

WA CHAPTER PNW SECTION SRM BOARD MTG NOTES

APRIL 17, 2025 (VIA ZOOM)

NOTES BY KEN VISSER

Meeting commenced at 3:05 PM.

Attendees: Craig Madsen, Pres., Ken Visser – VP, Tom Platt PNW Section Treas., Will Kellar, Board Member

Discussion centered on planning for Washington Chapter hosted Fall meeting for the Pacific Northwest Section of the Society for Range Management.

Craig reviewed the information he had gathered and sent by previous email – as follows:

Information on possible tours.

I had a meeting with Jay Kahne and Nathaniel Sinkert - representative for Vence Virtual Fencing. Nathaniel said that Venice would be willing to be a sponsor for the meeting. I do not ask how much.

One possible option would be to have the meeting in Okanogan - Omak - Jay suggested the Elks Lodge.

Nathaniel would provide a 1 1/2 to 2 hour inside presentation about the capabilities of virtual fencing - what goes into the details of fence layout and cattle management.

Then travel to a system that is about 15 minutes from town at Ed Townsend's place - this would provide the opportunity to look at the system in the field and have the rancher talk about how the system has worked for him.

Then we could come back to the Elks for lunch

The question is what to cover in the second half of the day. Will what other options are there in the Okanogan area? I know there are some CRM groups working in that area. Is there a good topic to cover with one of the active CRM groups in the area?

KV Ranch - Molly Linville - Palisades area between Quincy and Wenatchee Molly would enjoy hosting a SRM tour

Topics - Custom grazing cattle, recovery from fire, managing predators with guard dogs

We could easily spend 1/2 day at Molly's place

Jay Kehne said that the closest virtual fencing site to the KV Ranch is either at the WildHorse Energy Site near Ellensburg which is around 1 1/2 hours or at Doug Poole's place near Mansfield which is a little over an hour away.

Western WA - Option

Message from Marty Chaney

Hi, I've been pondering tour ideas for SRM - any interest in Targeted Grazing with a custom operator who brings his cattle in on various properties? There's one for prairie plant maintenance and restoration, and another site with habitat management for Oregon Spotted Frog. These are in the Olympia area.

Board Discussion Summarized:

Concerns about the Olympia area tour were accommodation costs and generally clogged traffic resulting in more difficult logistics. Will mentioned that in the Tacoma area there is a gigantic former gravel pit where vegetation is now being actively restored/ rehabilitated and this is another potential stop of interest. Re attendance: A drop off in eastern WA members could be expected, but this might be offset by more participation by western OR members. Also, not sure how many of the Canadians would want to negotiate the drive down from Canada if the route was through the Seattle/Tacoma corridor.

Concerns about the Omak-Okanagon area tour was that there might not be enough to do to fill up a tour agenda. Will mentioned that the most significant topic on the minds of area ranchers is the presence of wolves and that other than current salmon habitat restoration projects, there wasn't really much out of the ordinary occurring in agriculture.

Craig will follow up with Marty Cheney to see if there are reasonably priced facilities in the rural areas in the vicinity of Olympia that could handle meeting needs, thus somewhat alleviating concerns regarding accommodation costs and the difficulty of transportation.

There were no concerns surfaced regarding touring the KV ranch.

Tentative selections for the meeting were narrowed to the KV ranch and the Olympic area.

Tentative dates were the Thursday/Friday pairs starting 9/11, 9/18, 9/25, or 10/01. The final date may depend upon what the tour hosts can accommodate.

Final selection of location and dates will be finalized by the board via email communication initiated by Craig.

Meeting adjourned 3:45 PM.