

RANGELAND NEWS

Society for Range Management
Nevada Section

EARLY SPRING 2007

TO FOSTER ADVANCEMENT IN THE SCIENCE AND ART OF RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

NEVADA SECTION OFFICERS

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PRESIDENT'S PONDERERS

Wow, does time fly by. I don't know if it is a sign of advancing years or the mixed blessing and curse of living in the instant information age made possible through the internet. I have enjoyed working with Bob Wilson and look forward to working with Duane Coombs. I am honored that our membership has elected me to this position and I shall strive to serve the Section to the best of my ability, Thank you and please do not hesitate to call me with any thoughts, ideas or concerns. My contact information is available on the Section website at <http://www.ag.unr.edu/nsrm/personnel.htm> .

Congratulations, kudos and many thanks to the Meeting Co-Chairs, Planning Committee, volunteers, Section members and all who participated in hosting the Annual Meeting. Everyone I have talked to locally and abroad have been very complimentary. Well done, and may it be some time before we tackle an annual meeting again! One of the highlights of the meeting for me was that the NV Section won the membership drive and \$1,000 for the Section. Thanks to all for your membership recruitment and keep it up. We increased our membership by 17% and have a total as of 3/07/07 of 204 members (Barry we have surpassed your goal of 200 members).

We also have a full complement of Section Officers and Council members which shall soon be reflected on the website. Thanks to all who agreed to serve with me and to those who have served previously. What remains to be accomplished is to determine Committee chairs and members. I have had very little response from my solicitation for committee volunteers in January. I know we are all busy, overworked and underpaid. However, there is life after an annual meeting and the many challenges and opportunities for each of us to meet remain open to our individual contribution.

I believe it is important is to re-invigorate the Committee structure. That is “*where the rubber meets the road*”. Through committee activity, individual members and the Section we can have the greatest impact in properly managing and conserving our rangelands. I also think this is the greatest value of being a member through participation and accomplishment. Several elder statesmen of the Section remember when committee reports consumed a significant portion of the Sections meetings and folks were excited about the activities the committees were involved in. If SRM and the Section are to be the leaders in rangeland science and management, that activity and excitement must be re-kindled at the Section and carried through to the Society level. I hope membership agrees and will volunteer to Chair or serve on the various committees and bring their passion and commitment with them.

The committee structure can be found on our website at www.ag.unr.edu/nsrm/ under the Section documents tab in the *Handbook for Section Officers, Council and Committees*. Please let me or your zone Councilman know very soon if you would like to serve on one of the committees, if the committee structures are correct, or need to be changed, or if I am off base.

As a final note, I wish to bring to your attention an opportunity made available to Section membership through our Newsletter editor Maggie Orr, and the owner/editor of The Progressive Rancher, Leana Stitzel. The Progressive Rancher has agreed to provide the Section with column space for SRM articles. This series of articles is dedicated to connecting the science of range management with the art, by applied science on the ground in Nevada. Please send any thoughts or topics to discuss to Maggie Orr at sideoatg@yahoo.com . In less than five minutes, I thought of 15 Section members and topics, including monitoring, wildfire, prescription grazing, hot desert reclamation, etc., etc, etc. that are current, exciting and deserving of broader public awareness. People are usually too modest and too close to their work to get fired up enough to write an article. But, how is the public to know about all of the things vital to rangeland management we are working on if we do not speak up? Please consider writing up something you are working on and call Maggie or me.

I wish you all a great and productive year.
Gary McCuin

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Nevada Section won the SRM membership drive! Thanks!

Scott Abella, UNLV, Public Lands Institute, 4505 S. Maryland Pkwy, Las Vegas, 89154-2040, Scott.abella@unlv.edu

Brittney Askew, 825 Cambridge Way, Reno, 89511-1313, brittney22@yahoo.com

Kimberly Allcock, UNR, Mail Stop 370, Reno, 89557-0001, kallcock@cabnr.unr.edu

Everett Bartz, 8029 Nestled Vista Dr, Las Vegas, 89128-8270, ebartz@blm.gov
Dietlinde Bener-Dann, Owyhee Combined School, 100 Academic Way, Owyhee, 89832, ddann@elko.k12.nv.us
John Breitrick, Great Basin Expeditions, PO Box 151615, Ely, 89315-1207, jbreitrick@greatbasinexpeditions.com
Ryan Carpenter, Owyhee High School, PO Box 31, Owyhee, 89832-0531, rcarpent@elko.k12.nv.us
Robert Dickenson, Moorman Ranch, 3495 Loakeside Dr #83, Reno, 89509-4841, egd@pyrimid.net
Jeremiah Drew, RCI, 340 N. Minnesota St., Carson City, 89703-4152, Jeremy@rci.nv.com
Ingrid Drieling, PO Box 295, Bridgeport, CA, 93517-0295, idrieling@fs.fed.us
Justin Ely, UNR, 1575 Twin Oaks Rd, Reno, 89511, buckaroolife@hotmail.com
Dave Hays, USDI-BLM, Winnemucca, 89446-0249, dave_hays@blm.gov
Elizabeth Leger, UNR, 1000 Valley Road, Reno, 89512-2815, eleger@cabnr.unr.edu
Samuel Lossing, UNR, HC 61 Box 92, Battle Mountain, 89820-9701, lossings@wncc.edu
Ruth Luke, 615 S. Jefferson St., Apt 2, Moscow, ID, 83843, luke3961@uidaho.edu
Travis Miller, USFS, RMRS, 825 Ave E, Ely, 89301, travismiller@fs.fed.us
Olivia John, UNR, 1701 Auburn Way, Reno, 89502, oah@unr.nevada.edu
Tom and Linda Johnson, 4101 Numuga Pass, Carson City, 89703-9587
Jose Noriega, USFS, 7235 Sunset Dr, Winnemucca, 89445, jnoriega@fs.fed.us
Robert Nowak, 183 Concho Dr, Reno, 89521-7824, nowak@cabnr.unr.edu
Lora Perkins, UNR, 1660 Bonneville Ave, Reno, 89503
Barbara Pete, Owyhee Combined School, PO Box 478, Owyhee, 89832-0478, bpete@elko.k12.nv.us
Louis Provencher, The Nature Conservancy, 1 E. First St, Ste 1007, Reno, 89501-1812, lprovencher@tnc.org
Kevin Piper, UNR, Ag Exp. Station, UNR MS 221, Reno, 89557, kpiper@cabnr.unr.edu
Randall Sharp, USFS, 1200 Franklin Way, Sparks, 89431, rsharp@fs.fed.us
Brian Taylor, UNR, 1775 Evans Ave #307, Reno, 89512, smogravy@yahoo.com
Nancy Upham, 3750 Bottom Rd, Fallon, 89406-5874
brokencirclebordercollies@hotmail.com
Preston Wright, Marys River Ranch, Box 8, Deeth, 89823-0008, ptwright@elko.net
Tumen Wuliji, UNR, Dept. Animal Biotech CABNR, Fleishmann Agriculture, Mailstop 202, Reno, 89557, twuliji@cabnr.unr.edu
Welcome back to: **Don Henderson, Tom Harris, Connie Lee, and William Longland.**

ELECTION RESULTS / POSITIONS FILLED

Many thanks for the years of service by Jim Gifford as Secretary and Chuck Saulisberry as Membership Chair. Many thanks to Ed Ryan and Patti Novak-Echenique for picking up the torch from them. Duane Coombs is President-Elect and the Zone Council now includes Jessica Newpher, Ben Bruce, and Ken Conley. Congratulations to all! You can find their contact information on the section website under personnel. Angela Mushrush took over Zone 5 for Tracy Benson. Do you want to reinvigorate the Section Committee structure? Let Gary know what you think.

WINTER MEETING – DECEMBER 2006

Brief notes from the business meeting include thanks from UNR student Heather Mobley who received the \$1000 Robertson-Fleming Award from the Nevada Section, a committee of John McLain, Chuck Saulisberry, Jim Linebaugh and zone council members will update the Section by-laws and handbook and we will miss Diane Weaver who has accepted the District Ranger position in Mackay, Idaho. Tracy Benson now runs the Agriculture program at Great Basin College in Elko. Dennis Phillippi, incoming president of SRM, spoke about the Young Professionals Mentoring program that will be initiated at the Reno meeting. He explained the three approaches to annual meetings that SRM leadership is considering and announced the Rangeland Management Institute which will have a cadre of instructors drawn from SRM membership to teach specific subjects such as ecological site development and use, and conflict/collaboration processes to agency line officers. This has been requested by the agencies. We agreed that SRM needs to develop a biology curriculum for grades K-12 and the Nevada Section should design a glossy brochure on fire to reach all ages and interests. The Fire and I & E Committees will pursue this. We were also pleased to have SRM President John Tanaka and Executive VP Jason Campbell at our meeting.

NV Section SRM continued the charge we set for ourselves at the summer meeting and took on the timely challenge of “**WILDFIRES: Is our Traditional Management Strategy Working? A Call to Action!**” at the winter meeting in December 2006. **Bob Wilson** led off the discussion recognizing that treating the symptoms doesn't work; we need to redirect our trajectories and understand that it is easier to manage the biology than people.

Dr. James Young followed with “Nevada's Native Rangelands vs. Annual Invasive Grasses – an insight into required action.” Cheatgrass, also called Nodding Brome, reduces the interval between fires, truncates succession and closes the spaces for perennial grasses. Normal succession after disturbance is Russian thistle, which can produce 200,000 seeds per plant which have a time release and germinates in late fall, to tansy mustard which has lots of mucilage on its seeds to hold and use available water, to cheatgrass, both of which germinate in late spring. The species that germinates first, wins. As Weaver and Clements discovered, each plant community changes the nature of the seedbed to permit establishment of the next in succession. The Artemesias and Chenopods have water efficient foliage that allows them to use precipitation that comes in the fall. A seedbed for cheatgrass must have litter or micro topography or both to create the template needed. This is perpetually accomplished by the freeze/thaw action in the silts that blow off Nevada's playas. Cheatgrass can have 2000 seeds/square foot, but they only need four to close the stand. We must remember that 1) the steps are reversible, and 2) it is never an absolute; all areas have all plants, it just goes up and down on the amounts of each. Dr. Young discussed a few other invasive plants and noted that filaree is the only one with a Shoshone name; it came from the Spanish in California. Fire breaks the dominance of sagebrush, which can live 200 years in the absence of fire. Cheatgrass puts its energy into the production of seed; if we don't have perennials in place, everything we do just helps cheatgrass. Dr. Wayne Burkhardt was the first to say that rest-rotation grazing favors cheatgrass; it hurt his career. All competition involves moisture and nitrate is the catalyst; cheatgrass loves nitrate. To biologically suppress cheatgrass perennial grasses must be initially successful and severe fire conditions must be changed to allow perennial grasses to survive the fire. Dr. Young noted several cheatgrass disasters, what he termed, “dumb

and dumber” which cause problems for rangelands: reducing the use of Crested Wheatgrass, planting perennial forbs, green-stripping, using soil active, non-selective herbicides and broadcast seeding, drilling too deep and failing to calibrate the drill. He said *Oust* is withdrawn after the disaster in Idaho where it blew with dry soil onto crops and killed potatoes and alfalfa. He said the chemical industry has good scientists but salesmen push what may not be good for a certain area or situation.

Brad Schultz tackled the challenge of “The Role of Fire in Nevada’s Rangelands and State and Transition Application to Management” noting that the Great Basin has the least amount of fire history information of anywhere in the US primarily due to the lack of trees for dating fire events. Some are of the opinion that pre-settlement fires were small, averaging 35-50 acres, probably lightning caused. Brad presented fire statistics data from recent years that indicate that the numbers suggest either much larger fires or longer return intervals. The latter does not seem to be supported when one looks at fuel loads and continuity in Nevada sagebrush ecological sites; 58-80% of sagebrush sites produce 600 pounds or more annual production per year. Six hundred pounds/acre is the threshold fire ecologists have long thought necessary to carry a fire; combining the current year’s growth with the standing litter and dead and down biomass can easily provide 4000 pounds of fuel in mid-summer, the period of highest lightning activity. Biomass appears to be adequate for fires on many sagebrush rangelands; compression by snow mats the leaves and tillers of perennial bunchgrasses creating fuel continuity very similar to a cheatgrass community.

Brad put forward the idea that the issue is not about fire but about how to manage disturbance on our rangelands to maintain site resilience and provide the suite of successional stages required to meet the yearlong requirements of not only sagebrush obligate species, but the over 200 species of wildlife that occur on sagebrush rangelands. He noted that physical disturbance is ubiquitous on rangelands including flood events on ephemeral streams, faunopedoturbation (burrowing critters), aroga moth infestations, disease, and drought. We must remember bio-physical disturbance is not the same as ecological disturbance; changing the frequency, intensity, or duration of the common bio-physical disturbances results in an ecological disturbance. If we do not actively manage our rangelands, controlling the type and scale of disturbance, fire will be the primary disturbance event. The biomass will always be harvested, and either we control the outcome or the outcome controls us. If we exclude fire the woody plants will dominate most areas and only wildlife which require late successional habitat structure will be present. Conversely, if fire cycles shorten and only grasses become present, only those species that inhabit grasslands will be abundant. The absence of active management will result in one extreme or the other, with corresponding losses in resource value and production.

Brad briefly touched on some of the terminology used to convey approaches in active management. He stated a dislike for the term, “assisted succession”, largely because it does not convey the magnitude of the problem. He prefers the phrase, “multi-phase restoration”. Brad believes it is going to take a series of sequential actions across decades to centuries to change seriously degraded sites (e.g., cheatgrass, PJ woodlands) back to productive sagebrush-grass rangelands. That is more than an assist. Finally, Brad noted that the Great Basin is a pulse system. Average is an almost meaningless statistic. Most years’ precipitation is either well above or well below average. These large pulses, particularly if they occur in two or three year blocks are significant forces that affect plant and animal resources on rangelands. The effect can

last for years beyond the actual event. 1982-1984 is an example; this was the wettest three year period in recent history in Nevada. These very wet years, in sequence to one another, facilitated the widespread establishment and dispersal of cheatgrass. The fuel load and connectivity lasted for several additional years and this period marked the beginning of the large sagebrush-grass fires across northern Nevada.

Dr. Elwood Miller of the Nevada Fire Safe Council spoke about Private and Public Actions in Managing Fire and Rangelands. The National Fire Plan was initiated in 2000 due to the huge California fires; it is being updated now and has shown that collaboration and making key decisions at the local level are essential. He quoted the policy loosely that fire adapted landscapes promote social and economic benefit to ecosystems. He pointed out we have a new exotic fuel in the Great Basin - homes. From 1980-1999 8.4 million homes were built in wildland urban interface areas; this shifts the priority away from suppression to protecting homes. As a result, fire acreages and costs have skyrocketed. In 1990, fire was 17% of the USFS budget; it will be 45% by 2008 according to Undersecretary Mark Rey. Dr. Miller wonders why we can't do the cooperation we see between agencies and publics during fire incidents in pre-ignition times to develop a viable bio-fuels industry. There are 57 local community chapters of the Fire Safe Council and there is a biomass plant providing power for the Carson City correctional facility; what we need are long term commitments for seed stock supply and biofuels sources.

Allen Biaggi of Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources moderated a panel seeking to answer "How Will We Manage our Rangelands in the Future?" Allen committed to his department moving forward from the suggestions made by the panel, following up on the 1988 and 1999 Nevada Association of County's reports. The panel consisted of **Pete Anderson** (PA) of NDF, **Dave Pulliam** (DP) of NDOW, **John McLain** (JM) of NV Section SRM, **Ron Wenker** (RW) of BLM, and **Ed Monnig** (EM) of USFS who answered a series of questions.

"What are the roadblocks that impede/prevent active suppression?"

- (PA) people only taking action when smoke is in the air, budget, managers retiring, diversity of equipment available, lack of consistency of funding coming to the Great Basin – the Great Basin Restoration Initiative has not been funded.
- (DP) fragmentation of land, more Endangered Species Act issues causing more regulation that makes management harder, consistent and dedicated funding, the actual debate on what to do is a roadblock, we need to go forward and adapt.
- (JM) develop college course work-all the West has the need to solve the issues at home, if funding is not available from the agencies we need to seek it from private sources, the challenges of NEPA, ESA, Clean Water Act.
- (RW) public opinion-"everyone seems to have one," NIMBY (Not in My Backyard), the enormous cost of education, costs of treatments vary widely, total budgets are shrinking, the scale of what we have to deal with, differing priorities: Congress funds urban interface first, should we protect the good or degraded areas first, getting all the partners on the same page, how do we conduct fuel treatments, the inevitable litigation, how to offset costs, the what-species-to-plant fights, it is easier to get the forces needed to fight the fire than what we need before it starts.
- (EM) we need a clear understanding of what the problem really is, fire intensities are increased, do we have a fire problem or an invasive problem exacerbated by

fire? (when that is known we can get a clear answer to what the solution should be), invasive plants, a tendency to use a targeted land use agenda, rather than a clear understanding of the true picture, that is not compatible with what needs to be done, public apathy or antipathy, operational constraints

“What do we need to do to remove the roadblocks and move forward?”

- (JM) SRM must be involved with providing education from kindergarten up, to target audiences, and provide data for legislation. Education is the key; it is hard to do anything without public support.
- (RW) we need information to explain to the Courts different solutions.
- (EM) proper use of science
- (DP) is seeing some change in the “but we’ve always done it that way” thoughts
- (PA) Nevada is the only state that has all its community plans in place. Logging is happening in the Tahoe Basin, “they” said it never would, but it is; it is time to take the next steps.

“How can we increase and efficiently utilize cooperation between the agencies and entities?”

- (PA) it would be ideal to work on all the jurisdictions in a single area at the same time; to focus on a single project and make it a priority.
- (DP) we each need to focus on our own constituency groups to help them understand the common ground we all have and to be politically active to increase the overall support base.
- (JM) extend the cooperation and collaboration to professional organizations, share information as to whether categorical exclusions are working.
- (RW) we do have good cooperation in the state and with the industries, the challenge is to get all the priorities to align, we need to look at broader scales for planning efforts, at the landscape level.
- (EM) we need to get out and look at whatever we are doing together.

“How do we formalize/institutionalize the relationships between private and agencies?”

- (EM) a Memorandum of Understanding is coming.
- (RW) we have some in place.
- (JM) we need to cement the relationships by our actions and get something in front of the public they can get behind. The biomass group is hungry to be in this type of relationship with the federal government.
- (DP) we need to accomplish positives, show benefits and continue with more and more positives and benefits step by step.
- (PA) we really need to work at the local level. We need to use the momentum that is started to take the whole initiative to the local level and get buy-in there, so, for example, before a new subdivision goes in, this whole issue is considered.

“Where do we get the money to do this?”

- (PA) new partnerships and coalitions, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, mining, etc. We need a constant and consistent message.
- (DP) RQ1 funding, a conservation fee from hunting goes to treatments on the ground.
- (JM) we need to be outside of the box on our thinking. The fire suppression fund is growing, it will be \$3 billion next year; we need to get the message to DC to use the fire money for pre-emptive work as well.

- (RW) increase partnerships with private entities.
- (EM) the Office of Management and Budget is looking at the increase in fire money; we will get into fire borrowing, taking from other pots. We need to use the money we receive more efficiently. We need to make sure planning is done well and efficiently and get skills to staff to be able to get to the implementation stage faster and better.

State Senator **Dean Rhoads** summarized the discussion. He stated he plans a bill to support local Volunteer Fire Departments, will have hearings on SRM issues and thinks the Nevada Fire Safe Council is doing great.

FIRE AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM

The Northeastern Nevada Stewardship Group (NNSG) is organizing a symposium/field tour on Wildfire and Vegetation Management. Tentative dates are July 12 -14, 2007. For more information, please call Kent McAdoo (University of Nevada Cooperative Extension) at 775-738-1251 or e-mail him at mcadook@unce.unr.edu. Nevada Section SRM and others are co-sponsoring this event.

RANGE CAMP 2007: spread the word

Spring is here which means that Nevada Youth Range Camp is less than 3 months away. The application deadline for camp is April 30, so please drum up interest among your local youth. Go to the website: <http://www.ag.unr.edu/nsrm/camp.html> for forms and more information.

Nevada Youth Range Camp is a week-long camp for 14-18 year olds from Nevada and eastern California. Camp is held every June (the week of Fathers Day) in central Nevada's Toiyabe Mountains. The Toiyabes are one of Nevada's most impressive mountain ranges with several peaks over 10,000 feet in elevation. June is an ideal time to be there when numerous wildflowers are in bloom and the vegetation is green from the recent snowmelt. The camp headquarters is the Big Creek Campground on the Toiyabe National Forest at an elevation of 6600 feet next to a stream.

The youth of your community will have the opportunity to learn from you, range management professionals that are knowledgeable in the ecology and management of the Great Basin's desert and mountain rangelands. The professionals teach campers about basic field surveying and map reading, identification and importance of rangeland plants, evaluation of sagebrush and woodland ecosystems, wildlife surveying techniques, evaluation of stream health, and many other topics related to rangelands. If you are interested in being a camp counselor, please contact Sherm Swanson at SSwanson@cabnr.unr.edu .
(Submitted by James Gatzke)

2007 ANNUAL MEETING

2007 Meeting Co-chairs Jim Linebaugh and Barry Perryman extend a huge **THANK YOU** to the Planning Committee, volunteers, sponsors, agencies, and convention providers for a job well done. Our task is almost complete. Please get your committee reports to Maggie at sideoatsg@yahoo.com by April 16 for inclusion in the final report. Liz Warner will format the final report to make us look good.

SUMMER 2007 MEETING AT SMITH CREEK RANCH

Smith Creek Ranch, in the Desatoya Mountains of central Nevada, owned by the Hendrix family, is the site for the Nevada Section summer range tour on June 29. Manager Duane Coombs, also president-elect of the section and recipient of SRM's Outstanding Young Range Professional Award at the 2007 meeting in Reno, has an open-ended and wide-ranging tour planned encompassing a variety of factors faced by both range and ranch managers.

Duane describes Smith Creek Ranch as a typical central Nevada ranch, extending from salt desert shrub to 9700 feet in elevation. He will show us the good, the bad and the ugly because, he says, "We have just about every kind of issue imaginable here— aspen, sage grouse, riparian, LCT, wild horse, cow, dog, neighbor—you name it." Available to see and discuss are Basque art and rock buildings, Grandpa Hendrix's fish hatchery, microexclosures, a two-year after BLM masticator treatment in Edwards Creek, range camp kids' project work in Porter Canyon, and a stewardship contract for commercial woodcutting. He will have some cattle around so we could spend some time visiting about handling and livestock management. David Burton will return to continue the aspen discussion begun on last summer's tour. Duane wants this tour to be not about what he is doing but a gathering of ideas as he feels we have so much talent and knowledge within the Nevada Section. He has a huge head-cut in the bottom of Edwards Creek for which he would like to troll for remedial ideas. If someone has something they would like to visit about, Duane would welcome it. Thursday evening he plans to invite local ranching people to visit about situations/issues they must balance on a day to day basis; as he recognizes that people usually only see half of another's job and Friday evening he hopes Shawn Espinosa of NDOW will talk about sage grouse.

Duane invites all to arrive Thursday evening to allow an 8 AM tour starting time on Friday. If you are in time for supper, bring a potluck dish. There will be few real beds available so most folks will have to camp out. Duane says we can stay in the meadow just below the house; it is really nice, quite a few sage grouse come in there in the evenings. Motels are available in Austin, 45 minutes away. Bring a sack lunch for the tour. Gary McCuin and Rick Orr will be cooking dinner Friday night and breakfast Friday and Saturday mornings. You must register by June 15 to have meals. There will be a Nevada Section meeting 8AM-noon on Saturday, June 30. People who haven't joined SRM yet are very welcome!

Duane advises Smith Creek Ranch is isolated and the price of gas is high in Austin so fuel up in Battle Mountain, Fallon or Ely. We will need high clearance outfits for the tour so if you have a multi-passenger one you can bring, please do. There is not refrigerator space so come gassed and iced, ready for a meeting Duane states, "Will have something for everyone."

Thursday evening, June 28 – potluck, set up camp, local producers visit on their daily work

Friday morning, June 29 – breakfast by Gary and Rick

Tour starts at 8 AM – ride sharing to reduce vehicles

Bring a sack lunch

Friday evening – dinner by Gary and Rick

Shawn Espinosa of NDOW on sage grouse or another speaker

Saturday morning, June 30 – breakfast by Gary and Rick
Nevada Section business meeting 8 AM – noon

REGISTER BY JUNE 15 FOR MEALS!!!

DIRECTIONS

From Battle Mtn. Take hwy 305 south to Austin (90 miles). When the road T's turn right on Hwy 50. Approx. 2 miles turn left on Hwy 722. Go across Reese River Valley approx. 19 miles. As you come out of Reese River and go over a saddle into Smith Creek Valley you will cross a cattle guard. There is a sign there that says Smith Creek with an arrow. Turn right on the first dirt road after the sign. Stay on the main gravel road about 14 miles across the valley and you will come right into the ranch. Travel time 2.5 hours from Battle Mountain.

From Fallon. Take hwy 50 east for about 45 miles. Turn right on hwy 722 (there is a sign that says Eastgate with an arrow. This is about 2 miles east of the Middlegate Bar). Stay on 722 and you will go over Carroll Summit (about 20 -25 miles). The canyon will open into Smith Creek Valley. Take the first gravel road to the left (north). There is a sign there that says Smith Creek Ranch 14 miles and a couple mailboxes. This gravel road will take you right into the ranch. Travel time from Fallon 1 hour 45 min

REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER 2007 MEETING

Name _____

Phone _____

SRM Member Registration:

Full Function Registration (#) _____ x \$40 = _____

Tour/business meeting only,
No meals (#) _____ x \$10 = _____

Non Member Registration:

Full Function Registration (#) _____ x \$55 = _____

Tour only (#) _____ x \$15 = _____

REGISTRATION AT THE RANCH: \$20 – NO MEALS AVAILABLE

REGISTER BY JUNE 15 FOR MEALS!!

Send registration and Payment to:

NV SRM
1085 Fairgrounds Road
Winnemucca, NV 89445-2001
Attn: Brad Schultz, Treasurer

STUDENT UPDATE

Trina Johnson

The UNR Range Club's year has been a success. We had a fabulous time at the annual International SRM conference challenging ourselves with the Plants and URME exams, as well as the daily tasks we assisted with throughout the meeting. The Range Club is proud of our third place display contest win. I would like to thank everyone for the support they gave the Range Club and all of the Nevada Section for an excellent meeting. Brittney Askew is taking over as president of the Range Club for the year to come and has begun organizing the students for next years meeting and events. The Range club is looking forward to next year's experiences and challenges. It's been a great year and there will hopefully be plenty more to come. Thank you.

THE PROGRESSIVE RANCHER (TPR)

I submitted the first article, by President Gary McCuin, to TPR in March. Sherm Swanson has agreed to write the next one on the new Monitoring Handbook. I will be contacting the list of suggestions Gary mentioned for future articles, however if you are not on that list it doesn't mean you have to wait to be asked! Please submit them to Maggie Orr at sideoatsg@yahoo.com. They can be 1500 words; photos are ok in that space. This blurb will run with each article, "The Society for Range Management (SRM) is *'the professional society dedicated to supporting persons who work with rangelands and have a commitment to their sustainable use.'* SRM's members are ranchers, land managers, scientists, educators, students, conservationists – a diverse membership guided by a professional code of ethics and unified by a strong land ethic. This series of articles is dedicated to connecting the science of range management with the art, by applied science on the ground in Nevada. Articles are the opinion of the author and may not be an official position of SRM. Further information and a link to submit comments, questions or suggestions are available at the Nevada Section website at <http://www.ag.unr.edu/nsrm/>. SRM's main webpage is www.rangelands.org. We welcome your comments." Maggie welcomes your comments, please let me know what you think so we can make the most of this opportunity given to us. Thanks. We will discuss at the summer meeting the means for answering any questions or comments that arise. The link on the webpage will take them to my email address initially.

NOTES AND DATES OF INTEREST

~Check out the **Sagebrush Steppe Treatment Evaluation Project** at www.sagestep.org.

~Now available: Targeted Grazing: A Natural Approach to Vegetation Management and Landscape Enhancement Handbook from American Sheep Industry Association for \$25, order form at www.sheepusa.org or available online at <http://www.cnr.uidaho.edu/rx-grazing/Handbook.htm>

~New Western Collaboration Assistance Network (WestCAN) available online at www.WestCANhelp.org. An online resource library and personalized assistance through a toll-free information line, "WestCAN seeks to broaden the community of people working together on complex natural resource issues. WestCAN works to prevent repetition of common mistakes and to coordinate opportunities for people to connect with others who have successfully overcome the many challenges of collaboration."

~Excellent advice on using volunteers for projects from the Tamarisk Coalition newsletter:

[http://www.tamariskcoalition.org/TamariskCoalition//Downloads/Newsletter_2007 February.pdf](http://www.tamariskcoalition.org/TamariskCoalition//Downloads/Newsletter_2007_February.pdf)

~Happily, there is a movement growing to get kids back outside. Check out books by Richard Louv, including Last Child in the Woods, Saving our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder.

~Weed curriculum for grades K-12;http://www.weedinvasion.org/weeds/weed_home.php

~Outstanding resources at www.weedcenter.org located at Montana State University. New publications under Products on “The Role of Wildfire in the Establishment and Range Expansion of Non Native Plant Species into Natural Areas,” and “Inventory and Survey Methods for Nonindigenous Plant Species.”

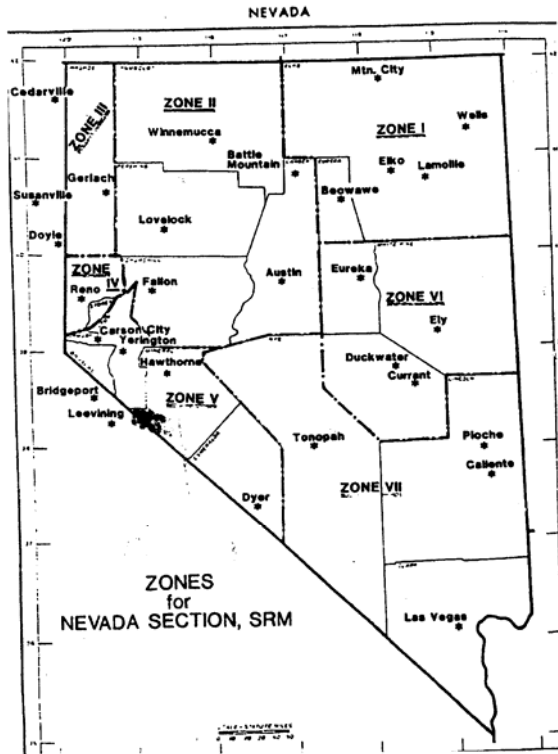
~Lost Rivers Grazing Academy, June 11-14 in Salmon, ID; classroom and hands on training in irrigated pasture management – reduce your winter feeding costs! If you missed Jim Gerrish at the Reno meeting, you have another chance to hear him. Information at: <http://extension.ag.uidaho.edu/owyhee/Ag.htm>

~Sagebrush steppe restoration conference at Utah State Univ., September 18-20, 2007, www.restoringthewest.org

JOINT FALL/WINTER 2007 MEETING WITH CAL/PAC SECTION

Mark your calendars for November 2 and 3 for the Winter Meeting to be held jointly with the Cal/Pac Section in Bishop, CA. The topic will be “Land Management in the Eastern Sierra” and the tour will be conducted along the Owens River including portions of the Lower Owens River Restoration Project (<http://lorp.info/>). The home base motel will be the Creekside Inn (www.bishopcreekside.com) and the meeting and banquet at Whiskey Creek (www.whiskeycrk.com). Rob Pearce can answer questions at robert.pearce@ca.usda.gov.

Editor’s Note: I’m sorry the newsletter is so long but we have a chance to be involved in affecting the important issues of our time. Treasurer Brad Schultz submitted a detailed financial report which is too large to put in the newsletter. You will find it as two attachments to the email that sent you this newsletter or possibly a separate email if you are interested. Don’t procrastinate! REGISTER FOR THE SUMMER MEETING NOW WHILE YOU ARE THINKING SRM! YOU MUST REGISTER BY JUNE 15 TO HAVE MEALS!!!



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