

Society for Range Management Pacific Northwest Section

Properly functioning ecosystems provide for long-term sustainability of watersheds, plants, animals and people
Volume 65, Number 2 *July 2014*

President's Message

Richard Fleenor, Medical Lake, Washington

**VOTE by
October
7!!!**

NEWSLETTER

First off, thanks to all the Washington SRMers who helped us explore the Grand Coulee and Channeled Scablands during the PNW summer meeting and workshop: **Celeste Accord, Courtney Smith, Will Keller, Jeff Burnham, John Kouns, Tip Hudson, Keerin Doloughan, Bob Gillaspay, Sarah Troutman-Zahn** . . . And a special thank you to the outstanding presenters from WA Fish & Wildlife, BLM and WSU Extension. Based on the feedback, people enjoyed the location, presentations and field workshops.

Your PNW Section Board of Directors (BOD) met in Washington and passed the following motions:

1. Recommend a **student rate** be offered for all SRM meetings (at the discretion of each chapter). Hold fall meetings during the school year. Identify a local professor to "champion" student attendance. (Goal: facilitate student involvement in SRM).
2. Emphasize technical merit of the meeting, using the term "**training or workshop**" instead of "tour." Make an effort to develop registration forms that clearly outline "continuing education credits" and differentiate training events. (Goal: increase attendance by agency employees).
3. Reconfirm support for **Mary Jo Foley**, OSU graduate student to receive PNW SRM education scholarship.
4. Approve list of BOD nominees as submitted by nominations committee.

You are voting for 1st and 2nd vice-president. Why? **Bob Fowler**, 1st VP, resigned in May, moving **Pete Schreder** into 1st. When he left BC Range

Agrology, Bob focused on his construction business. It is doing well, and at this time, Bob feels he cannot give sufficient time to presidential duties. We wish him well, and we will see him because he will always be a range "guy," just wearing a different "hat!"

As we all know, the Society for Range Management is a professional society dedicated to supporting people who work with rangelands and have a commitment to their sustainable use. Our mission to "Provide leadership for the Stewardship of Rangelands based on sound ecological principles" reminds us that it is important to stay current with new science-based information.

It is natural to hang on to, and not challenge, concepts or "facts" we learned years ago; but if we are to be a society of professionals, and by that I mean highly competent individuals (dictionary definition), we must continually challenge old ideas and seek validated, new information. Ideas are like inventions; new ones are coming along all the time. We can't afford to think like Charles H. Duell, 1899 Commissioner of U.S. Patent Office, who was famous for saying, "Everything that can be invented has been invented."

The BOD wholeheartedly agrees that we include more technical presentations, posters, and such at our Section meetings. In addition, each of us, on our own, needs to make the effort to stay abreast of current research. I may be preaching to the choir, but I know that I've been guilty of using ideas/concepts longer than I should have. I relied on the old range readiness concept for turn-out dates far too long. I've resisted using native species in seeding projects because non-natives were "always the smart way to

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If you missed the PNW SRM summer workshop . . .

How is habitat restored?

By Gene Fultz, Rangeland Management Specialist, NRCS, Portland, OR.

At the Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area, BLM and WDFW efforts to restore Prairie Grouse habitats in eastern Washington began with the first seeding of agricultural land in 1995. Lincoln County is the only county in Washington with both sage-grouse and sharp tailed grouse. The primary funding source was the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). About 2,800 acres have been seeded and restored within the 50,000 acre property. Initial inventories focused on former croplands that had less than 5 percent canopy of sagebrush in-fill. The most difficult to restore were former croplands that had been seeded to intermediate wheatgrass, crested wheatgrass, smooth brome, or canary reedgrass. These vegetation types often require up to three chemical treatments and drilling of the grass and forb mixtures, followed by broadcast seeding of Wyoming big sagebrush in the fall. Timing of moisture is critical as well as is protecting shrub structure from losses through wildfires.

Observations and measurements revealed that 90 percent of the land that was seeded to CP38 'SAFE' seed mixtures had nesting activity. Sage-grouse were observed utilizing sites planted with seeding mixtures that contained sagebrush within two years post planting.

Vegetation measurements were based on cover classes for herbaceous while shrub canopies were measured using the line intercept protocol. Measurements for nesting was ideal when the bottom five segments of the Robel pole are obscured by vegetation. Sage-grouse nest in shrubs early in the spring and have a soft diet. Sharp-tails nest later and prefer bunchgrasses for nest location. Sharp-tails have a generalist diet.

The wetland hydrologic restorations benefit 16 Intermountain West Joint Venture priority species of water fowl and shorebirds. Some big-ear bats and frogs benefited as well. About 300 acres have been restored and vary in size from 20 to 120 acres. Water level fluctuations are achieved with culvert gates, cross dikes, and shallow excavations. The goal is half emergent vegetation and half open water which is close to early records of reference conditions.

Regulatory certainty opened the session

By Tom Platt, WSU Extension Educator Emeritus, Davenport, WA.

The title alludes to the pending federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing of greater sage-grouse which has experienced a steady 40-50 year population decline in western states and southwestern Canada. In 2010, the USFWS determined that range wide listing in 11 western states was warranted, but the listing was precluded by higher listing priorities. The USFWS was challenged for not listing the species, but a settlement was reached and the USFWS has until September 2015 to list the greater sage-grouse or make a not-warranted determination.

Since 2010, an enormous effort has been made by federal and state agencies, conservation groups and landowners to initiate and coordinate greater sage-grouse recovery in order to stave off the ESA listing which would be hugely disruptive to local communities, energy and real estate development, transportation, agriculture and ranching, hunting and recreation. Legislation was introduced to delay an ESA determination for 10 years while assisting states in developing sage-grouse conservation and recovery plans.

In Douglas County, a 50 year General Conservation Plan is being introduced to farmers and ranchers. It will require a major investment in time, personnel and money by the Foster Creek Conservation District. However, for farms and ranches already practicing good land stewardship, little change is anticipated.



BLM Range Specialist Keerin Doloughan (second from left), WSU Extension's Tip Hudson (foreground), and others discuss riparian grazing management and water quality. Photo: Gene Fultz.

Managing for Greater Sage-grouse and Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse in Eastern Washington

By Clancy Jandreau, Mesa, Colorado, but currently in Ephrata, WA as a Student Conservation Association Intern with NRCS. He likes to backpack in the Cascades.

For wildlife managers, the shrub-steppe ecosystem of eastern Washington offers unique challenges. One major challenge is managing for two prairie grouse species, the greater sage-grouse and the Columbian sharp-tailed grouse. Not only do their ranges overlap in parts of the northern shrub-steppe region, but they are also both listed as threatened species in the state of Washington. According to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), sharp-tailed grouse currently occupies only 2.8 percent of its historic and the sage-grouse only 8 percent. With the overlap in ranges, wildlife managers have extra considerations to keep in mind about how their actions to manage one species may impact the other species.

The Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area and surrounding BLM lands south of Creston is the epicenter of where management for these species overlap. One of the first priorities for WDFW in their recovery plans for both species is augmentation of current populations. Since 2005, WDFW captured and translocated 186 sage-grouse and 166 sharp-tailed grouse into the Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area. The sage-grouse were mostly captured from SE Oregon; the sharp-tailed grouse came from Idaho and British Columbia. Each grouse was equipped with a VHF radio-transmitting collar. The collars help managers study the movements, habitat requirements, distribution, survival, and general information on the birds they release. Data they collected indicated that at the larger home range scale, habitat selection between the two grouse did not vary much with about 72 percent overlap. Where the grouse differ is at the nest site and microsite. Sage-grouse prefer nest sites with overall greater shrub cover and height, whereas the sharp-tailed grouse on average chose sites with less shrub cover and more perennial grass cover. This tells managers that the key to managing for both grouse species in the same region is managing for heterogeneity on the landscape. As long as there is a diverse mix of healthy shrub and grassland habitats, the greater sage-grouse and the Columbia

sharp-tailed grouse can be individually managed without great conflict.

Collar telemetry has shown the source of mortality for most birds. The combination of work between the BLM and WDFW has found that predation is a large contributor to grouse mortality. Data indicates that about 50 percent of nests are depredated. The most common predators of both grouse species are coyotes, great-horned owls, and ravens. The BLM has a running study on the effectiveness of avian perch deterrents and are also using the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to help control coyote populations in the area. For both species, their population numbers are so low that every positive gain is a struggle. There is a lot of focus right now on prairie grouse conservation, especially on the greater sage-grouse, and many partners are doing great work across the state. Things are looking up for the prairie grouse of eastern Washington; however, the situation is precarious when one large natural event such as a fire can have a huge impact on the small population sizes. Wildlife managers will have to proceed with caution for the foreseeable future.

Brent Cunderla, Geologist with the BLM, treated PNW SRM members to a journey through time

By Claudia Ingham, Hillsboro, OR. She teaches in Animal & Rangeland Sciences Dept., OSU, Corvallis, OR.

After a thorough graphic orientation, we boarded our bus (and other rigs for the more independent travelers) and headed south along Banks Lake. At occasional stops, Brent pointed out eroded features of Cretaceous granite and younger basalt. After an informative session with distracting views of Dry Falls and the scablands to the southeast, we carried on to view kettle lakes ("kettle" is a depression formed by the wasting away of a detached mass of glacier ice) and scattered erratics along Washington's SR-17. Our grand finale was a stop at the Crown Point Vista where the geology and effects of a 2012 fire amazed us all. Oh, we mustn't forget the monolithic Grand Coulee Dam built in 1932. Construction of this dam required removing bedrock and sediment to create a durable foundation. Clearly it worked and the 400 feet of water behind the dam is as remarkable as the surrounding geology and the engineering that altered this landscape.

PNW Section Elections 2014

Vice-President nominees — Vote for two

Nominees: Tim Deboodt, Dustin Johnson, Maura Laverty, and Sandra Wyman

Tim Deboodt, Prineville, OR

I appreciate the opportunity to introduce myself. Originally from western Nebraska, I have worked 27 years for Oregon State University in central Oregon as a County Extension Agent responsible for rangeland and natural resource programming. Prior to Oregon, I was with Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service in Jackson (Teton County) for 4 years. I joined SRM in 1983 while completing my MS in Range Management at the Univ. of Wyoming. In 2008, I completed my PhD in Rangeland Ecology and Management at OSU.

I've been a Chapter officer, Section Treasurer twice, and served on the PNW Board as a Director. When PNW Section hosted the parent Society meetings in 2006 and 2012, I chaired the Pre-Convention Trail Boss.

I enjoy my career of providing information and understanding of rangeland ecosystems to landowners, managers and the public. Career highlights include completing my PhD at age 50; speaking to 200 Science Club members from Sisters Oregon about the ecology, biology and impacts of western juniper on Oregon's rangelands; being recognized by my peers with the PNW Trail Boss Award in 2012; and receiving the Society's Achievement Award in Research and Academia in 2013.

The SRM is a critical resource for individuals, agencies and the public-at-large when it comes to understanding rangeland ecosystems and the issues and concerns associated with them. It needs to continue to be the place for professional development and growth of individuals working on rangelands. While

maintaining its core, SRM and the PNW Section can and should play an integral role in providing the public with useful information for informed decision making. I would enjoy playing a role in both of these endeavors.

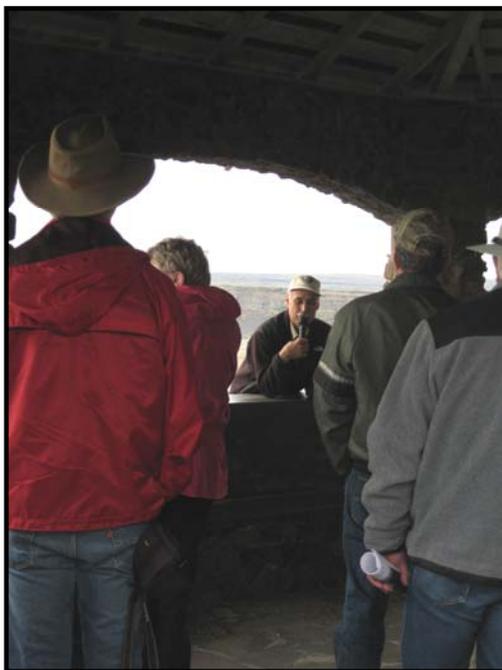
For fun, I have rediscovered my bicycle, snow skiing and kayaking - there is more to life than just work!

Dustin Johnson, Burns, OR

I've been with SRM since 1998, first as a student of Rangeland Resources at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande, then as a Graduate Research Assistant and Rangeland Research Technician with the Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center in Burns, then as a Rangeland Management Specialist with the Burns District BLM, and now as an OSU Extension Agent with Animal and Rangeland Sciences in Harney County. A lot has changed

since '98 but for me SRM has always been about professional development, networking, collaboration, educational opportunities for students, exchange of information and ideas, and interdisciplinary problem solving, all centered around a shared goal of sustainable management of rangeland resources.

As we look forward there are many formidable environmental, social, and economic challenges for sustainable management of rangeland resources. Through its diverse and dedicated membership, SRM has been at the forefront of addressing many of these issues. In my opinion, the success of SRM is founded in the network of people who work on the rangeland landscapes they are passionate about. Of primary concern to me is the alarming rate at which our profession is losing invaluable experience and critical mass to retirement. Therefore, recruitment and education of new young professionals will be of vital importance as we move forward. The future



Brent Cunderla talks about geology (see story on page 3). Photo: Claudia Ingham.

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Vice-President nominees . . . *continued from previous page*

of the SRM and the PNW Section exists with these young people and better awareness campaigns and educational opportunities focused on youth at the high school and university levels will increase the recruitment of motivated young people into SRM and the profession. An example of a PNW-supported program that has captured the interest of high school youth in rangelands over the past four years has been the High Desert Youth Range Camp (HDYRC). Recently, an agency participating in an Extension program we hosted brought a newly hired Rangeland Technician. I recognized the young man because he had been a Range Camper! It was very satisfying to see that Range Camp may have inspired him to consider a career in rangeland management. Now is a critical time to build new opportunities like the HDYRC to attract interest in our profession from talented youth like that young man who showed so much potential at Range Camp.

My wife, three kids and I love to hike, hunt, fish, and enjoy the great outdoors of the Pacific Northwest.

Maura Laverty, Baker City, OR

I was raised in the Pacific Northwest since the 3rd grade, graduated from WSU with a BS in Range Management in 1987, and am enjoying a career in Rangeland Management with the USDA Forest Service. I've been a member of SRM since I was in college. Last year I moved to Oregon from Washington to become the Range Program Manager for the Wallowa-Whitman and Umatilla National Forests, fulfilling my dream of finally making it full circle (back home) to the Forest in which I began my career.

SRM has been as big of a part of my life throughout my career with the USFS. I am a Certified Professional Range Manager, and have been representing you as one of your Directors on the SRM PNW Section Board since 2012. I volunteered on the Spokane 2012 annual meeting planning committee as Publicity Co-Chair, and prior to returning to the PNW section in 2010 I served on the International SRM Information & Education (now Outreach & Communication) Committee as a member

and Chair. I cherish the friendships I've made in the SRM, as well as the professional connections that have assisted and supported me in management of the NFS rangelands. The SRM has been an integral part of my development and training as a range specialist and I am now in a position to pay it forward.

I still believe educating and gaining support from the public about rangeland management is the key to our survival as a Society, and recruitment and membership of the young range professionals will be the key to success for our future. I would like to be a part of this effort and would be honored to serve on the PNW Board again.

In my spare time I volunteer for the New Hope for Eastern Oregon Animals program here in Baker City, and enjoy horseback riding, mountain bike riding, hiking, camping, boating, and travel to new areas.

Sandra Wyman, Prineville, OR

Since 2002, I have been the Rangeland Management Specialist with the BLM National Riparian Service Team. I belong to SRM because it is the best way to garner rangeland knowledge, research, and experience as well as a network of range related resource people. I have been a member of the parent society board and several committees including Membership (currently serving as Chair), Watershed/Riparian, Resource Assessment & Monitoring, Rangelands Steering, Accreditation, and Publications. I am a Certified Professional Rangeland Manager.

I would like to see the PNW Section continue with its active involvement in student activities such as Range Camp and sponsoring High School Youth Forum candidates and college students to SRM meetings. I would also like to see our section conduct a big membership drive, especially to our new graduates and those getting started in rangeland activities so they recognize SRM is the "go to" organization for applied management and research information.

I enjoy horseback riding and traveling.

Calendar of Events

October 15 - 17, 2014	PNW Section Annual Meeting & Workshop, Kamloops, British Columbia
January 30 - Feb.7, 2015	68th Annual Meeting, Society for Range Management, Sacramento, California
Summer 2015	PNW Section Summer Workshop, Oregon
Fall 2015	PNW Section Annual Meeting & Workshop, Washington

PNW Section Elections 2014

Board of Director nominees — Vote for two

Nominees: John Kouns, Sonja Leverkus, Jamie McCormack, and Nick Vora

John Kouns, Ritzville, WA

I've worked for the US Forest Service on the Sheyenne National Grassland in North Dakota as a rangeland ecologist and for the Natural Resource Conservation Service in Ritzville, WA as an area rangeland management specialist.

To me the Society for Range Management is a diverse group of people with varied backgrounds and values that are brought together by a shared love of vast open landscapes. The society is important because it keeps this diverse group talking to and learning from each other. It's also often a united voice when regional and national policy questions/issues arise. I believe the SRM should continue activities such as annual meetings, providing input on rangeland management issues and maintain SRM publication operations.

My wife Billie and I have one daughter and one granddaughter. Working on my 1976 CJ5 is what I am doing for fun this year.

Sonja Leverkus, Fort Nelson, BC

Good day, eh! I am honoured to have been nominated as a Director with the PNW Section. I was born and raised on a cattle ranch first in the Porcupine Hills of Southern Alberta, beside the Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump and then in the Rocky Mountains of the East Kootenays in Southern British Columbia. I grew up on the land, working with my parents, raising cattle, riding horses and growing hay. I am pursuing my PhD in Rangeland Ecology and Management at Oklahoma State (Stillwater, Oklahoma) in the pyric herbivory lab of Dr. Sam Fuhlendorf (anticipated graduation this Fall 2014)!

SRM has always had a presence in my personal and professional life. My first exposure to SRM was in the early eighties when my parents hosted an SRM tour on our ranch, the Big Coulee Ranch. Over the past few years I have been serving on the BC Chapter of the PNW Section of SRM as President and Past-President. I would like to see SRM shift paradigms and fully embrace new concepts of rangeland management and ecology with conservation of biological diversity as

the central part of our vision moving forward into the next phase of the Anthropocene. We have a huge responsibility as professionals and people with our hands on the land to ensure that the activities occurring throughout our rangelands appropriately balance ecological and cultural values with economic gains and natural resource extraction.

For fun, I head out into the high country of the Canadian Rocky Mountains with my family and friends, firearms and a keen sense of adventure to experience remote wilderness in all aspects that it provides!

Jamie McCormack, Joseph, OR

I've been a range management specialist in NE Oregon on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest for three years. Prior to this I did similar work in Central Oregon on the Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River National Grassland. I got the basics from Oregon State University as a "DREAM" girl. Wherever I've studied, worked or traveled, I have worked and learned from great people who are practicing a wide variety of range management activities. I couldn't be more fortunate from that standpoint.

That sense of community is why I am involved with the PNW section of SRM, and want to become even more engaged into the future. Helping with the 2013 fall PNW tour to NE Oregon, reminded me how much I enjoy the people, the knowledge sharing, and why I decided to get into range management to begin with. I appreciate the depth of the people who are involved in range management from industry, private landowners, public land managers, university, and others. The people make the organization the great one it is, and I would like to give back to help carry on into the future. My "dream" for SRM, is to get younger people engaged to learn all we can from the older generations. Previous generations did a great job paving the way, and the younger generations have great new ideas too. I'd like SRM to engage more people from industry and private land owners to gain momentum on the great work SRM does and the knowledge, tools, and resources available to them.

For fun, I ride horses, visit and see new country, or do leatherwork when the weather is bad. The best advice I have gotten is "Well.....you only get to go around once".

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Board of Director nominees

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Nick Vora, La Grande, OR

I am a Soil Conservationist with USDA-NRCS, and previously worked for the agency in SE Oregon on sage-grouse habitat and annual grass management projects. In 2013 I received my B.S. in Range Management from Oregon State University where I also studied soils and animal science. One of the things I especially enjoy about working in range management is the interdisciplinary nature and complexity of every project that keeps me on my toes and learning new things. When I'm not at work I stay busy volunteering with the fire department, search and rescue team, and enjoying the season's flavor of outdoor recreation.

In the five years that I've been involved with the PNW section, I've greatly benefited from and enjoyed the camaraderie and knowledge sharing that occurs at our tours. I especially value the technical aspects that SRM has to offer and think that by offering more trainings or workshops at our meetings we can increase their perceived value and therefore be more attractive to prospective members from both agency and private sectors. Student involvement will continue to be a struggle, but I think that through coordinating schedules, adding resume building events (e.g. student presentations, workshops) to meetings, and facilitating student activities at the chapter level we will be able to make progress. I look forward to seeing you all in Kamloops!



SRMers view Swanson Lake and a bald eagle nest in the top of a pine at the water's edge (story, page 2). Photo: John Breese.

PNW website -- <http://pnw.rangelands.org>

Thanks to **Bob Gillaspay** and **Sarah Troutman-Zahn** for updating our website. Check it out for more information on the October SRM workshop in Kamloops.

President's Message

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go." For a non-range example, I bought into the thinking that no-till farming can't be done in dry areas of the state. Had I been more in-tune with current scientific thought, I could have challenged these "facts" earlier, and applied more appropriate resource management.

And, speaking of challenging "facts," turns out that Charles H. Duell never did say that famous "Everything that can be invented . . ." quote. It was taken from a contrived conversation in the 1899 comedy magazine Punch . . . I guess I should have researched a bit more before quoting Mr. Duell.

Come to Kamloops, October 15-17, to explore "Sedges to Salmon." See you there!

Richard

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High Desert Youth Range Camp, 2014

By Brenda Smith, HDYRC Coordinator

Twenty high school students from Idaho and Oregon traveled to the Northern Great Basin Experimental Range near Burns, OR, for 3 and 1/2 days of hands-on learning. Open to high school students from Washington, Oregon and Idaho, the camp is led by staff from E.O. Agriculture Research Center, OSU, Treasure Valley Community College, The Nature Conservancy and Harney County Watershed Council. This year's Top Camper, **Cheyenne Young** of Prineville will represent Oregon at the High School Youth Forum during the 2015 International SRM meeting in Sacramento, CA.

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

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