

Dear Rangeland Ecology Section Members,

Thank-you to those of you that made it to the Tuesday evening mixer during ESA three weeks ago. It was nice to meet everyone and receive input on the topics included below. If you couldn't make it, we hope you will next year in Pittsburgh. I have included a list below of section business items discussed at the mixer – some of which are developing and open for discussion, others of which are official. Please take a look at this short list and let me hear from you if you have ideas, suggestions, or comments that you'd like to make.

- 1) Congratulations and welcome to the **new Chair Elect** of the Rangeland Ecology Section (2010 – 2011) – **Dr. Brandon Bestelmeyer**, Research Ecologist, USDA-ARS Jornada, Las Cruces, NM
- 2) **Student Award** – Discussion of this topic at the mixer settled on (and majority of attendees voted for) the idea of designating \$250/yr of Rangeland Ecology Section funds to support an undergraduate student majoring in Rangeland Issues through the SEEDS program.
- 3) **Topics for a Symposium/Organized Oral Session at ESA 2010 (Pittsburgh)** – Two topics were proposed, and I have added an additional one that came post-mixer. **We request that you let us know which topic you find most appealing by Aug 31st.** Please email rebecca.mcculley@uky.edu with your preferred topic choice, catchy title, and suggestions of potential speakers. Of course, we can submit more than one proposed symposium/organized oral session; however, we will need people to volunteer to lead additional efforts. I am willing to coordinate and submit one Symposium/Organized Oral session proposal to ESA (due Sept. 24th), but additional volunteers/leaders for this task are welcome (and will be required, if more than one topic is pursued). Let me know if you are interested in helping to coordinate this effort.

The theme for the ESA 2010 meeting is 'Global Warming: The legacy of our past, the challenge for our future.' Mixer attendees felt we should try for a Symposium, with the fall back plan of converting to an Organized Oral Session (if our Symposium isn't one of the 24 selected for next year).

Potential Topics:

- a) Wildland – Urban Interface Issues
Such as: 'Human Dimensions' of Rangeland systems experiencing urbanization, issues associated with invasive species and fire in this interface, people use and interaction with the land, and/or the challenges of doing science in the urban interface
- b) Does science support Federal Agency Management Practices in Rangeland systems?
This one would focus on the recent NRCS - Conservation Effects Assessment Program efforts to evaluate conservation management practices in grazinglands (in both the eastern and western states). With the larger goals being to highlight the basic – applied science - management interface and to facilitate conversations between these two groups of practitioners.
- c) Can the history of global warming and grassland development help us predict how grassland communities will respond to future warming?
The basic idea here is to start with the historical role of temperature in grassland development (C4 evolution, major genesis of grassland systems worldwide) and then build on this to look at recent results from warming experiments in grassland climate

change projects. Perhaps at the end comment on what will happen to grasslands in the future (are they going to expand or contract), C4 vs C3, can we say anything about grazing, etc. It is possible that the Paleoecology section might be interested in co-sponsoring something like this. I will contact Kendra McLauchlan, Paleoecology section chair, and see what she thinks.

- 4) **Continue Mixer** – We briefly discussed whether the mixer should be continued, as it is the primary expense of the section and is not always well-attended. In general, this year’s attendees felt it was necessary to continue with the joint mixer – mostly to facilitate an ‘official business meeting’ – even if poorly attended.

Thanks,
Rebecca

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