



# Pacific Northwest Section Society for Range Management

Volume 73 Number 2, August 2022

## President's Message

*Carlos Ochoa, OR*

**Dear SRM-PNW Section Members,**

I hope your summer is going well and you have had a productive field season. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and provide a summary of some of the work we have done in the last ten months since I took over as President. A comprehensive report will be provided at the annual meeting in October.

This year, we were able to go back to our traditional in-person conferences and tours. I thank Andrea Mann and the Pendleton, OR team for organizing the May spring meeting. Also, thanks to Tom Platt and the WA chapter friends for organizing the upcoming Annual Meeting, Banquet, and Field Tour in Cheney, WA (October 5-7, 2022); see details below. I hope to see many of you at the meeting! Also, please consider participating in the *Home on the Range* webinar series organized by the BC chapter. These webinars have been a great success in past years, and I expect it will be even better this year.

I am grateful to the Nominating and



Also, I want to thank the BOD of the parent society for their approval of our proposal requesting matching funds to revamp our Section's communications strategy. Bob Gillaspay is leading this task with the help of the communications team. As part of this effort, we aim to recruit young professionals interested in helping with an integrated communication and outreach strategy for the Section. I thank Julie Conley for her valuable work as the newsletter editor this term. Julie has asked to step down from this role to attend to other obligations. If you are interested in helping as the newsletter editor or in any position in the communications team, please don't hesitate to contact Bob.

Based on the various options discussed with the parent society, we agreed that the PNW Section would host the SRM International Annual Meeting in 2025 in Spokane, WA. A core group (Carlos

Elections Committee for helping with two elections this year; a special election in November 2021 to fill vacant positions and our upcoming regular elections in the Fall. Please see the information about our Director and 2nd VP candidates and vote before the annual meeting. It is great to see that in both elections, we have had a good combination of more experienced and young professionals interested in running for leadership positions in the Section. Thank you to the candidates and those who considered it but decided to postpone it for a future time.

Thank you to the BOD for supporting the various initiatives we have presented this year. That includes submitting our bid to host the 2025 SRM Annual Meeting and updates to the Section's current bylaws to move to an electronic ballot for the upcoming and future elections—also, changes to allow separate roles for treasurer and corporate representative. I want to thank Jamie McCormack for the many years as treasurer and for staying around this year until we could find a new treasurer. We are fortunate that Tom Platt has accepted to take on that role following the annual meeting in October.

Ochoa, Chris Schachtschneider, Pat Shaver, John Buckhouse, and Andrea Mann) will be meeting soon to discuss the next steps. As we move forward, we will start reaching out to a number of you for some help and guidance with the various tasks. However, don't wait and please let us know if you are interested in participating in the planning or at any other stage during the process!

Congratulations to John and Lynne Breese and Connie Hatfield for receiving the OSU College of Agricultural Sciences - Diamond Pioneer Awards in recognition of their lifetime contributions to agriculture, natural resources, and the people of Oregon. See more about their bios and achievements below. Also, stay tuned for more PNW colleagues being recognized at the Section's Annual Meeting in a few more weeks.

Thank you very much for supporting the PNW Section and your dedication to the rangeland management profession.

Sincerely,

Carlos Ochoa



*Photo: Hollinger, 2013 CC2.0*

## **2022 PNW SRM Annual Meeting and Tour, October 5-7, Cheney WA**

The word is out, but here is another reminder! Get ready to travel to Cheney, WA to catch up and socialize with friends and colleagues and make new friends and connections. See student presentations and posters. The Washington Chapter has put together an excellent program focused on:

### **Restoring and protecting sensitive ecosystems in the Inland Northwest.**

- Stream headwaters restoration, Coeur d'Alene Tribe
- Farming the Palouse, McGregor Company
- Wildlife habitat restoration, Turnbull Wildlife Refuge
- Turnbull Laboratory for Ecological Studies (TLES), an ecological field station and research/educational partnership between Eastern Washington University (EWU) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Palouse Prairie restoration, Eastern Washington University
- Ranching the Channeled Scablands, Golden West Ranch
- Annual Meeting

Registration. \$145 by September 21, 2022.

Student Registration. \$100 by September 21, 2022

Single Day Registration. \$40-50

Late Registration. \$15 additional. Meals not guaranteed after September 27, 2022

Motels rooms held until late September. Follow link below for rates.

[All meeting information and online registration](#)

[Downloadable Flier, Registration form, call for posters/presentations](#)

[For more information or assistance, contact SRM WA Chapter](#)

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Forwarded from the desk of [Andrea Mann](#), SRM PNW Section Secretary.

### **Vote on Bylaws amendments by September 15, 2022.**

The Board recently proposed amendments to the Bylaws for submission to the membership for approval.

The amendments are intended to:

1. Allow electronic voting for elections.
2. Separate the Treasurer and Corporate Representative positions so that the Treasurer can reside outside of Oregon. State law requires the Corporate Representative to have a physical presence in Oregon.
3. Allow electronic voting for Bylaws amendments.



[Vote online by September 15 here](#)

**Request a paper ballot** from [Andrea Mann](#), (509) 670-7743

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### **Vote for 2nd Vice President and Directors by October 2**

The Election is now open for 2nd Vice President and two Directors. Please consider this

excellent slate of candidates and *vote by the October 2, 2022 deadline*. Election results will be announced at the annual meeting on October 7. Of course, you must be a currently paid member of SRM in order to vote.

Candidates are:

**2nd Vice President** Chris Schachtschneider

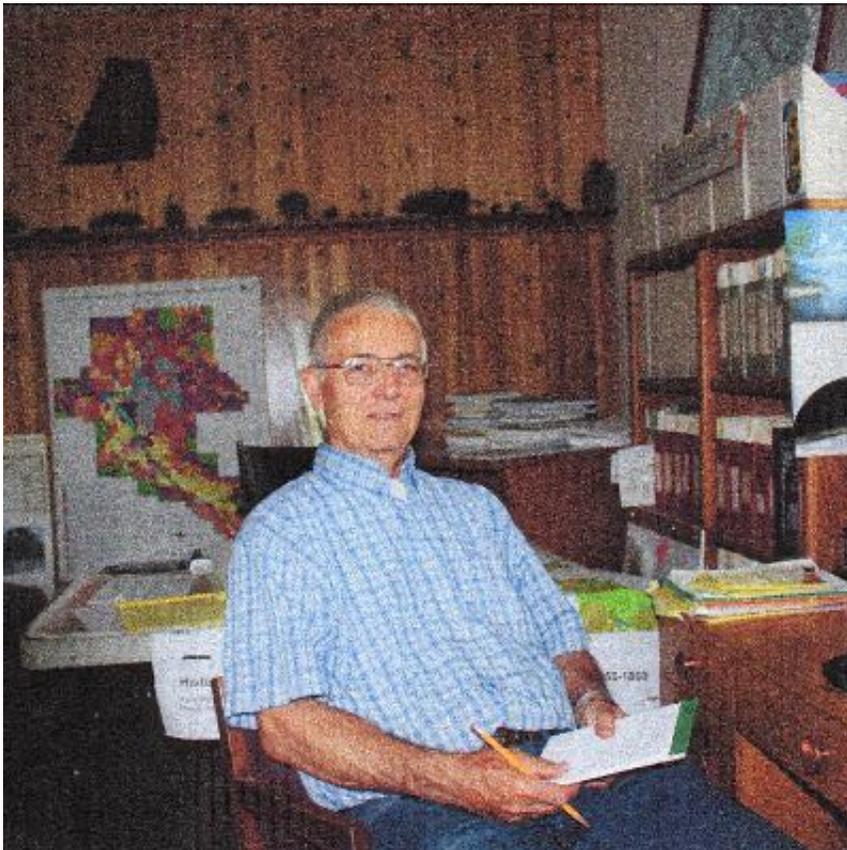


**Director** (vote for two)

Josh Hanson



Gene Hickman



Andy Neary



Rory O'Connor



**Candidate bio's, statements, and electronic ballot can be found [here](#).**

If you prefer **paper ballot**, you may request one from me by [email](#) or phone or text message, (509) 670-7743. You may also download paper ballot [here](#).

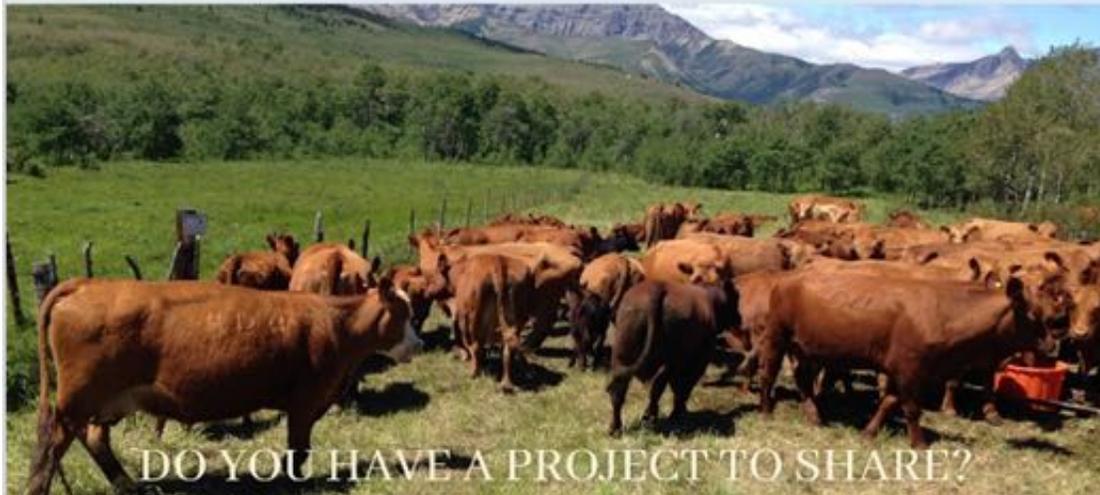
Thanks to the candidates for their willingness to serve the Section.

**Presenters Sought for 2022 Home on the Range Webinar Series**

*The BC Chapter presents...*

# HOME ON THE RANGE

A webinar series for the Pacific Northwest Section of  
the Society for Range Management



Once again, the BC Chapter is hosting a webinar series to showcase projects and case studies of professionals and students in the field of Range Management within the PNW Section. Each 30-minute webinar will feature one, 15-minute presentation, followed by time for questions and discussions.

Presentations will be **Tuesdays at 12 pm, PT October 11, 18, 25 November 1, 8, 22**

Interested? View our 2021 Fall Webinar series YouTube playlist here: [QUESTIONS?](#)

[BCChapterSRM@gmail.com](mailto:BCChapterSRM@gmail.com) The BC Chapter presents... If you are interested in presenting your project, **please submit a summary and your preference for dates to**

**[BCChapterSRM@gmail.com](mailto:BCChapterSRM@gmail.com) by August 29, 2022**

To see some of the past productions visit the BC Chapter YouTube channel Here: [BC Chapter SRM - YouTube](#) for the full playlists from 2020 and 2021.

## **Students Share Their Experiences from the Roots of Resilience Conference held at the PNW Section 2022 Spring Meeting**

*"Attending the PNW Society for Range Management Spring Meeting was a wonderful*

***opportunity to meet professionals in the industry"*** - Robert Luster, Oregon State University

The Society for Range Management is a great organization with support from the Pacific Northwest chapter for members to excel in all aspects of rangeland ecology and management. This year for the 2022 Roots of Resilience Grazing Conference in Pendleton Oregon gave an excellent opportunity for members and students to attend a three-day conference packed with educational, technical, and practical information for success in a ranching or farming enterprise. The Spring 2022 meeting with the leadership planning meetings, student poster session, guest speakers, and field demonstrations were all-inspiring to continue for volunteering, while having a connection with people involved in rangeland ecology and management.

Attending the PNW Society for Range Management Spring Meeting was a wonderful opportunity to meet professionals in the industry with guest speakers Dave Pratt and Nicole Masters. Dave Pratt with The Ranching for Profit Schools was a great introduction to a new way of thinking. Nicole Masters with a Visual Health, dig a hole, and rip and drip ideas for holistic soil health was inspiring. This was also a fantastic way to network contacts with people currently working and retired during all the sessions. While presenting an introduction during the student poster session, the perspective to take the moment to view other students poster and connect with their research endeavors was innovating for future research questions and ideas. I cannot wait for the next SRM national and regional meeting. Thank you. --Robert Luster

***"The most important lessons that I will be taking home were by Nicole Masters whose vast knowledge gave me plenty of ideas for the paper that I am now working on"*** - Daniel Gomez, Oregon State University

At first glance this conference didn't have to do much with my field of study since I am a Water Resources Science graduate student, but I got exactly what I was hoping to get out of this conference. My thesis work is calculating groundwater recharge in an irrigated, livestock-grazed pasture field and one of the issues that I kept running into when I was writing my first published paper was connecting the dots between water infiltration, soil health, pasture, and livestock.

Throughout the conference I learned a lot from Dave Pratt and Chris Schachtschneider such as the enormous economic impact that livestock have on a ranch and the difficulties that ranchers face to maintain healthy livestock while also producing a profit to maintain their operations. In addition, I learned the importance of treating ranching as business instead of a hobby and the need to properly train and treat livestock to reduce stress and improve health.

The most important lessons that I will be taking home were by Nicole Masters whose vast

knowledge gave me plenty of ideas for the paper that I am now working on. While I knew that proper water infiltration was important for groundwater recharge and ecosystem services, I had not made the connection that it is also a product of healthy soils which in turn produce palatable and nutrient rich pasture that feed livestock. Proper management of land will ensure a healthy pastureland for continued livestock operations. This was extremely important for me to learn as Oregon and much of the American West are experiencing drought and one of the impacts of climate change include shifts in precipitation which threaten water percolation, soil water storage, soil health, livestock health, and ranching operations. -- Daniel Gomez

Forwarded from the Desk of [John Buckhouse](#), PNW Awards Chair

## **OSU College of Agricultural Sciences Adds PNW SRM Past Honorees to Registry of Diamond Pioneers**

On April 19, 2022, Connie Hatfield, Lynne Breese and John Breese were each inducted into the OSU College of Agricultural Sciences Registry of Diamond Pioneers, honoring careers of service to the advancement of agriculture and natural resources.

All three of these individuals deserve applause for the myriad contributions they have made over decades!

It is also appropriate to note that the PNW has, for years, appreciated and rewarded these individuals (and the wife/husband teams from which they operated). Doc and Connie Hatfield were awarded the PNW Trail Boss Award in 1990 and John and Lynne Breese were awarded the PNW Trail Boss Award in 2004.

Please see below the blurps prepared by the PNW Section Awards Committee on behalf of these individuals. Also link [here](#) to see a photo and read about how this honor is bestowed.

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**John and Lynne Breese, Diamond Pioneers**



And the beat goes on....both John's father, Eldred Breese—a life-long rancher in Central Oregon; and Lynne's father, Neil Hoffman, Superintendent of the OSU Malheur Field Station in Ontario, OR. have been honored on the Registry of Diamond Pioneers...and now the Breese team of John and Lynne are next in the que!

What a phenomenal team the Breeses are! In Lynne's case, following graduation from OSU in 1963 in Home Economics, she served an OSU Extension career for 17 years in 4-H and Home Economics; In John's case, following graduation from OSU in Science in 1969 and with a Master's degree in 1974—with four years in between to serve his country as a helicopter pilot in the US Army, with service in Vietnam, in between these educational ventures---John had a 13 year career as an eastern Oregon High School science teacher.

In 1987, following John's father's death, the Breeses returned to the ranch in Prineville, which had been homesteaded by John's Great Grandfather in 1888. Together this formidable team set about providing educational opportunities and community service while simultaneously improving the ecological status of the ranch and doing the necessary chores germane to making a living from the land.

The short list of John and Lynne's Community and Natural Resource professional activities are:

The Society for Range Management/Pacific Northwest Section, where both are long-time members and John has served as President and a Director, Lynne has served as a Director and also for 17 years as the Editor of the Newsletter. Both have been members of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association since 1988. Both are members of the Eastern Oregon Forest Protection Association since 1990, with Lynne also serving as the secretary to the Association since 2000. Both have been members of the Crook County Stock Growers Association since 2005. Both have been members of the Crooked River Watershed Council since 2002 and on the Budget Board since 2018. John has additionally served on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, ODFW, Access and Habitat State Board since 2017; and as a member of the Eastern Oregon Agriculture Research Center, EOARC, Advisory Council. Meanwhile, Lynne served on the Crook County Extension Advisory Council since 2016; and on the Taylor Grazing Committee “for a long time”!

In terms of cooperation with educational ventures, John and Lynne have hosted high school and university students at the ranch since the late 1980’s. Annual field trips to the ranch have been the highlight of many students’ academic careers....especially for those OSU students preparing to embark on a natural resources career and who have been delighted to find practitioners in the field doing hands-on watershed management and rehabilitation!

Of the myriad other educational ventures that Team Breese has hosted, one which stands out dramatically was “Nan’s Weekend” which they hosted for years. This was a work party weekend where local, rural residents teamed up with urban, environmentally focused individuals at the ranch for a weekend of practical work (fence building, invasive species control, and watershed/riparian restoration projects) coupled with joint opportunities to learn across the rural-urban divide. All this paired with laughter and great food! What a success these weekends have been!

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, is the Breeses’ on-going effort to bring the ranch back to something approaching the high ecological status the land experienced prior to European settlement. Lynne and John have worked tirelessly to control encroaching juniper, to control noxious weeds, and to encourage native vegetation establishment in order to positively influence precipitation to soak into the soil to the benefit of water flow, erosion prevention, and water quality! As a result, the land is much more sustainable, wildlife are thriving, and economic production is stable!

For these and multiple other efforts, John and Lynne Breese have been recognized locally, regionally and nationally. This team has received the highest honors the Pacific Northwest Section of the international Society for Range Management, SRM, offers in its Trail Boss Award; Its Outstanding Ranchers’ Award; and its “In for the Long Haul” Award. The international SRM has awarded John and Lynne its Outstanding Achievement Award and additionally its recognition as being one of the top two Outstanding Sustainable Ranching Awards!

John and Lynne Breese are a remarkable team who have served Oregon Agriculture and Natural Resources long and well. These two are true Diamond Pioneers!

Connie Hatfield, along with her late husband, Doc, and children, Travis and Becky, arrived in the Oregon High Desert in 1976. They left behind a successful veterinary practice in the Bitterroot Valley of Western Montana to establish a ranch where livestock and nature were in balance. They had tired of “fixing veterinary wrecks” due to stockmen attempting to push production beyond the natural capacities of both the land and the animals. The Hatfield High Desert Ranch set out to demonstrate how a ranch could be ecologically sustainable and simultaneously economically viable. They did this by adjusting grazing practices to a “one bite” concept---where an animal is not allowed to graze a plant, or pasture, until the vigor and carbohydrate reserves of the plants have fully recovered from the previous herbivory---in the case of Oregon’s High Desert grasses, this might be as long as thirteen months!

Next, Connie and the entire Hatfield family promoted sustainable land management research to be conducted on the ranch through cooperation with the Department of Rangeland Ecology and Management (now the Department of Animal and Rangeland Sciences) at OSU. They hosted grazing studies and a 29-year long, paired watershed study over the decades. Significantly, Connie and Doc were both charter members of the Oregon Watershed Improvement Coalition, (OWIC), a grass-roots group which attempted to bring both environmentalists and production agriculturalists to the table to solve sticky environmental issues. Under its board’s tireless direction, OWIC morphed from a penniless organization into Oregon’s premier environmental organization---the multi-million dollar Governor’s Watershed Enhancement Board, (GWEB)!

From the beginning, Connie and the family opened the ranch to a wide variety of educational ventures with Oregon State University and a host of agencies and organizations. Groups have been as diverse as the Oregon League of Women Voters to an annual Rangeland Ecology and Management field trip, over the span of 35 years. The family hosted wide-eyed students and sometimes jaded agency employees---showing innovative and ecological ways of successfully running a land management operation! And the whole family was always involved. Imagine the delight of a college class as 10-year old Becky demonstrated a bull’s chin marker and a “gomer” bull to detect which cows were in estrous and therefore ready for artificial insemination from carefully selected bull semen whose genetic characteristics were chosen to improve the offspring’s ability to survive in the difficult environment of the High Desert....Or the awe in which these same students listened to teen-aged Travis explain how coyotes were managed and conditioned to prey on rodents but to leave the calving grounds and baby calves alone!

Taking a tip from nature and in an attempt to mimic nature, Connie and Doc and the family developed a cow herd whose genetic make-up produced smallish animals which could breed back every year in this harsh environment and at the same time produce a meat product high in protein and low in fat.

Once the ranch had its livestock genetics, grazing practices and environmental sustainability coming together, they tackled marketing. Connie, Doc, and fourteen other ranch families established a beef cooperative ultimately called “Country Natural Beef” which featured low fat, high protein beef raised humanely and without added hormones or prophylactic antibiotics. Now over one hundred ranches strong and drawing from ranches across the west and Hawaii, Country Natural Beef is sold in Whole Foods markets across the West. This amazing success story would never have happened without Connie who took on the organizational task “not knowing that it couldn’t be done!”

Finally, I'd like to share one last Connie Hatfield story. Like the famed Temple Grandin, Connie has an alternative way of seeing the world. She is dyslexic. She has shared that for the first 35 years of her life she doubted her abilities and feared that she could never measure up. However, once diagnosed---at age 35, Connie recognized that seeing things through a different lens could be a huge benefit---which she used to Country Natural Beef's advantage as she charmed, awed, and educated corporate officers around the West with the potentials for an environmentally sustainable product from authentic ranch families. "This is the real deal" she explained. And it is! But the story doesn't end there. Each year when the OSU Rangeland students arrived at the ranch, she explained her dyslexia and how it had been valuable toward thinking outside of the box. Interestingly, it seemed that in each class there were 2 or 3 students who struggled with dyslexia and who had nearly given up hope; thinking themselves stupid. One young woman who has since become a successful and beloved school teacher, confided, "Connie saved my life!".

Connie Hatfield, matriarch of the Hatfield High Desert Ranch and of Country Natural Beef is an Oregon treasure. Her efforts in Oregon over the last 46 years have been productive, valuable, and far-reaching. She is indeed a Diamond Pioneer!

## Lost Resources



**"Mitch Thomas, 47, of Baker City,** passed away Friday June 17, 2022, at his home in Baker City. A celebration to honor his life will be held on Friday, July 22, at 6 pm at the Junior Show/Pioneer Posse Grounds in Milton-Freewater, Oregon.

Mitch was born in Walla Walla, WA, to Monte and Dawn (Kayser) Thomas. He was raised on the family ranch in Milton-Freewater, with his older brother, Terrill. He attended school in Milton-Freewater and graduated from Mclaughlin Union High School in 1994. Following high school, he

attended Walla Walla Community College and then Washington State University. After earning his undergraduate degree in Animal Science, he went to work for the Forest Service in Prairie City, Oregon and Fallon, Nevada. In 2002, he earned his master's degree in Rangeland Science from the University of Idaho.

Due to the efforts of his brother, Terrill, and sister-in-law Heidi, he met his future wife, Katy Coddington, at Pendleton Round-up in 1999. Katy and Mitch hit it off right away and were married in March of 2003. Their daughter, Neah Lane Thomas, arrived in September of 2004. During this time Mitch worked for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as a Range Management Specialist, in Vale Oregon. Between 2008 and 2009 the family moved to the Baker Field Office, in Baker City, which allowed them to be closer to family and the ranch. Their son, Payson Reed Thomas, was born February 2012.

Mitch loved his family more than anything and he loved to help his dad and brother on the ranch. When he wasn't working for the BLM, he was working for them. He also loved to travel and explore the world. His curiosity for seeing new places and meeting new people was insatiable. Neah and Payson were named for places he enjoyed along the way.

Mitch was involved in many organizations over the years including 4-H, FFA, Cayuse Junior Rodeo Association, NHSRA, PRCA, Boy Scouts of America, the Cattlemen's Association and the Society for Rangeland Management. He gave his time to these organizations when he could. In his younger days he enjoyed competing in rodeos as a calf roper, team roper and steer wrestler. As the family grew his focus turned more towards ranching, seasonal firefighting and building a beautiful life for his family.

We will greatly miss his silly sense of humor, quiet persistence, curiosity for life, his down to earth and genuine nature and how he loved the people around him. Survivors include his wife, Katy; daughter, Neah; son, Payson of Baker City, his mother, Dawn Thomas, sister-in-law, Heidi Jones-Thomas and niece, Macy Thomas of Milton-Freewater, Oregon and numerous relatives and friends in the northwest. He is preceded in death by his father, Monte Thomas and brother, Terrill Thomas, of Milton-Freewater.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to either the Milton-Freewater Junior Show, PO Box 379, Milton-Freewater, Oregon 97862 or to the Brenden-Colson Center for Pancreatic Care, OHSU Foundation, P.O. Box 29017, Portland, OR 97296."

To plant a tree in memory of Mitchel Trent Thomas, please visit [Tribute Store](#).  
Published on July 14, 2022 [Walla Walla Union-Bulletin](#).

Forwarded from the Desk of [Bob Gillaspay](#), PNW Communications Chair

## **Join the PNW Section Communications and Outreach Committee!**

Are you interested in talking about these amazing rangelands in the Pacific Northwest? The PNW Section Communications and Outreach Committee is looking for YOU. Even if you are not comfortable in front of an audience, there is a place for you. The Communications and Outreach Committee includes our section website, newsletter, as well as future social media posts. There

is something for you to help with. Please reach out to any of the committee members listed in this newsletter to find out more. If you do not volunteer, we may ask for your help anyway, and wouldn't that be embarrassing! So, give us a shout today.

Visit the PNWSRM website today and reach out to your leadership to get involved!  
[Leadership | Pacific Northwest Section-Society for Range Management \(pnwsrm.org\)](http://Leadership | Pacific Northwest Section-Society for Range Management (pnwsrm.org))

## Officers, 2022

President Carlos Ochoa, Corvallis, OR 541-737-0933  
1st Vice President Tim Ross, Cranbrook, BC 250-427-6470 c  
250-427-3300 w  
2nd Vice President Sandra Morris, Colville, WA (509) 690-4961 c

## Directors, 2022

Term Ends 2022 Julie Conley, WA Unlisted  
Term Ends 2022 Wendy Gardner, BC 250-828-8712  
Term Ends 2023 Casey Matney, AK 907-262-5824  
Term Ends 2023 Amanda Miller, BC 587-986-5060  
Term Ends 2024 Jordan Anderson, OR (971)409-5798  
Term Ends 2024 Chris Schachtschneider, OR Unlisted

## Appointees, 2022

Secretary Andrea Mann, OR 509-670-7743  
Treasurer Jamie McCormack, OR 541-233-3499

## Recent Past Presidents, 2022

2021 Nick Vora, OR 541-624-3085  
2020 Jeff Burnham, WA 509-731-8073 c  
2019 Wendy Gardner, BC 250-828-8712  
2018 Maura Laverty, OR 208-741-9240  
2017 Sandra Wyman, WA 206-678-4315

## Committee Chairs, 2022

Awards John Buckhouse, OR 541-760-8269 c  
541-753-2300 h  
Budget Jeffrey Burhnam, WA 509-457-9303  
HSYF Gabi Johnson, OR 541-589-1239  
History Lynne and John Breese, OR 541-447-6762  
Membership Peter Schreder, OR 541-947-6054  
Outreach and  
Communications Bob Gillaspy, WA 360-566-7654