



# 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

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Hello Everyone! I hope you are enjoying a healthy and happy summer. I can't believe August is just around the corner.

On behalf of the PNW Board of Directors, I extend a big "Hats Off!" and "Thank You!" to all those involved in putting on such a great event in Baker City, Oregon this June -- especially **Mitch Thomas** and **Cory Parsons**. The SRM summer meeting and tour was a big success. I was amazed to see such a diversity of issues during our field tour. If you have not seen "The Dredge" in Baker County, I encourage you to stop on your next trip -- it is really something to see and to understand in the context of how resource management has developed. Maybe, if you are lucky, you can find a gold nugget or see the resident muskrat!

This is a busy year for the PNW Section. I want to update you, and extend my thanks to all who are working hard on these tasks.

- The Section **provided financial support** to the High School Youth and the Riparian Forums held during "Spokane 2012", to the Spokane Organisers, and to the High Desert Youth Range Camp. These good programs have helped increase the profile of sustainable rangeland management while helping us manage our funds in accordance with our tax status.
- The Board is looking for ways to **improve our web presence, event registration, and to make the best use of social media**. **Bob Gillaspay** will develop our Outreach & Communication sub-committee to help in these and related matters.
- We continue to look for ways to involve students at the High School and University levels. A new sub-committee is **investigating how the Section can best continue its scholarship support** and increase awareness of scholarship opportunities.
- The **History Committee** is updating our archives, identifying record gaps, and developing protocols about what information we wish to preserve now and in the future.
- The books are wrapped up for "**Spokane 2012**"; this may represent a new land speed record! Congratulations to all those involved.

- The **Awards Committee** has recognized members at the Section level and submitted nominations for the Parent Society Awards to be presented in 2013. A Subcommittee of 3 past presidents will work with Awards Committee to develop a mechanism for a new **continuing education award** operated under the E.W. Anderson Fund. Stay tuned to learn more!

Your ballot looks different this year. In addition to our election of officers, we have a referendum regarding amending one of our bylaws. **I urge you to participate in both voting opportunities.**

Our bylaws state that the Section Annual Meeting will be in October. To take advantage of better weather for travel and field days, some meetings have been outside of the October dates, placing the Section in contravention of our bylaws. This issue was identified to the Board and the following steps were taken:

- Discussion at Board Meeting in Cranbrook.
- Receipt of a proposed change to the bylaw that would see "Annual Meetings held in October" **change** to "Annual Meetings held between September 1 and November 30".
- Receipt of the required 25 signatures.
- Circulating proposed amendment and ballot to all members of the Section (enclosed).

The final steps of filling out, returning, and tabulating those ballots are the remaining puzzle pieces. Please share your thoughts; complete your ballot and return it ASAP. This amendment will be considered passed if an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the members voting is received.

I close on a somber note. We lost a great supporter of rangelands and of the Society when **Thomas E. Bedell** passed away peacefully in his sleep following a courageous bout with cancer. On behalf of the Section and myself, I extend our condolences to Tom's family and friends. He, his contributions, and passion will be greatly missed.

Take Care and see you in  
Long Beach, Washington!

# NEWSLETTER

# Rock Piles to Grass — PNW Summer Workshop in Baker City, OR

Thursday kicked off with a tour of the Baker Valley Soil & Water Conservation District's Powder River Water Quality Enhancement Project, hosted by Wes Morgan, Tim Kerns (both with SWCD), Cory Parsons (OSU Extension), and Rancher Mike Widman. What we saw was a fantastic example of a successful on-the-ground project, involving 24 landowners and agencies with mutual benefits. This project included 133 off-stream water developments, 7 miles of new riparian pasture, riparian plantings, and fish barrier removal. Tour stops included discussions at the initial diversion structure, the riparian pasture and restoration area, and lastly at an off-stream development. We had the opportunity to hear all of the lessons learned, and to see just how successful a cooperative riparian enhancement project can be. — **by Nick Vora, Bend, OR.** *In his last year as an OSU range student in La Grande, he is working this summer for the USDA-NRCS. Nick hopes to make a career with the agency and continue to enjoy the great hunting, fishing, rock climbing and backcountry skiing opportunities of Eastern Oregon.*



Keating Valley Cooperative Conservation Project: Trent Manns, Claudia Ingham, Nick Vora, Julie Conley. **Photo by Brian Haddow.**

A satisfying lunch and well-spoken introduction by Lyle Defrees at the McEwen Train Station covered Sumpter Valley's past economic drivers, historical land uses, and land management today. We loaded up on the hay bale wagons and toured the diverse ranching and forestry operations of the Defrees and Warnock ranches. Our first stop was at a dredge-tailing restoration. By encouraging autogenic recovery through livestock management and grass seeding, the Defrees and Warnocks have found low-cost ways to rehabilitate rock piles into grass meadows that compliment current livestock management. On the hayride, Lyle and Dan explained their forest management practices and Dean Defrees demonstrated a mechanical tree harvester. The day ended with a Warnock range grazing management breakdown, a Sumpter Valley Railroad Train ride, a guided tour of the 3rd Sumpter Dredge, and a hearty meal. — **by Trent Manns, Maupin, OR.** *As a 2013 graduating OSU range student, Trent will be actively searching for a position in range conservation. "This summer, I'm working and living on two Oregon ranches as part of OSU's Tom Bedell scholarship. I enjoy high country adventure in NE Oregon with friends and my dog Reef."*

We gathered in Baker City before heading east to tour the Cooperative Conservation Project Initiative (CCPI) in the Keating Valley. The scale of this effort is daunting in that it will address 60,000 acres of medusahead-infested sagebrush steppe. In year one, an inventory was conducted to determine the extent of infestation and nature of the areas infested. From this initial effort, it was determined that two different treatments should be used, one for the "flats" and one for the "hills". Imazapic (herbicide) will be applied to 4,350 acres

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*Rock Piles to Grass ...continued from previous page*

this fall, because the fall and winter moisture will help move the herbicide into the soil profile. Following treatment, hill sites will be seeded with Idaho fescue and bluebunch wheatgrass, while flat sites will be seeded with two cultivars of wheatgrass, Sherman's big bluegrass and alfalfa. Follow-up spot treatments of weeds will be conducted using OWEB grant funds.

As with the tours on Thursday, SRM members were impressed with the collaborative efforts of ranchers, Soil and Water Conservation District employees, wildlife staff and OSU Extension Agents. Now, we need to be sure to return to these sites in 2015 and after to assess the results and continue our learning. — **by Claudia Ingham, Hillsboro, OR, who teaches ethics in animal sciences & rangeland ecology for OSU Department of Animal & Rangeland Sciences. When not teaching, her "thrilling moments are riding horses, jumping over obstacles and into water." She also likes to swim where she can hear parrot fish eating coral.**



Riding the wagon through Defrees forest.  
**Photo by Brian Haddow.**



The grasses and shrubs are returning to the dredge-tailings. **Photo by John Breese**

# PNW Section Elections - 2013

## Vice-President Nominee

### Bob Fowler, Burns Lake, BC

Thanks for the nomination for 2nd VP of PNW Section. Since 1982, I have worked as a Range Agrologist for the province of BC. I am president of the Cariboo chapter of the BC Institute of Agrologists, president of the local Rod and Gun Club, original member of the Northwest Invasive Plant Council, past president of the BC chapter of SRM, and past president of the Lakes District Fall Fair Association. I've been a ranch hand, buckerman & skidder operator and licensed assistant guide for a local outfitter. While working as an Agrologist in the Burns Lake area, I also ran a renovation & construction business

Being part of SRM is not just about knowing and understanding range management. Range management is the end result of a working knowledge in a number of different areas involving agriculture. These include livestock behaviour, invasive plant management, and various types of construction from building wire or rail fences, to cattle guards or corrals that handle 20 to 1000 head of cattle if needed. These are just a few of the diverse areas in which we as range managers become knowledgeable throughout our careers. It is this diversity, and working as a team with other professionals such as biologists and foresters, that improves our ability to manage crown range for the future.

I hope that over the next 30 years of learning, we all will develop these learnings to further enhance rangeland management. One of our biggest challenges is that of dealing with the invasive species entering North America. What can we do to facilitate better use of resources to deal with this epidemic? What can we do as a team of professionals/technicians/practitioners/ranchers/

environmentalists need to do to make this move forward in a positive way? I personally do not want to lead this challenge, but if the SRM is capable and willing to be involved, I want to be involved, and in some way, if my past experiences can help with that, then let's get at it. Let's bring the field work and ground work back into range management for the new managers coming up, and pass on whatever learnings we have and learn what the new generation of managers can teach us as well. I look forward to moving the SRM forward in any way I can by developing new friendships and renewing old ones. Thanks, and I hope everybody is having a great summer and sitting on a horse somewhere.

## PNW Section Officers Making your Section grow!

President	Lavona Liggins	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
Awards	John Buckhouse	541-737-1629
History	Joe Wagner	541-947-6175
Newsletter	Lynne Breese	541-447-6762
	jlbreese@crestviewcable.com	
	Teal Purrington	541-416-6772
	Matthew Braun	250-614-7526

## Board of Director Nominees

### John Williams, Enterprise, OR

For 25 years I have worked for Oregon State University as a County Extension Agent. After 6 years on the Oregon coast, I moved to Wallowa County as the Staff Chair and Natural Resources Agent. I have worked with community leaders and agricultural producers on policy issues that had significant impact on the local economy and the ability of natural resource users to access the resources in northeast Oregon. I aided Wallowa County in implementing their own Wallowa County-Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Habitat Recovery Plan; the State of Oregon in understanding regulations dealing with Confined Animal Feeding Operations; and Eastern Oregon in learning to deal with the impacts of wolves moving in from the Experimental Population introduced in Idaho.

The SRM has been the organization that I have utilized as my source of professional development for most of my career. It is also a source of expertise and knowledge that has served me well. I believe it is time for me to start giving back to this organization. Serving on the Board as a director of the PNW Section is one of those opportunities to allow for this service. It would be an opportunity to work with a diverse and knowledgeable group of professionals promoting good stewardship of the range, while learning from each other about the land we live in and the people who inhabit it.

When I get time, I enjoy hunting, family and anything that takes me outdoors.

### Jay Kerby, Burns, OR

Working for The Nature Conservancy since 2009, I split my time between supervising stewardship of 3 preserves in SE Oregon, and working collaboratively with partners on conservation for sagebrush-steppe landscapes. In 2012, I'm excited to kick off a collaborative project with USDA to demonstrate innovative restoration practices and strategies for sagebrush-steppe. Having grown up on ranches in eastern Oregon, I'm excited to contribute to conservation of these landscapes which I consider to be "home".

Prior to joining The Nature Conservancy, I worked as a research associate studying fire ecology and pyric herbivory in the Great Plains, as a ranch-hand, and as a carpenter. I have a B.S. from Oregon State University (2000) in Rangeland Resources and an M.S. from Oklahoma State University (2002) in Rangeland Ecology and Management. I've been a member of SRM, with a few brief lapses in membership dues, since 1998. Currently, I sit on the board of directors for the High Desert Partnership, the Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center Advisory Council, and the High Desert Youth Range Camp.

SRM has a tremendous opportunity to bridge divides amongst concerned rangeland stakeholders and promote a strong rangeland stewardship ethic built on strong science. Our rangelands are continually being asked to deliver more services, values and goods, leading inevitably to increased conflict and derision over how to best manage for those diverse goals.

When not working, I garden, landscape, read, and volunteer to my local community -- with several big travel, camping and fishing trips sprinkled throughout.



## Remembering Tom Bedell

Jim Clawson and Mike Borman delivered the Baker City SRM card: "Tom appreciated it very much. His attitude is good, but his condition is weak." A week later, he was gone. John Buckhouse said, "Knowing Tom since 1960, there was consistency -- Tom was smart, dedicated and fun. He might be the only guy who didn't use toothpaste. On a field trip he told students that he brushed his toothbrush over a bar of soap, then brushed his teeth. Clean mouth, clean words. The students were amazed."

Tom was a pilot. When Tim Deboodt wanted a better "view" of Central Oregon rangelands, Tom flew to Prineville, picked Tim up, and they flew and took pictures. Tom had been president of PNW Section and the Society. He set a standard for all of us as keepers of the range, and as SRM'ers. Thank you Tom.

## PNW Events - Chapter, Section, Society

"**Spokane 2012**", the 65th Annual Meeting of SRM closed its books with a net profit of \$82,626,01, to be divided between the Society and the Idaho and PNW Sections. The **3 Amigos** say, "*Thank you Everyone for doing such an outstanding job!*" And we say, THANK YOU to the 3 Amigos - **Will Keller, J. D. Wulforst** and **Kevin Guinn**. You led the way so that we could follow.

In its 2nd year, the **High Desert Youth Range Camp** hosted 18 youth from 8 counties of Idaho, Oregon and Washington. They had 5 days of hands-on learning in the sagebrush habitat east of Burns, OR.

**British Columbia Chapter** is hosting a field tour and discussion, **September 19-20**, in Prince George. The field tour will focus on the community managed pastures and range, initiated in the 1960 and 70's era. Cost: \$20. Register: [harold.johnson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:harold.johnson@gov.bc.ca)

**PNW Section** meets in Long Beach, WA, **September 27-29**. Explore the area at <http://funbeach.com>

**2013 PNW Summer Workshop, June 19-21**, will be in the Peace River country of northern BC. Mark your calendars, and stay tuned for the possibility of a giant car pool to get everyone headed north. This will include the longest day of the year!! Just think what you might see!

**2013 SRM Annual Meeting, Technical Training and Tradeshow**, SRM's 66th Annual Meeting, will be in Oklahoma City, February 3-7. Start planning yesterday!

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

**British Columbia** Sonja Leverkus, Fort Nelson, 250-709-5118  
**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

## PNW Member Update

**Kevin Guinn** is stepping up as Washington NRCS State Rangeland Specialist. Remaining in Ephrata, WA, he will split his time 75% State and 25% Central Area. Kevin started his NRCS career in Arkansas, then came to Ellensburg, then Ephrata. Congratulations Kevin!

**Becky Guinn** writes: "I want to thank the SRM family for the lovely card sent from Baker City. I will cherish it for a loooooooooooooooooooooooooooooog time!" Hurray, Becky!!

It was great to see **Don Blumenauer** in Baker City. Reaching out to all SRM'ers during the festive BBQ, he thanked the "SRM family" for the cards, emails and phone calls which helped him reach today's milestone.

## Let's Talk in Long Beach!

During the Baker City summer workshop, folks began to talk about the fall annual meeting. Following are two thoughts put forward to open the discussion which will continue in Long Beach in September.

**Point:** Some Section members have been discussing the format and timing of our annual (fall/winter) meeting. We propose that our Annual meeting be structured along the lines of the Parent Society meetings in that the main focus be on presentations (Papers) on Range-related topics and concluding with a report to the general membership and installation of Officers. We further suggest that the Annual Meeting be held in the fall of the year, facilitating university student and professor attendance, reducing conflict with summer field work and the rush of the start of the school year. We offer this quick note to commence discussion. *Submitted by Alf Bawtree, Tom Brannon, Hugh Barrett*

**Counter-point:** We need to attract young Rangelanders! This likely means less "classroom" and more experiential opportunities. SRM'ers may not influence scientific papers in a classroom setting, but the interaction and learning between young SRM'ers, practitioners and our old Sages, in a natural or experimental setting are phenomenal. Opportunities to meet and socialize should be similar with both types of annual meetings. So, perhaps the question becomes, "Are we trying to go back to the way things were, or are we trying to give us 'young-uns' the opportunity to apply our limited classroom, idealistic knowledge, by walking in the moccasins of the locals, to as many varied landscapes and climates as is possible. The recent Clarkston or Tulelake meetings included 2 or 3 presentations; this may be the ideal towards which the organizers of our "fall" meetings should aspire. And, I've heard about "winter" meeting hazardous road conditions. *Cheers, Brian Haddow*

# Calendar of Events

<b>September 27-29, 2012</b>	PNW Section Fall Meeting & Tour, Long Beach, Washington
<b>February 3-7, 2013</b>	SRM Annual Meeting (66th), Technical Training and Tradeshow, Oklahoma City
<b>June 19-21, 2013</b>	PNW Section Summer Workshop, Dawson Creek, British Columbia
<b>Fall 2013</b>	PNW Section Annual Meeting & Workshop, Oregon
<b>February 7-15, 2014</b>	67th Annual Meeting, Society for Range Management, Orlando, Florida
<b>January 30-Feb.7, 2015</b>	68th Annual Meeting, Society for Range Management, Sacramento, CA

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!**

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