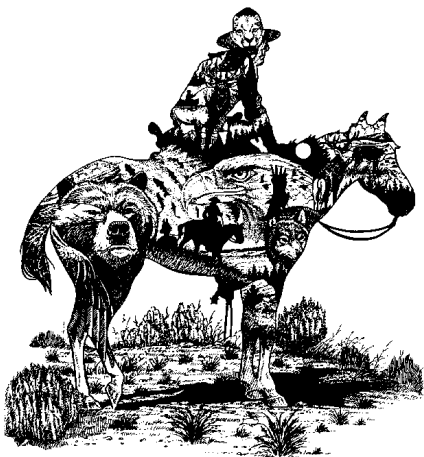


Society for Range Management Pacific Northwest Section

Properly functioning ecosystems provide for long-term sustainability of watersheds, plants, animals and people
Volume 67 Number 2 August 2016



President's Message

Tim Deboodt, Prineville, Oregon



NEWSLETTER

Summer is well underway. I hope this letter finds you well and enjoying much of what the PNW has to offer. This is my last note as President of the Section. It has been an honor to serve the Section this year.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, and we who attended the PNW Section summer meeting and professional development workshop in Osoyoos, B.C., a **huge thanks to the planning committee and B.C. Chapter** for a job well done: **Anne Skinner, Greg Tegart, Rob Dinwoodie, Vic Wright, Alex McLean, Bob France**, . . . Thank you for sharing the beauty of the area, as well as the management challenges and successes of the resource specialists and the public in that area. The strength of partnerships is that when they work, you can get a lot accomplished. I for one, will be back!

What a pleasure to listen to **Danika Zinger**, a high school student from Pritchard, BC during our dinner and silent auction. Danika shared the presentation she gave at the SRM International meeting in Corpus Christi, TX. Speaking of silent auctions - **WOW** - great items were donated by members and supporters. The auction helps the Section provide student support. The BC Chapter did a great job with this event, raising \$718 US. There will be an auction in Corvallis this fall - bring an item and bring your wallet!

One of the major topics the Board has had this year relates to membership. **Sandy Wyman** (incoming PNW President and SRM Board Chair for International membership) and **Mary Jo Foley-Birrenkott** have led this conversation. It is a complex issue, for which I have a few unanswered questions:

1. Why do we have so many early career range professionals that do not belong to SRM?
2. Why do they and/or their employers find no value in or support for professional development, and. . . .
3. Why do they not see SRM as the source for that professional development?

4. Why have we lost membership of our practitioners of range management and professionals in their own right, the landowner/rancher?

Our PNW Section has had a decrease in the number of chapters. British Columbia and Washington have 1 chapter each. Oregon has 5 chapters of record, but only one is active with no structure to it.

Historically, through chapter activities members got their introduction to professional development activities, community service, leadership roles and a connection to other range professionals and the organization. Sections played a critical role in supporting and providing professional development (PD). I believe the PNW Section still does this very well. I hear from my peers, that PD is not supported nor encouraged by their organization and this frustrates me. How do we stay relevant with the science and management without on-going training and exposure to new ideas? I suspect that in part, this lack of encouragement is the cause of declining membership and participation in SRM. I have no answers, but if we don't openly pose the questions, we will never work to find the answers.

On a positive note, remember the **Fall Meeting & Workshop, October 12 - 14** in Corvallis, OR. **Bob Ehrhart** and his committee have put together a great training session. On Thursday, we will explore three oak woodland/savannah sites in various stages of restoration around the Baskett-Slough NWR. The vegetation has undergone significant modification since white settlement in the 1840's. In recent years, there has been much effort to understand these changes and to restore two of the most critical native vegetation communities: oak woodlands and oak savannahs. What makes these efforts of interest to resource managers is that they are characterized by extensive and often innovative

Presidents Message continued...

partnerships. We will also learn about innovations in research and range education from our OSU research/teaching faculty.

Early registration ends Sept. 30, but special rates for the host motel end on September 26th. Don't let these dates slip by! The attached registration flyer includes host family opportunities too.

In closing, thank you to those who accepted the nomination to put their names forward to serve as either a Board Director or 2nd Vice-president. Both of those are 3 year commitments to the Section, with the 2nd VP ultimately becoming our PNW President. It is exciting to see new names as well as seasoned veterans. If you are receiving this newsletter & ballot electronically, **please print the ballot, fill it out and mail to either Mike Malmberg, BC or Craig Obermiller, "lower 48" & AK.**

See you all in Corvallis!! Remember, there will be another auction to support students. Bring an item to auction and bring your wallet to buy!! Understand there will be a bidding contest for **Mike Malmberg's pies!!** :) Thanks! *Tim*

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

British Columbia

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Washington

Jeff Burnham, Ellensburg
590-457-9303

Oregon State University

Eastern Oregon University

Lesley Morris, La Grande
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Central Oregon

Tim Deboodt & Sandra Wyman

Southern Oregon

Les Boothe, Lakeview
541-947-6141

2016 PNW Section Elections

Vice-President Nominees

vote for 1 candidate by October 7th

Wendy Gardner, Kamloops, BC

I have been a professor in the Natural Resource Science Department at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, BC since 2002. I teach grassland ecology, range management, fire ecology/management and reclamation and also have a small research program with several Masters students conducting research in the areas of range and reclamation. My husband, Russ, owns and operates 4 outdoor gear stores (which keep me supplied with all the latest and greatest gear!) and my daughter, Bree, is 11 and the creative one in our family. Most of you have also met my mother, Maureen Malenstyn, who is now an official SRM member and affectionately know as a "range groupie" and "Wendy's mom".

The SRM holds a special place for me as this organization has helped me so much both professionally and personally. Being part of the SRM is like having a large extended family and I always look forward to attending various tours and meetings so I can catch up with everyone. I joined

the SRM in 2002 and brought my first group of range students to the SRM Annual Meeting in Casper, Wyoming. Since then I have attended 12 of the SRM Annual Meetings and taken over 53 students to these events. I have been actively involved at both the BC Chapter and PNW Section acting as a director for BC for 5 years and then President of the BC Chapter 2009-2010 and a director at the PNW Section level from 2013 to present. I especially love being involved in conference/tour organization and some of my best memories are from when the PNW Section organized the 2006 Annual Meeting in Vancouver. It was a huge amount of work but also an incredible bonding experience.

My dream for the SRM would be to continue to connect with the younger generations. With continued urbanization the general public is being more disconnected from our natural systems and this creates a challenges for management. I think the SRM does a wonderful job at bringing students in but we struggle to keep these students as members after they graduate. In order for the SRM to continue to grow we need to keep these young professionals engaged.

For fun I love to spend time in the outdoors doing anything physical (running, biking, hiking, climbing, paddling) and spending time with family and friends.

Continued on next page . . .

2016 PNW Section Elections continued...

John Williams, Enterprise, OR

As an Associate Professor in the OSU Department of Rangeland Resources, I work in Wallowa County. Coming here 23 years ago, I was the first "Natural Resources Agent" in the state. I work on natural resource issues pertinent to NE Oregon. Growing up on an eastern Oregon ranch, I worked there for 15 years after receiving my BS degree in Animal Science. After welcoming a son & daughter into our home, I returned to OSU for an MS in Animal Science, Rangeland Resources and Ag. Economics. I was a 4-H/Agriculture Agent in Tillamook County until 1993 when my wife & I moved to Wallowa County.

I work on public policy issues such as the ESA listings for the Snake River Chinook Salmon and the wolf. I worked with the county to develop the Natural Resource Advisory Committee which leads the effort to make the best decisions about natural resource issues and aids federal and state agencies in developing appropriate policies and decisions when it involves local lands, animals or people.

Having joined SRM in 1985 when **John Buckhouse** introduced me as a graduate student, I am a proud member. SRM is a strong organization that offers exceptional educational opportunities to its members and partners. Through SRM, I have shared my work at PNW Section meetings and the international meetings. I was a PNW Director 3 years, helped host 2 summer workshops and presented many times at the international meeting. In 2007, I received the Outstanding Achievement Stewardship Award.

I would like to see the PNW Section continue to support the young people to participate in their professional association. To accomplish this we must have a society that has value for them, helps feed them professionally, and nurtures and supports them as they develop their careers and their own

expertise. As a long standing member, I look forward to helping all the newer folks in our society be successful. We all learn so much from each new energetic face we see.

For fun, just living in Wallowa County offers many opportunities to enjoy doing anything with Eileen and my family (2 "kids" and grandchildren), and one of my top passions, elk hunting.

Board of Directors Nominees

vote for 2 candidates by October 7th

Kurt Moffitt, Redmond, OR

Since 2005 I have worked for the NRCS Soil Survey. I graduated from OSU in 2006, with a BS in Soil Science, and picked up a graduate certificate in GIS in 2013. I am the Soil Survey Office Leader for the Redmond MLRA Office and am completing initial soil surveys for Crook, Grant, & Wheeler counties.

Most of my work has been spent investigating soils and ecological sites in eastern Oregon; SRM has provided me the resources to continue to learn about rangeland ecology, management, and economics. My wife convinced me to join SRM in 2007, and I am thankful I gave it a shot. SRM is the only professional society that I've been involved with, that has such a wide variety of participating disciplines. From the amazing ranchers, the dreaded fish bios, or the incredible soil scientists, the people are what make the society. Many friendships have been made, and every meeting feels like a family reunion, without the drama though.

This diversity and sense of family within SRM is a great opportunity to attract younger members. I'd like to be a part of helping get these students to the society. I'd also like to see more involvement from private land-owners and managers. So much can be learned from time and experience on the ground.

Calendar of Events

Continued on page 4 . . .

October 12th to 14th, 2016	PNW SRM Annual Meeting & Workshop, Corvallis, OR
Jan. 29th to Feb. 2nd, 2017	70th Annual Technical Training, Annual Meeting & Tradeshow, St. George, UT
Summer 2017	Washington
Fall 2017	British Columbia

2016 PNW Section Elections

PNW "HEROS"

Board of Directors Nominees continued...

When time allows, my wife and two kids (ages 5 and 2.5) enjoy fishing, hiking, and watching way too much Thomas the Train.

Andrew Volo, Kamloops, BC

I started working for BC government range program in 2012, as a student in the Okanagan-Shuswap district. Prior to this, I was a high school teacher in London, England for 10 years. Currently I work in the Cariboo-Chilcotin as a District Range Agrologist, and am a director for BC chapter of PNW SRM.

My introduction to SRM was through **Wendy Gardner**, my mentor and instructor at Thompson Rivers U where I graduated with a Bachelor of Natural Resource Science. Coming away from the 2013 SRM conference in Oklahoma, I was certain that this group would be a source of professional development for most of my career. The wealth of knowledge and expertise shared by members in subsequent years has helped shape my path as a range management professional. I see the opportunity to serve as a PNW Director as my starting point to give back and increase its reach to a wider audience and generation.

As issues around food security in a changing climate have become more profound, my vision for SRM is an organization that continues to promote good stewardship of the land, and narrow the divide between stakeholders on rangelands. This will ensure the maintaining of proper functioning ecosystems and the long-term sustainability of rangelands.

When not working, I enjoy traveling with my family to explore different places and broaden our appreciation of the diversity that this earth offers.



Bob France, Coldstream, BC, writes: "**Don Blumenauer, Kamloops, BC**, has been an important part of the BC Chapter and PNW Section many years.

Unfortunately, Don has had some health issues, but as you can see, he was at Osoyoos, taking part in the workshop and getting another picture to add to his collection. It is people like Don that make the Society such a great group to be part of, and I always look forward to spending time with Don at SRM functions.

Ed. Note: " Thanks Bob, for reminding all of us of the many folks we are so lucky to know through SRM.

Kevin Guinn, Ephrata, WA, is an "Unsung Hero" for the US Dept. of Agriculture. Nationally, only 12 USDA employees are 2016 "heros". Kevin was recognized for his work on sage grouse conservation in WA. Kevin says, "The Sage Grouse Initiative is the program I went to college for. It is wildlife conservation through sustainable ranching."

Chuck Perry, Moses Lake, WA, received the 2016 Outstanding Achievement Award at the SRM national meeting in Corpus Christi, TX. During his tenure with WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Chuck was the "go-to" person for all things on the range. He has always lived his belief that rangeland professionals should be field-based. Now "retired", he is a Sustainable Rangeland consultant.

Yes, you heard it right, . . . **Mike Borman, Corvallis, OR** did retire from OSU and the Rangeland Sciences Program. He thanks you for the get-well card sent when he did not make it to Osoyoos, and he promises that he will see you for SRM this fall in Corvallis. Thank you, Mike for your outstanding work with students, ranchers and the PNW Section.

You sent a card to **Joe Wagner, Lakeview, OR** because he did not get to Osoyoos due to a fall from a ladder. He is healing, slower than he'd like, but . . . he still sounds like the Joe we all know. Go Joe!!

Continued on next page . . .

Darren Bruhjell, Alberta (formerly in BC), is a hero to all of us on the Osoyoos field trek. Darren found the snake before it found us! He says it was 1/4 mile away, but . . . Thanks, Darren!



SRM Osoyoos “Symphony of Species” - Let the music begin...

. . . after the Road Trip . . .

by Hugh Barrett, Long Beach, WA, who is "staying too busy as President of the Pacific County Master Gardeners, and passing on bad habits to my grandsons"!!

A "hero" lost: Bob Leonard, Soap Lake, WA.

SRM was founded in 1948; Bob joined in 1951. He had planned to be at Osoyoos, but an accident intervened. If you were in BC, you signed a card for Bob. Alas, he died June 10, just as you returned home from the BC workshop. Bob's family sent this to you: *"Dear SRM Members: As things calm down here, we wanted to take the time to say 'thank you' for the get-well card and all the condolence emails. There were many with wonderful memories about first meetings and long friendships. Thank you all, Janet & Nancy Leonard"*

Young Professional's Conclave (YPC) update...

by Mary Jo Foley-Birrenkott, Corvallis, OR, who took a break from working on a seed farm to write to you!

The last few months have been productive for the YPC. Our president (Oregon native working on PhD at KSU) will head to Washington DC with several of our SRM Leaders, a great opportunity which SRM provides to YPC members. Nationally, we are planning our events for the SRM Annual Meeting (AM) in St. George, UT. In addition to our usual activities (business, socials, . . .), we will add new events including a Science Communications Workshop. We are working with a company that teaches communication strategies for science-based organizations such as SRM. And, since St. George is an ideal location for a running event, we will organize a "Fun Run"! For young professionals beginning to budget travel expenses for the AM, we will provide two \$500 travel scholarships. Regionally, I look forward to meeting Young Professionals at the PNW fall meeting in Corvallis where we look forward to creating a PNW Young Professional's Conclave. Interested? Contact me at mjfoley316@gmail.com

PNW-SRM meetings don't start for me the moment I barge into the Board meeting at the host site, nor do they end with the hugs and handshake farewells in the parking lot. The meeting really begins once we're in the rig at our starting point and are 'wheels up'. The conversations usually start out on the polite side: "How ya been?" "How's work?" "Aren't you retired yet?" "How's your mom?". But once we get beyond the radius of our normal trap-line, the talk turns to what's beyond the windshield: the geology, the landforms, wildlife, vegetation, and plant ID at 70 mph (113 kph).

The tradition of the SRM Road Trip, with its roots in the earliest days of our organization, lives on. I think back on all the research projects and the publications whose origins arose from conversations in OSU vans, the memory of Tom Bedell trying to read aloud the Patrick McManus story of the Green Box (he's not dying is he?), and the jokes that will live in infamy. I just wanted to celebrate this most universally-shared but unsung part of our gatherings. Where are we headed next, and who's coming?

And now for the “Symphony of Species”...

by Rob Dinwoodie, Vernon BC, Range Officer, BC Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations, who, "with wife & 3 grandkids love music & horses, and hosts 'Cowboy Dinner Show' at O'Keefe Ranch".

Have you ever gone to the symphony and arrived in time for the warm up of instruments.? I call this "discord at it finest", although each instrument may be in tune with itself and playing quite well. What we have just experienced is instruments not in symphony or out of harmony. Suddenly the conductor lifts the magic wand and beautiful music is experienced by both the listener and those in the orchestra. The difference between the warm up and the song is the result of musical notes and sounds being played in key, time and tempo. Each instrument may be quite different in shape, size and how it produces sound, but when music

Continued on page 6 . . .

“Symphony of Species” continued...

is produced in an orderly fashion it becomes a song or symphony of sounds.

So what does this have to do with species on the landscape? **Everything**...The natural community of species, or ecosystem as we may call it, follows systems and processes not that much different than a musician with an instrument in an orchestra. One group of species may lay claim to the melody to allow the other species an opportunity to apply the harmony. For example in a sagebrush community where nesting bird species use the former as critical habitat, the sagebrush produces the dominant melody. Other species, although present and important, play the harmony and thereby are able to co-exist in a complex ecosystem that provides for the needs of each species. The introduction of a grazing species can interrupt this harmony if the appropriate tools are not applied to ensure that this fragile symphony is not impacted. Water developments to provide distribution of livestock, salt placement and riding are all tools that allow the grazing animal to join this symphony of species.

It would be naive to consider that the first time a person played an instrument with others that the sound would be perfect and produce a desired outcome of music. Likewise in the management of rangelands with the complexity of species it takes practice, patience and like good music must follow a measure (monitoring) to achieve a desired result.

So when you are listening to your favorite music try to identify the melody, harmony, and timing, then remember that managing the rangelands can be the same! **Happy listening.**

Sensitive, Threatened, and Endangered, Oh My! Managing the Needs of Species at Risk

by Cathy Cannon, Rangeland Management Specialist, NRCS, Okanogan, WA. My favorite pastime is discovering nature through my daughter's eyes."

Managing livestock on public lands has inherent challenges in the best of time. Throw in the mandates of protecting sensitive, threatened, and

endangered species and it's enough to make even the hardest manager reconsider their career choice. This was a discussion topic during our Osoyoos workshop.

We had the pleasure of spending time with Wade Clifton, a local rancher who is navigating the world of cattle grazing on private, provincial, and federal lands, while having to ensure protection of approximately 50 different at-risk species.

Multiple species management is as easy as teaching a farsighted horse to run barrels. Just when you have everything figured out for one species, you knock down the needs of another. Who carries more weight? How do we possibly decide one is more important than another? When species protection is mandated, these questions are moot and we are charged with implementing the vision of protection for all. Wade and numerous agency folks were able to **tackle this together** to ensure a viable, sustainable grazing operation that also meets the mandates of protection. The best solution is, in many ways, the simplest: Manage for the ecosystem and critical habitat.

Whole system management puts glasses on the horse and brings the barrels back in focus. I had a professor way (way, way) back whose mantra was "manage for the processes". Ecosystem management does just that. Critical habitats will still need to be recognized and sometimes directly managed, but ecosystem management will ensure the necessary habitat components are sustainably available for species to choose from, while allowing for the flexibility needed when livestock grazing is not only a management tool, but a way of life. We will never be able to control all the dynamics of life, but if we relinquish control of the little things and manage for a healthy system, resilience, choice and sustainability are built in. Isn't that all anything really needs?

West Chopaka - Desert Grasslands

by Lavona Liggins, Prince George, BC, Regional Agrologist for Ministry of Agriculture who, on very rainy days at home, can often be found curled up under her Pendleton or Hudson Bay wool blanket with a good book. Photos "club reporter,"Lavona

The morning of Friday, June 10th found our intrepid field workshop participants experiencing, in the words of presenter Kirk Safford, the "meteorological event of the year". Living up to certain stereotypes of the PNW, we were undeterred by the rain

Continued on next page . . .

and set off to learn, possibly somewhat ironically, about managing water in desert grasslands.

The West Chopaka range is roughly 480 ac. of lower elevation sagebrush community that provides the only available spring pasture for 46 cow/calf pairs



and 2 bulls during May, and supports a number of rare species including several endangered bird species with sagebrush nesting requirements. Area ranchers, forest range staff, wildlife managers, and others have taken a systems level approach when tackling the question "how can multiple species at risk be supported in this managed landscape"? Rob Dinwoodie likened the effort to a symphony with many parties coming together to meet the same objectives. Key management goals include reducing cattle use of low lying areas and improving cattle distribution in the higher elevation, an outcome historically limited by access to sufficient stock water.

Recent work by Okanagan Fence Supplies led to the design and installation of water tanks at the high elevation with water pumped up the 200 foot lift through buried line by a mobile, solar powered system. Lee Fennell led us to inspect the solar pump installation and gave an overview of its operation.

Ranchers Cy Kelly and John Terbasket had doubts initially, but they have seen a great response by the cattle. After

investing time to train the cattle in 2015, the cows now move into the higher elevation without extra herding. This approach has achieved the desired distribution and habitat management, and saves herding time and the 2 hours previously spent hauling water to cattle grazing in the area.



Checking out the mobile solar pump system

Alex McLean discussed the change on the landscape and the important role that livestock exclosures and comparative permanent transects play in our ability to gauge responses to changes in management. The site includes an exclosure installed in 1996. In the early 1990's, grazing occurred May through June; this time and timing of use combined with dry conditions limited that amount of regrowth. To address this concern, grazing was shifted to a May-only use. Comparative monitoring of the site, facilitated by the exclosure and transects, has shown improved plant vigor and



West Chopaka range area approximately 10 days post grazing, looking downslope.

increased presence of bluebunch wheatgrass and sagebrush. This site was a great way to see how bringing multiple interests to the table, and taking a mix of management approaches can yield a number of simultaneous positive outcomes. Thanks to Cy, John, Kirk, Lee, Alex and Rob for sharing their experiences.

Continued on page 8. . .

White Lake Grassland - Pulling it together to Develop a Best Management Practices Plan

by Vic Wright, Armstrong, BC, Secretary-Treasurer of BC Chapter SRM

The White Lake Grasslands are located SW of Penticton touching on the shores of White Lake through a valley leading to the Clifton Ranch base. Wade Clifton provided our group with a detailed overview of the complex Ranch Use Plan and 95 page Biodiversity Management Plan covering multiple jurisdictions. The challenges of not only managing for the sensitive grasslands is further complicated with approximately 73 species at risk.

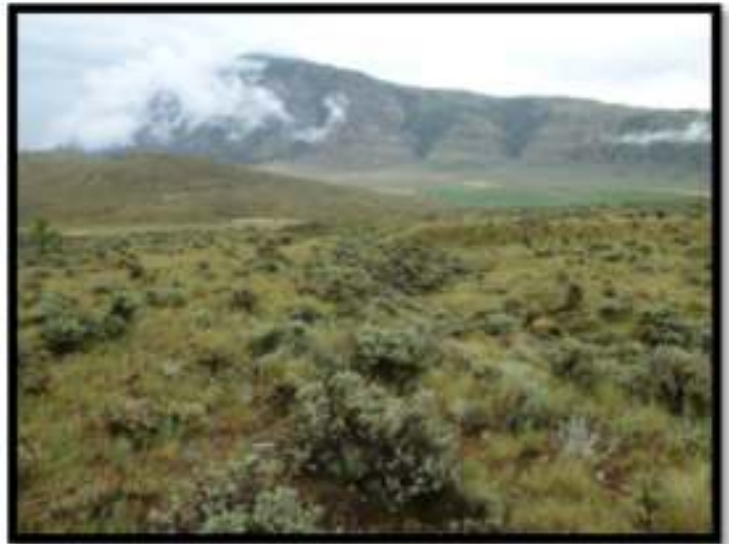
The ranch is known as a Biodiversity Ranch as Nature Trust actually owns the ranch but the Cliftons are responsible for the Range Management.

The ranch is a cow calf operation with a base cattle herd of 50 Purebred Herefords and 50 Pure bred Salers plus a 300 head commercial cow herd. The Clifton's also operate a Bull Testing Service.

The Clifton Family operate the ranch which covers 41 titles of private lands, Crown (Public) Land, Nature Trust lands, Parks Lands, Federal lands (Federal Astronomy Observatory) and 4 range licenses. To follow are excerpts from the Management Plan and the Grassland Conservation Council of British Columbia websites providing further detail.

The White Lake Basin is one of the largest intact grassland areas in the South Okanagan region. In the 1950's much of the White Lake Basin was purchased by the National Research Council in order to maintain a radio-free zone around the Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory, which is located in the basin. The majority of these lands purchased by NRC are now leased to Clifton Ranch and The Nature Trust of British Columbia and are included in the White Lake Basin Biodiversity Ranch.

The White Lake Basin has been grazed by livestock for the past 200 years, in varying intensity and duration. The area was on the Fur Brigade Trail used from 1811 to 1849 when approximately 22,000 cattle were driven from Oregon Territory



White Lake Grassland

to the Cariboo Gold Fields.

Since the early 1900's, gradual improvements were made in terms of a more prescriptive monitored range management program, under the oversight of Provincial Forestry staff.

Species at Risk in the White Lake Basin Biodiversity Ranch

3 Amphibian, 25 Bird, 9 Invertebrate, 15 Mammal, 8 Reptile, 13 Plant = 73 species

Representative species at risk & their habitat type

Riparian:	Western Screech-owl
Wetland:	Blotched Tiger Salamander
Grassland:	Grasshopper Sparrow
Shrub-Steppe:	Sage Thrasher
Dry-Forest:	White-headed Woodpecker
Talus/Cliff:	Western Rattlesnake

Beginning in 2014, recommendations for best management practices and wildlife measurers for the six representative species at risk were adopted.

Example follows:

Blotched Tiger Salamander - Range Management Criteria

- o Do not construct roads, deactivate temporary road structures, and close roads during critical times
- o Plan livestock use in the core area to meet objectives described in general wildlife measures goals. Exclusion fencing may be required by

Continued on next page . . .

- the statutory decision maker to meet objectives.
- o Carefully consider placement of livestock attractants within a Wildlife Habitat Area (WHA).
- o Ensure all-terrain vehicles do not have access to critical habitats; prevent incompatible recreation activities.
- o Ensure irrigation intake lines are screened.
- o Ensure breeding sites do not experience water extraction to the point that reproduction is impaired.
- o Maintain integrity of riparian areas of adjacent permanent and non-permanent wetlands. Other actions were initiated related to fire recovery, prescribed burns, inventories for particular species and plants (i.e. rough fescue, Bluebunch wheatgrass)

Livestock Management An adaptive management approach was taken to protect ecosystems by integrating livestock grazing and other uses in a sensitive manner.

Management Issues

Flexibility in a Range Use Plan (RUP) is necessary to allow the Cliftons to effectively manage their cattle. They will need to adjust the grazing schedule as they are confronted with such things as varying levels of forage production, lack of stock water, wildlife needs, hunting pressure and gates left open. In the past, the Cliftons have been afforded a fair degree of flexibility to manage their cattle and it is expected this will need to continue to meet the collective objectives for the biodiversity ranch.

The Cliftons are required to submit a RUP for approval by the Forest Service (MFLNRO). This must outline their proposed management for provincial Crown range.

There will be a need to balance the needs for cattle foraging with the needs of species at risk and recovery of native plant communities. An annual review of the grazing regime will help meet the overall goals of the ranch. Since TNT purchased the White Lake Ranch, stocking rates for the individual pastures have been reduced from historical numbers to improve plant communities and manage for species at risk.

An overall goal and objective was established which is to maintain a balance between a viable domestic

cattle operation and functioning ecological systems. **An Objective was to develop a Range Use Plan (RUP) that includes all pastures associated with the WLBBR that manages for species at risk, productive livestock management and desired plant community objectives.**

Actions:

- Take a collaborative approach to finalize a new 5 year RUP including as a minimum, TNT, Clifton’s and MFLNRO.
- The RUP should be guided by such principles as:
 - o Build flexibility into the plan to enable Clifton’s to make management changes as necessary while considering the overall goals of the biodiversity ranch.
 - o Incorporate rest or deferred use for grassland pastures
 - o As much as possible, manage for a short (4 to 6 weeks) grazing period for grassland pastures.
 - o Follow range readiness criteria and stubble height requirements prescribed by MFLNRO
 - o Place salt and supplements away from sensitive areas.
 - o Manage to remove all cattle from a pasture at the end of the grazing period and keep them from returning.
- References; 1/White Lake Management Plan, 2/ Grassland Conservation Council of British Columbia web site <http://www.bcgrasslands.org> 3/Wade Clifton

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