

Note: These documents were provided by Andrea Mann following her correspondence with Robert Harris' daughter who pointed out our web site hadn't acknowledge Harris' Trailboss award. Award Committee Chairman John Buckhouse investigated and concluded that Robert Harris should be listed as the 1968 awardee, as is done now. The following is provided for its historical significance to SRM and personal significance to PNW members. Tom Platt, 2/9/21.

Hello Andrea!

Thank you so very much for your beautiful card with the amazing photograph of "Amarillo in the Morning" depicting two range riders on horseback with a magnificent sunrise in their midst. Thank you, too, for expressing interest in my relationship to the Society for Range Management and how I have been moved to contribute to your students. It is rare that I receive such appreciative personal notes of thanks, and that makes my contributions even more meaningful!

I was going to email a bio of my father who was a 1948 Charter member of the SRM however, instead, I thought it fitting to send you the enclosed copies that better explain his long-time involvement with SRM, how and why he became involved in SRM and how it greatly helped him attain the career goals he had as a young man interested in rangeland research and administration. Despite not completing his Master's Degree at Syracuse University, he defied the odds and had a very successful and colorful 38 -year career with the USFS and went on to return to Washington DC for the 2nd time during his career; becoming Associate Deputy Chief for Research after which he retired from the USFS in 1978. His strong and effective leadership qualities, his research-based knowledge that he gained throughout the years, his intelligence, and his ability to create positive working relationships all contributed to him realizing his lifelong passion for range research and management. (see #1 of SRM questionnaire)

Prior to his 2nd and last USFS assignment in DC, he first worked at the Rocky Mt. Forest and Range Experiment Station in CO as a Range Conservationist, then was Project Leader at the Blue Mt. Research Center ((Starkey) in E. OR, (PNW Forest and Range Experiment Station), then was Asst. Director in Division of Range Mgt. In DC, then Assistant Director of PNW Forest and Range Experiment Station in Portland, then Director of Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station in Ogden, and then Director of PSW Forest and Range Experiment Station in Berkeley CA.

My father gave the ASRM much credit for helping him to attain his lifetime career goals; opportunities to communicate with constituents and research information users and also benefit from peer contacts through ASRM. (note #4 response of SRM questionnaire).

In addition to receiving an "Outstanding Achievement and Service Citation" from SRM in 1976, he also served in various SRM positions and was President of the PNW Section in 1966. He also received the "Trail Boss Award," and I still have his TB Belt that he was given. To date, I have never seen his name on the online "Trail Boss" recipient list. I would be willing to donate this belt if the SRM has any interest in putting it to good use within the PNW Section. As you can tell, I am very proud of my father, and more importantly, he has always been my "Hero" and an amazing role-model as a father and a man. He would be so pleased that I have continued to contribute to SRM and make a small difference in the lives of those who are passionate about preserving and managing our national forests and rangelands.

Sincerely, Marguerite Fitzpatrick

daughter of Robert W. Harris Sem Charter member



SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT

Citation for Outstanding Achievement and Service

ROBERT W. HARRIS

In recognition of his distinguished service as a range research scientist and for his administrative leadership in integrated forest-range research.

A native of Blue Earth County, Minnesota, Robert W. Harris was raised in South Dakota. He received a baccalaureate degree in forestry from the University of Idaho in 1941. Since then he has studied forest ecology at the State University of New York at Syracuse in 1942, electronic engineering at Harvard University in 1943, and business administration at Portland University in 1961.

Mr. Harris' professional career began in 1946 as a range ecologist on the Central Plains Experimental Ranch, Rocky Mountain Range and Forest Experiment Station. He was transferred to Oregon in 1947 to develop grazing management research programs on the Starky Experimental Forest and Range. In 1957 he was named director, Division of Range Management, Forest Service, Washington, D.C., in charge of nationwide programs on range allotment analysis and management planning. He was research administrator for range wildlife watershed and recreation programs in the Pacific Northwest from 1960 through 1970. In 1971 Mr. Harris was appointed director, Intermountain Range and Forest Experiment Station at Ogden, Utah; and in 1974 he was named director, Pacific Southwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, Berkeley, California.

Through research and demonstration in the Pacific Northwest and the Intermountain Region, Mr. Harris has successfully developed grazing management practices that provide maximum production of forage for livestock along with integrated forage management for wildlife and conservation of water and timber resources on Ponderosa pine forest ranges. Management and improvement of ranges through salting, water development, proper season of use, and grazing systems has been demonstrated on nearly 75% of the public and private ranges in the Northwest. These efforts were possible because of Mr. Harris' ability to work through cooperative efforts with livestock associations, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Cooperative Extension Service, ranchers, and range technicians of the Soil Conservation Service, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and State Fish and Game and Natural Resource agencies.

The results of research directed or administered by Mr. Harris have been used widely in establishing policies for resource management of public lands. Concepts developed by him have played a major role in reshaping the national range research program of the Forest Service as described in the publication "Range Ecosystem Research—The Challenge of Change" published in 1970. "The Nation's Range Resources—A Forest Range Environment Study," published in 1972, was designed to explore the current prospective production of resources and roles of grazing on 1.2 billion acres of forest range of the United States.

Mr. Harris has held continuous membership since becoming a charter member of SRM. He served as president and served several terms on the Board of Directors of the Pacific Northwest Section, and as vice president for the National Capital Section. He has also served on numerous committees for the various SRM Sections and chairman of important committees and boards for the Society for Range Management. In addition to the Society for Range Management, he is a member of the Soil Conservation Society of America, Society of American Foresters, Oregon Academy of Science, American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the American Institute of Biological Sciences.

For his outstanding achievements, professional accomplishments, and service to the Society, the Society for Range Management is honored to present to Robert W. Harris its Outstanding Achievement and Service Award.



February 19, 1976 Omaha, Nebraska

Fourth in a Series: Insight From SRM's Charter Members

The SRM History Committee has conducted interviews with many of the Society's charter members to capture their perspective of events leading to and subsequent to the formation of the American Society of Range Management in 1947–1948. Interviews from several of these individuals will be shared for today's SRM members to enjoy and learn from.

SRM Charter Member— Robert W. Harris

Editor's Note: Robert W. (Bob) Harris was unable to develop answers to the questions submitted, as he has Alzheimer's disease and is confined to a nursing home. His daughter, Margie Fitzpatrick, and his longtime colleague Jon Skovlin responded to the questions in Bob's stead. SRM thanks them for their fine efforts.

Robert W. (Bob) Harris, has lived in Wilsonville, Oregon, for the past 25 years. His career with the US Forest Service (USFS) spanned over a period of 38 years, starting as a seasonal employee in 1939 and 1940. He retired from the Forest Service in 1978 as associate deputy chief for research in Washington, DC. Following retirement, Bob and his wife, Joan, moved to Oregon, where he continued to remain active in areas related to environmental issues and concerns. He has served on the Oregon State Board of Forestry and was a director of the American Forestry Association for 2 terms, retiring in 1989.

Bob was born in Minnesota but moved to South Dakota when he was 5 years old. Growing up during the Depression and dust bowl years provided firsthand experience of the effects that drought had on the farmers. The environmental and economic conditions during the early years in South Dakota influenced Bob's interest in the area of range management. As the drought intensified, food was short for livestock. A federal agriculture program in the new Roosevelt administration bought cattle, pigs, and sheep for slaughter. He can remember hearing those starving animals in the stockyards all night long as they awaited railroad cars to take them to the slaughterhouses.

Bob received a BS degree in forestry in 1941 from

the University of Idaho. One of his professors, Dr Vernon Young, professor of range management, was instrumental in encouraging Bob to pursue a career in range management. Dr Young recommended Bob for a teaching fellowship and graduate studies in forestry. Following these suggestions, Bob became a postgraduate student at the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University in Syracuse, New York, in 1941-1942, pursuing a master's degree in forest ecology. During the summers, he worked as an agricultural aid on the central plains at the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station at Ft. Collins, Colorado. Realizing that it would be impossible for him to complete his final year of graduate school before being drafted, he enlisted in the US Marine Corps, serving 4 years, including active duty during World War II. The completed portion of his master's thesis was stored at the Central Great Plains Field Center, and, unfortunately, it was destroyed in a fire at this facility. Although he did not complete his master's degree, it did not prevent him from achieving his goal of eventually becoming a research scientist and administrator in the area of range management. In 1946, he started his professional career with the USFS as a range researcher and forest ecologist at the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station in Colorado.

At the time of the American Society of Range Management (ASRM) formation in 1947–1948, Bob was living in La Grande, Oregon, and working at the Blue Mountain Research Center, Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, developing grazing management research programs on the Starkey Experimental Forest and Range in northeastern Oregon. Bob learned of the ASRM primarily through colleagues in forest service research. He be-

came an ASRM charter member. As a new member, his expectations were very high. As a young professional forester, he needed a peer network, contacts with users, and an outlet for research results. The Society for Range Management (SRM) provided all of these. Bob has noted that the addition of Rangelands in the past 25 years was a great boost for disseminating new knowledge. (Editor's Note: It is unknown if Bob attended the first meeting of the ASRM in Salt Lake City.)

Bob has stated that "ASRM/SRM involvement was definitely encouraged by my supervisors and the USFS in general. It provided employees a network of information on range research as well as an opportunity to share and exchange range research data and results with constituents. It also encouraged communication and brainstorming of ideas among those employees involved in range management research."

Bob was a member of the Pacific Northwest Section, National Capitol Section, Intermountain Section, and California Section. He has been president of the Pacific Northwest Section and vice president of the National Capitol Section. He has served on various committees at both the section and the national level-most notably the Awards, Membership, and Nominating Committees-and the Editorial Board. He noted, "It has been my observation that our society of late could provide a more unifying or leading role in some of the more fragmented aspects of range management. For example, how can we position ourselves to better serve managers on methods and interpretations of "range trend" or succession? Also, what has happened to the goals of the old 'Task Force on Unity in Concept and Terminology?' There are several other such areas of basic concern. We should play a more aggressive leadership role in direction, problem solving, and unification of methodology."

Bob also suggested that the profession could have become more cognizant of livestock grazing effects on the other related resources earlier. Though research information was available, we appeared to hold closely to information and cling to a management philosophy aimed at industry production themes for too long.

One of his observations has been that SRM provides a great forum for expressing various outlooks

on politicized issues. Resolutions from our society are a great way to influence policy and subsequent management at many levels. SRM should continue its positive efforts to solicit members from user groups. Regarding professionalism, SRM has served range professionals well, but, in terms of serving the broad array of user groups and making the general public aware of needs and opportunities in rangeland management, there is still room for improvement. Although there are many opportunities for young people to make a contribution to the rangeland resource, he believes there is still a need for expanding employment possibilities and providing greater accessibility to those wishing to pursue a career in rangeland management. He would encourage interested young people to seek out individuals involved in the area of range management as well as organizations such as SRM. He would also encourage the professionals to take on mentor roles, encouraging, inspiring, teaching, and sharing their own passion for rangeland management to young people wishing to make a contribution to this field.

SRM Charter Member— Gerald W. Thomas

Editor's Note: Gerald Thomas recorded these comments on September 30, 2003, in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

I am presently retired and now am President Emeritus of New Mexico State University. My association with the Society for Range Management goes back to the time it was started. At the time the Society was formed I was working for the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in St. Anthony, Idaho. I was contacted by Dr Vernon A. Young, who at that time was head of the Department of Range Management at the University of Idaho, right after the early discussions about the Society. I had graduated from the University of Idaho in February 1941, worked for the Forest Service during summers and until World War II broke out. I had some continuing contacts with Dr Young and continued my interest. Of course, after the war, I went to work for the Soil Conservation Service and was interested in this new society and the profession of range management.

Even though I am a charter member of the Society, I was unable to attend the first meeting in

SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT

Outline for Documenting Qualifications for Society Commendations

- 1. Robert W. Harris
- 2. Native of Blue Earth County, Minnesota, raised in South Dakota. Early work experience included assignments in Idaho, Montana and Colorado on forest fire suppression and sheep management studies. Professional career began in 1946 as a range ecologist on the Central Plains Experimental Range, Rocky Mt. Forest and Range Exp. Sta. Transferred to Oregon in 1947 to develop grazing management research program on the Starkey Exp. Forest and Range. Research included testing of cattle management systems, and their impacts on soil, water, wildlife and timber values and demonstration of range management practices such as range riding, water development, fencing, salting, and season of use on improvement of ponderosa pine forest ranges. Assistant Director, Div. of Range Management, Forest Service, Washington, D. C. from 1957 to 1960 in charge of nationwide program of range allotment analysis and management planning. Research administrator for range, wildlife, watershed and recreation programs in Oregon, Washington and Alaska, 1960-70. Appointed Director, Intermountain Forest and Range Exp. Sta., Ogden, Utah in 1971 and Director, Pacific Southwest Forest and Range Exp. Sta., Berkeley, Calif. in 1974.
- 3. 1941 University of Idaho- B.S. (Forestry)
 1942 State University of New York, Syracuse (Forest Ecology)
 1943 Harvard University (Electronic Engineering)
 1961 Portland State University (Business Administration)
- 4. Charter member SRM. Continuous membership.
- 5. Pacific Northwest Section President, 1966
 Board of Directors, 1957, 1967
 National Capitol Section Vice-President, 1959
 Parent Society none
- 6. Portland Chapter Natural Area, Exhibit
 Pacific Northwest Section Program Chairman for various field and winter
 meetings, 1949-70. Resolutions (Chairman,
 1969). Research, Nominating (Chairman 1968),
 Youth activities, membership, awards, natural
 area.

National Capitol Section - Program Chairman, 1958

Parent society - Awards, 1972-74, Chairman 1974

Editorial Board 1965-67

Program, 1960, 1966, 1969, 1970 .

Chairman, Recreation Resources on Rangelands, 1970

Society for Range Management Questionnaire

1. My name is Robert W. Harris, and I have lived in Wilsonville OR for the past 25 years. My career with the USFS spanned over a period of 38 years, and I first began my career with the Forest Service as a seasonal employee in 1939 and 1940. In 1941, I received a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry at the University of Idaho. I retired in 1978 as Associate Deputy Chief for Research, USFS, in Washington, D.C. My wife, Joan, and I moved to Oregon, and I continued to remain active in areas related to environmental issues and concerns. I served two terms on the Oregon State Board of Forestry and was also a member and chairman of the Wilsonville City Council. In addition, I was chairman of a committee that successfully prevented a landfill from being formed near my home in the Charbonneau District. This landfill would have had a huge negative impact on the land, vegetation, and wildlife in a widespread area. I later served on Metro's Solid Waste Advisory Committee for five years. I served two terms as a Director of the American Forestry Association, retiring in 1989.

My career with the USFS was extremly rewarding as well as challenging too. I realized my ultimate goal, and that was directing and administrating wild-land management research. It was through years of experience with watershed, forest, and wildlife management as well as range research that this goal was ultimately met. My early career days were filled with a wealth of experiences- positive working relationships with individuals who shared a passion for range management, cooperative associations with numerous environmental groups, and living out my life-long passion for range research and management. The ultimate honor was in receiving an Outstanding Achievement and Service Award from the SRM in 1976. This award is a reflection of the the objectives set forth by the SRM and never could have been achieved without the cooperation and dedication of the many respected people I worked with throughout my career.

- 2. In 1947-48, I was living in La Grande, OR and working at the Blue Mountain Research Center, Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station. I was hired to develop grazing management research programs on the Starkey Experimental Forest and Range in northeastern Oregon. I was very interested in this program, and my transfer to Eastern Oregon in 1947 provided an opportunity for me to move closer to my goal of being a research leader and administrator in the area of Range Management. I eventually became Project Leader for this research unit and was responsible for the administration and day-to-day research operations and planning for forest, range, wildlife, and watershed studies. We performed controlled experiments on the Starkey Experimental Forest and Range in northeastern Oregon and also studies on nearby federal, state, and private lands. The area of responsibility was the Blue Mountain Research Province.
- 3. I received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry in 1941 from the University of Idaho. My interest and involvement in Range Management became especially apparent

4. I learned of ASRM primarily through my work and through colleagues in Forest Service Research. Apart from an opportunity to communicate with constituents and research information users, I believed that it would be an opportune outlet for range research results. Range research results until that time were largely confined to lay-person magazines, station or university bulletins, or the Journal of Forestry.

Initially, I believe that local chapters were proposed and formed.

As a charter member, my first Section was the Pacific Northwest Section. I was also a member of the National Capitol Section, Intermountain Section, and California Section.

- 5. No information on this question. (William D. Hurst, 9125 Copper Avenue, N.E. Apt. 222, Albuquerque, NM 87123, phone 505-332-4481 may know)
- 6. My expectations were very high. I was a young professional forester at the time and had a completed regional problem analysis in hand as well as a new, fully funded tenyear study plan to investigate the effects of systems and levels of grazing. We needed a peer network, contacts with users, and an outlet for research results. SRM provided all of these.

Yes, my expectations have been fulfilled over the years. All the above needs were met through the Society. The addition of *Rangelands* in the past 25 years was a great boost for disseminating new knowledge.

7. My career with the USFS spanned over a period of 38 years, and I began working with the Forest Service while working toward a Forestry degree at the University of Idaho. My first job was during the summer of 1939, working as a smokechaser (forest fire suppression), field assistant, and crew leader in the Coeur d'Alene National Forest in Idaho. I spent the summer of 1940 in the same locale and seasonal job position. After graduating from college in 1941, I spent the summer in Colorado as an Agricultural Aid doing range research (sheep management studies) on the Central Plains Range at the Rocky Mountain Range and Experimental Station. I was a graduate student in Forest Ecology at the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University (Syracuse, N.Y.) during the 1941-42 school year. I then spent the next four years in the USMC. My professional career with the USFS began in 1946 as a Range Ecologist at the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station in Fort Collins, Colorado. Subsequent jobs included Research Scientist and Project Research Leader at the Starkey Experimental Forest and Range near La Grande, OR., Assistant Director for the Division of Range Management for the USFS in Washington, D.C., Assistant Director for Forest and Environment Research, PNW Forest and Range Experiment Station (Portland), Director of the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station (Ogden), Director of the PSW Forest and Range Experiment Station (Berkeley) and Associate Deputy Chief for Research, USFS, in Washington D.C. After retiring and returning to Oregon, I served two terms on the State Board of Forestry and was a member of the Wilsonville City Council.

ASRM/SRM involvement was definitely encouraged by my supervisors and the USFS in general. It provided employees a network of information on Range research as well as an

opportunity to share and exchange range research data and results with constitutents. It also encouraged communication and brainstorming of ideas among those employees involved in Range Management research.

8. Pacific Northwest Section-

President, 1966

Board of Directors, 1957, 1967

National Capitol Section-

Vice-President, 1959

Parent Society-

none

Portland Chapter-

Natural Area, Exhibit

Pacific NW Section-

Program Chairman for various field and winter meetings -1949-70, Resolutions (Chairman, 1969). Research, nominating (Chairman 1968), Youth

activities, membership, awards, natural area.

National Capitol Section-Parent SocietyProgram Chairman, 1958

Awards -1972-74, Chairman 1974

Editorial Board- 1965-67

Program -1960, 1966, 1969, 1970

Chairman, Recreation Resources on Rangelands,

1970

Chairman, Water Resources and Changes in Land

use in the West, 1967

Council of Section Presidents, 1966

Membership, nominating, professional standards

In addition to the above, I worked on:

*Development of section and parent society meeting programs emphasizing relation-

ships of range to other natural resource values.

- *Development of natural area concepts within SRM and acceptance by Board of Directors, SRM, of range reference area program in 1966.
- *Participation in youth programs of PNW Section
- *Establishment o Chapters within PNW Section
- *Reporting grazing managment research results to SRM members through Section and Parent Society meetings.
- 9. For the first twenty five years, our society's purpose and objectives were on track and well focused. late into the last century, however, we could have become more cognizant of livestock grazing effects on other related resources. Though research information was available we held closely to information and a management philosophy aimed at industry production themes. We were just a bit slow on picking up results from studies of interaction and restoration aspects and then applying them in a management context.

It has been my observation that our society of late could provide a more unifying or leading role in some of the more fragmented aspects of range management. For example,

how can we position ourselves to better serve managers on methods and interpretations of "range trend" or succession? Also, what has happened to the goals of the old "Task Force on Unity in Concept and Terminology?" There are several other such areas of basic concern. We should play a more aggressive leadership role in direction, problem solving, and unification of methodology.

One of my observations has been that SRM provides a great forum for expressing various outlooks on politicized issues. Resolutions from our society are a great way to influence policy and subsequent management at many levels. SRM should continue its positive efforts to solicit members from user groups. As regards professionalism, SRM has served we range professionals well, but, in terms of serving the broad array of user groups and making the general public aware of needs and opportunities in rangeland management, there is still room for improvement. Although there are many opportunities for young people to make a contribution to the rangeland resource, I believe there is still a need for expanding employment possibilities and providing greater accessibility to those wishing to pursue a career in rangeland management. I would encourage interested young people to seek out individuals involved in the area of range management as well as organizations such as SRM. I would also encourage the professionals to take on mentor roles, encouraging, inspiring, teaching, and sharing their own passion for rangeland management to young people wishing to make a contribution to this field.

PNW Section Update

Welcome to PNW SRM

Sue Greer, Condon, OR
Andy Kelher, LaGrande, OR
Ian Levitt, Edmonton, AB
Nik Nilson, LaGrande, OR
Sara Reed, LaGrande, OR
Teresa Smergut, Enterprise, OR
Mike Spicer, LaGrande, OR
Thanks, Curt Yanish, Mike
McInnis, Amy Derby & Debra
Bunch for inviting these folks!

Congratulations

Congratulations to...

Tip Hudson, WSU Extension Agent, for successfully completing the proficiency examination to become a Certified Professional Range Manager.

Going to China!

Three (at least) PNW members will go to Hohhot, China in June for the Joint International Grassland & Rangeland Congress. **Joe Wagner**, **Berta Youtie** and **Sandra Wyman** will represent us AND <u>they will have articles</u> to submit for the next newsletter! If you know other PNW folks attending, please let us know.

Reminders

First Response Team is for you!

If you need ideas, counsel, or advice in technical or controversial topics, a team of PNW past-presidents and others is here for you. The immediate Past-president coordinates this activity. Call or send your question to **Joe Wagner**, 541-947-6175 or Joseph_Wagner@or.blm.gov The process works. Try it - you'll like it!

PNW Bulletin Board

A fine tri-fold felt-covered board, ideal for many uses, is available for chapters. **Fred Hall** "houses" the board. Contact Fred at Fred_C_Hall@plantecolnw.com

Lost Resources

During World War II, **Earl Hardie** received a Purple Heart for service in Normandy, then went to the Battle of the Bulge, and Czechoslovakia. Returning to Oregon State College, he earned his bachelor's degree in 1949. Earl worked two years for the Pendleton Grain Growers, and several years for the State Department in West Africa. When his father died, Earl assumed responsibility for the family's Lost Valley Ranch in Gilliam County, Oregon. Care of the land was one of his passions, and lead to his becoming the 1978 Oregon Conservation Man of the Year. Earl loved square dancing, bag pipes, serving his community and university, and managing his land with care. *Thanks to Mary Beth Smith, NRCS, Moro, OR, who knew Earl to be a steward of the land.*

Robert W. Harris, SRM charter member, USFS Associate Deputy Chief for Research, National Science Foundation, California Condor Advisory Committee, Oregon Board of Forestry, City Councilman,... Bob wore many hats. He earned a forestry degree from the University of Idaho in 1941. A World War II Marine radar officer, he led nighttime operations in the Pacific. Returning to forestry in 1946, he soon had a 10-year study plan to investigate the effects of systems & levels of grazing at the Starkey Experimental Forest & Range in NE Oregon. Bob needed a peer network, contacts with users, and an outlet for research results. SRM and its *Rangelands* met those expectations. Bob served as President of PNW Section, VP of the National Capitol Section, and chaired Section and Parent Society committees. Robert Harris was an "Outstanding Alumnus" of the U. of ID, a "Fellow" of the Society for American Foresters, and proud to be in SRM. *Thanks to Marguerite Harris Fitzpatrick, Milwaukee, OR. for sharing the life of her father.*