

# RANGELAND NEWS

Society for Range  
Management  
Nevada Section

SUMMER 2003

**TO FOSTER ADVANCEMENT IN THE SCIENCE AND ART OF RANGELAND MANAGEMENT**

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## A PRESIDENT PONDERES



As discussed in the last Newsletter, Nevada Section will host the 2007 Annual Meeting in Reno. Our "Annual Meeting Planning Team" is being formed now and will be finalized at our winter meeting. There is a lot of work to be completed by the planning team before the actual event, and everyone who helped with "RENO 2000" remembers how good our success felt. Each Section member will be needed as a volunteer for part of the work in 2007. With each of us doing our part, Nevada Section will look good and Nevada Section will make some money for use in future projects. Please be thinking about which jobs interest you & be ready to volunteer.

During the Annual meeting in Casper, Bob Budd announced that membership in most committees is now open to anyone who wants to participate. An example is the Wildlife Habitat Committee that now

has 40 members and publishes its own newsletter. This new policy opens the way for everyone who has an interest in a particular topic to become involved in an SRM committee and helps keep the SRM focused on technical quality.

There is no national SRM summer meeting scheduled this year. The Board of Directors has scheduled a meeting in Washington D.C. in conjunction with the National Capital Section annual meeting this fall. They will have opportunities to meet with Agency heads and political figures, so each of us should contact Board members and ask them to take our concerns to our friends in Washington D.C.

One agenda topic at the Summer Meeting in Austin was a letter drafted by the Arizona Section concerning desert tortoise management. The draft is based on the presentations we heard at the Winter Meeting in Laughlin.

Both Sections will sign the completed letter as we jointly encourage the agencies involved in revising the Mojave desert tortoise conservation plan to apply technically sound rangeland management and well supported science. At this time, Nevada will ask the authors to include a paragraph endorsing the application of NRCS Soil Survey and Ecological Site descriptions as presented by Merkler and Novak in Laughlin. Please call or email me if you would like to review the draft letter. Comments need to be returned to the Arizona Section very soon.

The Department of Interior recently revised their Ethics standards for employees and plan to revise the ethics standards for contractors and other associated people. Copies of the standards were handed out and briefly discussed at the Summer Meeting, but no action was needed or taken.

Following are some of *my* personal conclusions on the topic of ethics, [rather than those of the Section Officers]: Most agencies and organizations including SRM are going through a soul-searching revision of ethic standards. The efforts are driven by debacles involving Canadian lynx hair and similar scientific behavior being exposed to public scrutiny and by the passage of the Federal Data Quality Act. I read the DOI ethic statement and it includes some firm statements about behavior that isn't allowed; I'm looking forward to future versions being more specific about how people will be held accountable for their own actions including their scientific technique. In my opinion, DOI did a fair job, but they were constrained by a society where it has become unfashionable to discuss ethics as a reflection of morality. Because of situational ethics, they can't discuss the real problems of human behavior and they can't count on people making ethical choices without being ordered to. I've learned that ethics discussion becomes more rational, more useful, and more interesting when people know that "right" and

"wrong" are different from each other, as are "true" and "false". I hope that the historic and moral sources of ethics will be further discussed at the Annual SRM meeting in Salt Lake City.

Within every recent newsletter, we include a plea for members to help increase our Section's membership. In the next few weeks I'll send a supply of membership brochures and applications to each of the Zone Council and anyone else that wants copies. I intend to call on the services of the Zone Councilmen to make presentations about SRM to agency staff meetings, groups, business associates, etc.

Each of us can have blank membership applications and SRM brochures at our desks, in our laptop cases, etc., and it only takes a few minutes to explain how you benefit from membership to prospective members. If anyone needs current brochures, call me, your Zone Councilman, or any of the officers.

*Floyd*

#### **TIME FOR NOMINATIONS**

Past President Kent will be soon calling you guys to get nominees for the 2004 Section Officer jobs. To be elected are a Pres-elect, and councilman for Zones I, III, V, & VII. Zone councilman were elected last year for Zones II, IV, & VI. Lists of members by zone will be distributed by your EVP. Just remember, we can't have an organization without people as officers!

#### **NEW SECTION SECRETARY**

Floyd report that Jim Gifford, Reno, has accepted appointment to be Section Secretary. This position has been vacant for the past year and a half. Thanks, Jim!!

## **NEVADA SECTION BUDGET AND FINANCE REPORT**

The Section budget classifies income and expenses into four discrete funds: general, youth, endowment and scholarship. Prior to this fiscal year we also had a fifth fund for special projects. The balance in the special projects fund was less than \$90.00 and no projects have been identified. To simplify record keeping, the balance in the special projects fund was transferred to the general fund.

Income for the general fund since October 1, 2002 has been \$1,224, and expenses \$1,089. Income for FY2003 is projected to be about \$350.00 less than budgeted. This is largely because the Section received substantially less income from our winter and fall meetings than expected. Attendance at summer meetings was very low and expenses at the winter meeting high. These conditions substantially reduced our net income and money available for other expenses. General fund expenses to date have been at, or well below, budgeted amounts. Largest expenses have been \$400.00 for 4H and FFA Range and Soils Judging teams and \$400.00 for the Section President and President Elect to travel to the national meeting in Casper, Wyoming. Floyd Rathbun generously donated his travel budget back to the Section. Expenses for printing and mailing the newsletter have been \$81.00. One more newsletter will be distributed before the end of the fiscal year and total expenses should be much less than the budgeted amount of \$200. Prior to sending most newsletters out by email this expense averaged close to \$900 per year.

Income for the youth fund (Range Camp) is down substantially, a reflection of only 19 youth attending camp. Once all expected donations are received, income and expenses should equal about \$3,260, respectively.

There have been no expenses for either the endowment or scholarship funds. Interest income into both these funds has been very low, due to interest rates being at record low values. Both

funds had a substantial increase in value because of increases in their stock fund prices.

Section funds are held in a variety of investment (stock and bond funds) and cash (money market, checking) accounts with American Century Mutual Funds, Wachovia Investments, American Express, and Bank of America (checking account only). As of July 9, 2003 total section funds were \$62,879. Our general fund has about \$5,550, the youth activities fund \$5,036, scholarship fund \$33,477 and endowment fund \$18,814. For the past several years the return on our investments has been low to negative. Almost all of our stock and bond investments have returned much less than their respective market indices, and we have kept over 25% of our funds in money market accounts that have paid between one and two percent interest. To improve our potential return we will be moving our investments into different accounts with American Century Funds, Meridian Funds, Dodge and Cox Investments, and Fidelity Investments. Each of the funds selected was picked because it has an above average return in both the short and long-term; below average risk, no sales charge, and low fees. Also, the Section will be moving most of the money kept in money market accounts into stock and bond mutual funds. Over the next five years these moves are expected to increase the Section's investment gains substantially more than has occurred in the past five years.

Anyone wishing specific details about the Section budget and investments can contact the treasurer, Brad Schultz.

### **THE NEVADA SECTION WEBSITE**

Accessed through the Denver website, the website will be resurrected and revived by Gary McCuin and Ben Bruce. We need material to put on it, so, hopefully, you guys out there can add to it. If you have ideas, send them to Gary & Ben.

## 2003 RANGE YOUTH CAMP from an article by Douglas Merkler

Nineteen high school-aged campers from the 43<sup>rd</sup> Nevada Youth Range Camp learned about the day to day operations of one of the few fee-based private fishing ranches in the state of Nevada at Smith Creek Ranch. They also studied Porter Canyon with hands-on construction of erosion check dams, which hopefully will be successful in preventing the stream from further down cutting into the mountain meadow.

Their hard work was rewarded with the annual steak BBQ sponsored by Nevada Bighorns Unlimited (NBU). The after-BBQ presentation was given by Rick Elmore and assisted by Eric Dalen, the current NBU director. The kids learned about bighorn sheep in Nevada and about NBU's important role in transplanting more than 800 desert bighorn in Nevada. To support and perpetuate these efforts, it takes an educated public, informed sportsmen, properly trained biologists and, most of all, a younger generation, such as the youth that attend the Nevada Range Camp, that values wildlife.

NBU, the Nevada Section SRM, the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts, Nevada Division of Forestry, the Nevada Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society, USFS, NRCS, UNR Cooperative Extension and the Nevada Wildlife Federation, Inc. contribute time and resources to one of the best Youth Range Camp programs in the country.

Dr. Sherm Swanson's curriculum is taught each year by field scientists from various Federal and State agencies. Students learn about the soil and its relationship to the vegetation. They also learn about the rangeland and forest vegetation and the story the plants tell about the history of use and management on the landscape, fire ecology, grazing, wildlife utilization and other factors that lead to understanding the complexity of present condition and trend on our rangeland and forests. Other topics include the place of wildlife in different plant community habitats, the food chain,

stream survey and fish shocking, watersheds, snowpack, and hydrology of the mountains. The livelihood of farming, ranching and livestock, wildlife, and overall well-being of these interwoven systems become apparent to the campers.

On the last working day of camp, a range managers' quiz is administered, including identifying 50 out of about 70 to 80 species of plants in the Big Creek area. A simulated coordinated resource management plan is developed with the campers playing roles representing various interest groups. By presenting the results to a mock county commission, they learn a lesson about the intensity of land use discussions.

That night around the graduation campfire, the campers received the group awards from the week's activities and Trail Boss (outstanding camper) and the Buckaroo award (selected by the campers) were announced. This year, both awards went to the same individual, Tess Wipfli. Samantha Matranga was the Trail Boss runner up this year. Both young ladies will travel to Salt Lake City to represent Nevada in the High School Youth Forum for the Society for Range Management Annual meeting this coming January.

This year's staff included Greg Beasley, Nevada Division of Forestry; Douglas Merkler and Sandy Higa (Camp Director), USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Mike Sevon, Nevada Division of Wildlife; Sherm Swanson, Brad Schultz, Maria Ryan, and Kent McAdoo, University of Nevada Reno Cooperative Extension; Denise Adkins, BLM; Chris Freeman, former program specialist for the State of Nevada Division of Conservation Districts and Kelly McGowan, the current program specialist; Dan Rabbers, US Fish and Wildlife Service; and the most important position of all, the volunteer camp cooks, Debbie Benson and her parents John and Charlotte Adams. Debbie is a registered nurse and provides nurturing above and beyond when needed, in addition to the healthy meals served up to the extremely hungry campers and staff.

## ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!

Now is the time to begin nominations for the **Nevada Section Awards for 2003**. I will accept nominations at any time but it is important to begin the work early in the year. The Nevada Section awards program recognizes members and non-members who have made outstanding contributions to the science and art of good range management. Now is the time to begin preparing nominations for individuals who deserve recognition.

The **Nevada Section Awards** include:

The Nevada **Rangeman of the Year Award** --- This is the highest honor given by the Nevada Section. Recipients can be either SRM members or non-members. Requires sustained accomplishments, and eminent contributions to the art and science of good rangeland management. Receives a plaque.

The Nevada **Excellence in Range Management Award** --- This is the premier award of the Nevada Section. Does not require SRM membership. The recipient is awarded for their sustained, exceptional management of the rangeland resource. Receives a plaque.

The Nevada **Outstanding Young Range Professional Award** --- This award recognizes SRM members who have not reached their 35<sup>th</sup> birthday prior to January 1 of the year the award is conferred and who show outstanding potential and promise in their range management careers. Receives a plaque.

The Nevada, **Great Basin Award** --- Awarded to any individual or group. This award was initiated in 2000 to recognize an extraordinary and outstanding effort or action resulting in the maintenance or improvement to rangeland condition.

Nominations must be submitted to Cub Wolfe, Nevada Section Awards Chair, by either e-mail to: [Cub.Wolfe@nv.usda.gov](mailto:Cub.Wolfe@nv.usda.gov) or regular mail to 724 Day Lane Wellington, NV 89444. The nomination form follows. Use this format, keeping it to no more than five pages.

If you have questions, call Cub at 775-465-9099 or 775-782-3661-ext.109. Note: For the Excellence Award, please submit in as soon as possible so a field review can be accomplished prior to selection of the recipient.

Please submit nominations by category for each award. Include major accomplishments germane to the specific award criteria should be emphasized in the nomination, especially in the justification statement.

We have a lot of people who work very hard in pursuit of good rangeland management. This is the time to give them credit for their dedication. All you have to do is nominate them.

## FORMAT OF NOMINATIONS FOR NEVADA SECTION HONOR AWARDS

(Use this format. Limit nomination to no more than five pages.)

Nomination of \_\_\_\_\_  
for the \_\_\_\_\_ Award.

### 1. Nominee

- a. Date and place of birth
- b. Address
- c. Occupation, profession, employer
- d. Phone number
- e. Member of SRM? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, for \_\_\_\_\_ years.

### 2. Nominator

- a. Name
- b. Address
- c. Phone Number
- d. Email address

3. Nominee's education, training, awards.

4. Nominee's activities in the Nevada Section.

5. Nominee's professional contributions to range management.

6. Nominee's activities/membership in other organizations.

7. Other pertinent bibliographic information about nominee.

8. Justification statement from nominator(s).

## PREPARATION FOR THE 2007 ANNUAL MEETING

Nevada Section will be the "host" of the 2007 annual meeting, in Reno. As we prepare for the meeting, please remember that our success depends on getting some help and some time from every Nevada Section member.

Our first order of business was the presentation of the Nevada Section bid to hold the meeting in Reno. Now it is time to select people to chair each of several basic programs. Here are the first positions that need to be filled:

- General Chairperson
- Program Chairperson
- Local Arrangements Chairperson
- Finance Chairperson
- Publicity Chairperson
- Host Activities Chairperson
- Student Events Chairperson

According to the SRM Annual Meeting Handbook, each of these Chairs should be shared by two people as either Co-chairs or as a Chair and an Associate-chair. Co-Chairs, by definition, will make decisions independently and then must let their counterpart know what was decided. A team of a Chair and Associate Chair may not share decision authority, but the Associate Chair will probably have authority for specific issues and must well enough informed to assume the Chair position whenever the Chair isn't available.

Every member is invited to volunteer for one of these committees or nominate another member. Please contact Chuck Saulisberry or Floyd Rathbun for more information or to become a member of the team. If you don't volunteer, you might get railroaded!

## MEMBERSHIP

Section membership is 141. New members are: Dan Dallas, Elko; Steve Stefani, Reno; Jean Wilkinson, Salem, OR; Edwin Jarrod Edmunds, North Las Vegas; and Jenny Goodfellow, an ASSOCIATE member from Reno. Lost members are Edv Evatz, Pete Test, and Charles Fisher. (Hey, some of you guys call up Charlie and twist his arm to renew his membership. (775) 882-2745.)

## UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- Nevada Section winter meeting – Ely, Jan 9–10, 2004
- Nevada Section summer meeting – Elko County June 11–12, 2004
- California Section Annual meeting – Bridgeport, CA on Oct. 17–18, 2003

## NEVADA SRM 2003 COUNCILMEN

Zone I – Quinton Barr, 1291 Dotta St, Elko, NV 89801-2749, 738-5804, wrsqb@frontiernet.net

Zone II – John Ruhs, P.O. Box 2072, Winnemucca, NV 89446-0336, 623-6623, jaruhs@winnemucca.net

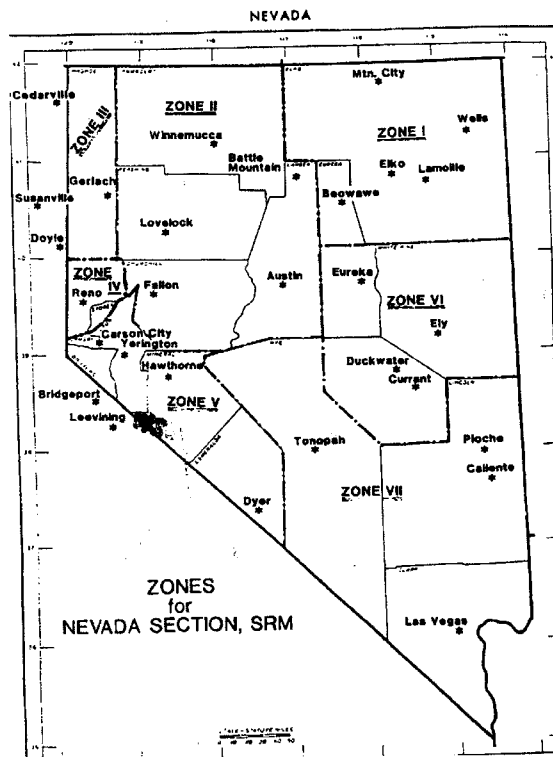
Zone III – David Lile, UC Exten., 707 Nevada St, Susanville, CA 96130-3912, phone ??, dflile@ucdavis.edu

Zone IV – Bea Wade, 15 Sunbeam Ct, Reno, NV 89511-9763, 785-6625, bea\_wade@nv.blm.gov

Zone V – Denise Adkins, P.O.Box 20007, Carson City, NV 89721-0007, 884-3841, Denise\_Adkins@nv.blm.gov.

Zone VI – Duane Coombs, Smith Crk. Rch, HC 61, Box 6150, Austin, NV 89310-9001, 428-2910, smithcreekcowboy@hotmail.com

Zone VII – Derek Hall, 6816 Beach Nest Dr, Las Vegas, NV 89130-1169, phone ??, halldb@nv.doe.gov



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