carr**. Welcome to **Richard Fleenor**, who moves from director to 2nd Vice-president and Directors **Maura Laverty** and **Julie Conley**. Thanks also to **Tessa Teems** for her hard work as Section Membership Chair, and **Marti Butow** for her efforts as Secretary; they are moving in new directions and can no longer continue in these roles.

The transition of officers was only one aspect of the Section's Annual Fall Meeting and Tour in beautiful Cranbrook, BC. From the Section, a big "Thank You" to the team that made this event such a success: **Gail Berg, Gordon Burns, Mike Doggart, Rae Haddow, Shawna Larade, Rieva McCuaig, Sharon Mielnichuk, Mike Malmberg, Jody Murdoch, Tim Ross, Gary Tipper**, and the **Kootenay Livestock Association**. See **Gene Fults'** tour review on page 3. One outcome that many of our US members would not be aware of, is that two articles regarding the tour appeared in "The Western Producer", one of Canada's largest agricultural newspapers. One article featured winter grazing corn; the other discussed the multiple use and encroachment challenges on Skookumchuck Prairie. It is great to see information shared in this way.

At the meeting, we recognized excellence within our ranks, and once again the Awards Committee found members who exemplified the spirit of the awards: **Greg Tegart**, the Trail Boss Award; **Craig Obermiller**, the Exemplary Service Award; and **John and Lynne Breese**, the new Jim Brunner "In for the Long Haul" Award. Congratulations to them all. The Bill Anderson Award made its first contribution to the silent auction. When bidding ended, the auction yielded over \$1000 to support young professionals and students.

During recent PNW SRM Advisory Council and Board of Directors meetings, several issues have been discussed, including the following: **1) Membership** — A number of membership renewal issues have been experienced lately. The Parent Society is addressing those issues, but if you have specific concerns or examples of an issue,

please contact one of the Board members, and we will carry this information forward. **2) Spokane 2012** — The Three Amigos and the organising team are doing an excellent job to move "Winter Dance" forward. Three focus areas include the Rancher's Forum, Native American Rangeland Workshop, and Ecological Site Description Workshop. Do you know someone who would be interested in and/or benefit from these sessions? Please let them know what is available. Details are in the Pre-convention Trail Boss and the registration information which is now on-line. Please book your stay in Spokane at the official meeting hotels; filling the room blocks has a great effect on meeting costs. **3) Bylaws** — According to Article V, Section 1 of the PNW bylaws, the Annual Meeting is to be in October. Recent meetings have been held throughout the fall season. To address this, a suggestion was made to amend the bylaw in question. Under Article X, a bylaw can be amended if the proposed change is submitted to the Board with at least 25 signatures, and then voted on by the membership. A proposal to change the Annual Meeting date from October, to "between September 1 and November 30" has been received by the Board, accompanied by 25 signatures. The next step will be for you, the membership, to vote on it. Stay tuned.

While preparing this message, I received the very sad news that **Dana Peterson** passed away unexpectedly. Dana was passionate about rangelands and a strong supporter of both the Society and the Section. I was often struck by Dana's approachability and willingness to share his knowledge as well as his endless good humour. I benefited from all three every time we met. **Rich Hubbard** has captured some great memories of Dana on page 4. On behalf of the Section, and myself, I extend our condolences to Dana's family, friends and colleagues; he will be sorely missed. Rich said it well in a recent email, "Remember how much richer we are for having had him in our lives".

Take care,

SRM's Annual "Round-up" in Cranbrook, BC

In near-perfect weather (we wore jackets only couple of hours), PNW SRM members gathered for their Annual Meeting under fall skies. Thanks to the great crew who put this together.

PNW 2011 Awards to . . .

John Buckhouse, Awards chairman, Corvallis, OR

Trail Boss Award to Greg Tegart! Rangelands of British Columbia are better understood and managed as a direct result of Greg's technical skill, resource understanding, and ability to direct people toward reasonable, rational and sustainable decisions. He has organized many tours and technical sessions at the local and regional level. His ability to "paint a word picture" is strong - and he uses that strength to help lay persons understand the value of a sustainable, working environment.



Greg Tegart receives Trail Boss Award from Tip Hudson. *Photo: Vic Wright.*

In addition to being a steward of rangelands, Greg has been a responsible member of SRM, leading the PNW Section in many roles, and ultimately serving on the Board

of our international, parent society. The mark of a well-designed program/tour/brochure/presidency/or career is that the bumps in the road have been smoothed to the point that most people don't even recognize that there has been a talented effort - tirelessly at work - to insure that the right things happen at the right times!

We are proud to recognize our Trail Boss, Greg Tegart.

Exemplary Service Award to Craig Obermiller! The PNW has many individuals whose main interest is in doing the right thing. They are people who see a job that needs to be done, and they do it! Craig is such a person. He took over the financial ledgers of the Section years ago, and quietly and in a workmanlike way, has maintained them accurately, efficiently, and cheerfully ever since. Thus, without concern for how our money is collected, deposited, safeguarded, and dis-

persed, our membership can concentrate on establishing scholarships, endowments and the dispersal of funds for everything from annual meeting costs to encouraging promising students. Because Craig is patiently minding the accounts, the membership is able to generate programs which benefit everyone -- including ourselves! For taking on and sticking with this vital task, **we thank and recognize Craig Obermiller.**

Established in 2011, the **James Brunner "In for the Long Haul" Award** honors and remembers SRM charter member Jim Brunner, who lived to age 92. Following his service in World War II, which included the liberation of Paris, he led a distinguished career in the BLM. After retirement, Jim left the southwest and settled in Oregon where, well into his 80s, he was a strong SRM member and was beloved within the PNW. **John & Lynne Breese** are of the same bolt of cloth; they are in for the long haul. Recognizing that day-to-day effort will slowly build a strong foundation, John and Lynne demonstrate that belief and philosophy with the work on their ranch, with their educational efforts, and with the SRM. The Breeses are involved with several natural resource organizations, but none as passionately as they work with SRM.

We are proud to present the 1st Brunner Award to John and Lynne.



Tim Ross discussing the East Kootenay range. *Photo: John Breese.*

More from Cranbrook Round-up

Rangeland Partnerships — The Rancher's Perspective

Gene Fults, Portland, OR *Gene is a Rangeland Management Specialist for the USDA-NRCS at the West National Technology Support Center in Portland. His area of responsibility is the 13 western states. He relaxes at home with wife Sondra and dog Caycee.*

Our Trail Boss(es) practiced a gentle form of herd management so that the bus was fully loaded and moving just as the sun rose over the Summit Peaks which dominate the glacial till valleys and foothills surrounding Cranbrook, BC. We crossed the St. Marys, the Wild Horse, the Kootenay, and the Columbia Rivers, and passed a diverse array of woody-herbacious mixtures on the way to the 3 ranches scheduled for the tour.

The first stop was on the **Barry Minor family** operation where the tree-grass conundrum is an ongoing concern. The rancher demonstrated his humor with the "box of sunshine doughnuts" and stories of the controlled discipline needed to deal with motorized recreational idiots stressing a week's worth of growth off of his momma cows.

The stop is also the site of the **Skookumchuck Historical Exclosure**. Established in 1951, the exclosure is providing a valuable record of the resilience and changing nature of grass filled valleys. **Tim Ross** described much of the technical detail of evaluating East Kootenay range.

On the road again, with fresh cinnamon buns in hand, we listened as retired agrologists, **Alf Bawtree** and **Mike Malmberg** gave first-hand accounts of what the range looked like back in 1955.

The second stop was **McKersie's Thunder Hill Ranch** on the banks of Columbia Lake. The family described management style changes and multiple streams of income. The discussion was in the hayfield where several forage species are grown and harvested without having to plow. No-till drills and sub-soiler equipment were on display. Of special interest was the wildlife fence surrounding the hayfield. Wildlife-vehicle incidence on the highway has all but disappeared since construction. Studies documented over 50% loss to hay production by predatory elk and deer when wildlife fences are not used.

Lunch on the shore of Columbia Lake was fantastic. **Brian's** parents and a friend (**Betty, Walter** and **Joyce**) entertained some of us with stories of local bear activities.

We crossed Canal Flats to get to the last stop, **JP Ranch**, owned and managed by **Harlan Bradford**. The family intensively utilizes irrigated pasture for their cow-calf herd. The discussion was on

See RANGELAND PARTNERSHIPS, page 5.



Mike Malmberg, Barry Minor & Tim Ross.
Photo: Mike Borman.

Cranbrook Cards

Some PNW members faced extra challenges this fall. We sent them greetings from Cranbrook, and they thank you . . .

Becky Guinn, Ephrata, WA: "To the PNW - SRM, Your thoughtfulness has really astounded and amazed me! All of your prayers and wishes for my recovery really touched my heart. Thank you so much."

Elayne Hovde, Davenport, WA: "I want to thank all who signed my 'get well' card. . . Life is good, I am feeling really good. . . and my life is starting to get back in order, which is a great thing."

Tom Bedell, Philomath, OR: "Thank you so much for all the nice remembrances. I am sure you had a great annual meeting. I would have loved to be with you all."

Julie Conley, Yakima, WA: "Thank you for the lovely card. Knowing that others thought of me gave me a boost. My daughter is fully recovering. Looking forward to Spokane, including all the work and fun."

Don Blumenauer's surgery went well and he is recovering at home in Kamloops, BC. He is very appreciative of all the support he has received from the SRM crew.

Bye Bye, Big Guy

Rich Hubbard, Veradale, WA, is a long-time friend and colleague to SRM and to Dana.

Sometime during the evening of October 20, we lost one of our most beloved and respected members: Dana Peterson. As the depth of our loss is immeasurable, we have wept for Dana and his wonderful family. Dana, however, was about smiles, laughter, and happiness. Dana was who we all strive to be. Anyone who ever met Dana had her or his life touched in a positive way. Some of the words or phrases used to describe Dana include: Impeccable. Gentle. Positive. Ultimate professional. Perfect father. Loving husband. My close friend. No ego. Knowledgeable. Leader. Dignity. Respect.

Dana had his priorities right. He loved and doted upon his wife Peggy, children Chris and Margaret, and grandson Odin. His friends (everyone who knew him) were as devoted to him as he was to them. Dana's love of our rangelands is unquestioned, and his professional legacy is written on the landscapes throughout eastern Washington.

I have nothing but the fondest memories of Dana as together we "invented" BLM's range program in Washington State. We laughed, joked, cussed, discussed, and debated as we spent seemingly endless, fantastic days in the field trying to apply good science while also trying to bring common sense to the latest edict from above. Those were some of the best days of my life. Humor was rampant. I'll never forget the look on his face as he got stuck with a hide-a-bed that was about 2 feet too short; as he lay on his



2010 PNW Annual Meeting at Tule Lake. Dana Peterson led a spelunking expedition. Photo: Brian Haddow.

back, his legs hung over the end and his heels hit the ground. I chortled as Dana recalled the reactions he got when he visited some downtown Prineville cowboy bars with a coworker who was about 4'10" tall, with red hair and a red beard and who looked for all the world like a leprechaun. For you who did not know him, Dana was about 6'5" tall.

Why is Dana so beloved by each of us? He always went out of his way to treat everyone he encountered, from the meekest and weakest to the most powerful, with dignity and respect. It is a strong and simple lesson for us all. Let's resolve to let go of our egos and appreciate whom we have. Dana would want us to celebrate at

the SRM Annual Meeting in Spokane. Members will be able to share their special memories of a special person.

Dana wrote, in his first 2009 President's Message for the PNW SRM Newsletter: "For me, the New Year is like when you have hiked to a ridge top. You pause, look back to see you have made it, and look forward to see what terrain lies ahead . . . From the ridge top, the trail ahead looks pretty good. Remember, we are gaining two to three minutes of daylight every day, and that's almost as good as hiking down hill!" Dana, you have led us to the ridge top. We will honor you

with dignity and respect as we enjoy the hike down.

Cards and memories may be sent to Peggy, Chris, and Margaret Peterson at 2400 no. 1 Canyon Rd, Wenatchee, WA 98801.

Winter Dance

Lessons from the Past — Strategies for the Future

The 65th Annual Meeting of the Society for Range Management, organized and hosted by your own PNW and Idaho Sections, has been planned just for you. See you in Spokane, January 29-February 3, 2012! If you can't make it for the full time, be there for part time. See your *Pre-Convention Trail Boss* or go to the website: <http://rangelands.org/spokane2012/registration.shtml>

Mark Your PNW Calendar!!

2012 Wants YOU!!

Juley Hankins Smith, Idaho Falls, ID

If you will be attending the Spokane 2012 meeting, WE NEED YOUR HELP! Have you ever been in a technical session or symposium and been unhappy about the slamming door, light levels, or some other logistical inconvenience during the talk? We are looking for YOU! We are looking for people willing to work with session moderators to take care of the doors, lights, and other details for the good of the session. YOU could be the hero of a session that you already plan to attend! There are many other fun assignments, too: taking pictures for the Daily Trail Boss, helping set up and tear down poster sessions, helping with the registration desk, Plenary Session, awards ceremony, student sessions

— so many small jobs that will make Spokane 2012 a great meeting for all!

Please drop a note with **your name, email and cell phone number**, to one of these volunteer coordinators, and please do it today! As the event gets closer, you will have the option to choose an assignment. For now, we need to know who is willing to help us. If you don't call us, we will call you! **Juley Hankins Smith:** jhsmith@blm.gov; **Aubrey Woodcock:** Aubrey.Woodcock@id.usda.gov; **Anne Skinner:** Anne.Skinner@gov.bc.ca; **Rae Haddow:** rae.haddow@gov.bc.ca; **Jamie McCormack:** jamiesmccormack@gmail.com

PNW Summer Workshop June 21-23, 2012, Baker City, OR

Mitch Thomas and **Cory Parsons** are leading a team which is planning your summer workshop. In the field you will explore an off-stream water project, see rehab projects on dredge tailings, discuss ongoing and future restoration programs focusing on sage grouse, medusahead and possibly wolves. You will ride the Sumpter Valley Railway train, take a grand tour of Sumpter Valley, see the actual Dredge, enjoy a BBQ at the fairgrounds, visit the Keating Valley, and see the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center. This workshop will have something for the whole family. Bring yours! Details will be out this spring.

RANGELAND PARTNERSHIPS, continued from page 3

grazing corn and economic analysis of small ranch operations. The standing corn is grazed using electrified fence to control distribution. This provides 2-3 months of fall and winter grazing, which saves on hay costs. Cattle, upon first entry, reportedly roll the corn cob in their mouth to dislodge the kernels, then reject the cob to be consumed later. There is a 1:1 weight ratio of corn cob to plant which is important for starch-sugar dietary energy calculations, something we all thought about while enjoying some of British Columbia's finest Kokanee!

After dinner, we had a preview of the **Spokane 2012 Trade Show Mixer**, when **Tim Ross, Rob Dinwoodie** and Tim's band the "**Long Shadows**" had us tapping our toes and singing along. Local cowboy poets Brian Ironmonger and Dennis Dilts introduced us to more local range lore.

The **BC Rangeland Management Award** was jointly presented to our tour hosts, Barry Minor, Brian McKersie, Harlan Bradford and Hugh McLuckie. Thanks again, to them and to the planning team, for an outstanding event.



J.D. Wulforth & Rae Haddow taste corn stalks. Not bad! Photo: Maura Laverty.

Rolling on the Edge: A "Safety Moment"

Carrie Gordon, Prineville, OR

Having grown up in Ellensburg, WA, when I eventually moved to Prineville as a geologist with the Forest Service, it was like coming home. In addition to hiking the hills, dyeing and spinning fiber (all sorts) keeps me grounded.

We often don't realize how quickly life can change. It can happen in the blink of an eye or the twist of a wrist. In late July, I was cruising around a corner in a remote part of central Oregon. Normally, cell phone coverage is limited, deputy sheriffs are rare, and roads are narrow. My Toyota Rav 4 and I drifted off the road. Catching the front tire on the edge of the asphalt, I over-corrected and my rolling adventure began.

When the world stopped turning, the car and I were lying on the driver's side -- definitely not the normal use for that side of the vehicle. After turning off the motor and unclipping my seat belt, I stood up to gaze out the passenger window, looking across the pasture and highway. The passenger window was at shoulder level. My first thought was to toss my purse out ahead of me. Instead, I bundled it in my fist and used the seat as a step-ladder to jump out of the car. My years of search and rescue/basic survival skills kicked in, as I located first my frozen water bottles scattered in the grass, and then the shade trees across the highway.

As luck would have it, my cell phone connected with the 911 operator, the lone deputy sheriff was 20 minutes away, and a kind couple stopped to help me collect the odd items strewn across the ground. With a rattled head, minor bruises and no cuts, I walked away from the accident.

Several key components came together that Friday noon. My guardian angel was with me. Although my momentary inattention brought about the drift, speed wasn't in excess, the Rav tumbled across the fence into the field and the cell phone worked. I had also seat-belted my ice chest into the back passenger seat, where it stayed. The contents did stray somewhat, but they did not fly. The deputy sheriff arrived shortly after the call.

The "safety moment" is to be well rested, be aware of your surroundings, tie down or confine loose items, and don't be in a hurry.

Oregon Association of Conservation Districts presents award to Tom Bedell

Thanks to **Andrea Mann** for the alert that **Tom Bedell** has just received the "Distinguished Service Award" from the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts. This recognizes Tom's 17 years of leadership to SWCDs. After listing seven of the natural resource groups with which Tom has worked, **Jim Clawson** wrote, "Tom is effective in working with groups to get things done." **Stacie Davies** adds, "Rangeland health in Oregon has benefited from the many years of work of Tom Bedell". Tom joined SRM in 1955 and served as the 42nd President of SRM in 1989.

Congratulations Tom, from all of us.

PNW Section Officers Making your Section grow!

President	Lavona Liggons	250-554-5211
1st Vice Pres.	Bob Gillaspay	503-414-3233
2nd Vice Pres.	Richard Fleenor	509-323-2965
Past President	Tip Hudson	509-962-7507
Treasurer	Craig Obermiller	541-923-2777(h)
Director	Dustin Johnson	541-573-8386
Director	Sarah Troutman-Zahn	509-925-8585
Director	Rob Dinwoodie	250-558-1768(h)
Director	Courtney Smith	509-758-8012
Director	Maura Laverty	509-664-9384
Director	Julie Conley	509-654-0297
HSYF	Pete Schreder	541-947-6054

SRM's Parent Society -- Progress & Opportunities

Sandy Wyman, National Riparian Team, Prineville, OR

The three years since I joined the Board of Directors have flown by with a flurry of society business details, along with keeping our membership apprised of our status. That is progress and a huge learning experience. And along the way, I got two new knees -- progress for me!

When asked to run for the BOD, I was unsure I wanted to go through the effort of representing the Society. But, if I was going to ask questions about SRM and how it operates, I should be willing to help out. What a great experience. I had the opportunity to meet and hear from many members and to represent SRM in Washington D.C. to further our partnerships with agencies and groups that have missions similar to ours. We have made progress in building partnerships to promote sustainable natural resource management.

We have been a "society of change". We've made progress to increase management efficiencies by hiring contractors to conduct the "business of SRM". Amidst comments that "we just need another Pete Jackson", there aren't many folks who are willing to work full-time for part-time pay.

With the help of EVPs Tim Cansler and Jess Peterson, our business operations were reviewed and we have progressed from working off the Endowment Fund interest to working in the black. There will be more adjustments, but I trust our staff and BOD to continue increasing efficiencies: make website more user friendly, upgrade database to accommodate members' needs, organize finances to ensure sound business decisions, and work with partners on education opportunities. Our business contractors will handle renewal questions, contributions and the purchase of items wanted, rather than paying for products not used. This has not been easy, and we are still progressing on improving efficiency.

We push membership renewals and work to increase new members. We lose some members because they cannot afford membership dues. The PNW Section has a "new member incentive program", and we need to advertise the opportunity to University Students -- not just those graduating, but all of our rangeland management related students. I became a member, as a student, in 1984.

During this year, we have had losses. PNW Section lost charter members Bill Anderson, Jim Brunner, and Harold Heady; most recently, the loss of our friend, and '09 president Dana Peterson hit us hard. But one thing they would all want us to do is continue on, bring in the young folks, and be proud of all this Section accomplishes. Having been on the '06 Vancouver Annual Meeting committee, I was shocked to learn that the PNW and Idaho Sections were going to do another Annual Meeting already! Kudos to the great work of the Spokane Planning Committee led by the Three Amigos! We look forward to another great Annual Meeting! Encourage folks to attend -- we have two producer related forums -- let's get the ranchers to the meeting. We hear rumbles from Washington D.C. that agencies will not be sending as many employees this year due to strict travel budgets. We MUST encourage field offices to send their folks to Spokane -- especially those in the PNW region. We can't get better training opportunities for less cost than this!

I'll treasure my time on the parent society BOD; I made personal progress to understand the operations of SRM. I am proud to be a PNW Section member, and look forward to all the opportunities ahead with SRM!

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

British Columbia Darryl Kroeker, Tomslake, 250-786-0220
Washington Celeste Avila, 509-422-2750 x109
Oregon State University Michael Borman, Corvallis, 541-737-1614
Eastern Oregon University Larry Larson, La Grande, 541-963-7338
Central Oregon Tory Kurtz, Prineville, 541-419-5479
Southern Oregon Les Boothe, Lakeview, 541-947-6141

Calendar of Events

January 29-Feb. 3, 2012	65th Annual Meeting of the Society for Range Management, Spokane, WA
June 21-23, 2012	PNW Section Field Workshop, Baker City, Oregon
Fall 2012	PNW Section Annual Meeting & Workshop, Washington
February 4-7, 2013	66th Annual Meeting of the Society for Range Management, Oklahoma City
Summer 2013	PNW Section Field Workshop, British Columbia
Fall 2013	PNW Section Annual Meeting & Workshop, Oregon

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 Editor! jlbreese@crestviewcable.com**