



# RANGELAND NEWS

Society for Range Management  
Nevada Section

*EARLY SPRING 2006*

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

## NEVADA SECTION OFFICERS

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## PRESIDENT'S PONDERERS

As your new section President, I want to thank all of you for the support and encouragement. We have some interesting challenges in front of us, both within the Section and across Nevada. Our new President-Elect, Gary McCuin, and I have talked regularly about ways to strengthen the Nevada Section. One that we both want to strengthen is the role that Zone Councilmen (and women) play in the section. I will be visiting with each of the Zone Councilmen individually in the next few weeks to get your thoughts.

We had an interesting Annual Meeting in Vancouver, B.C. For those of you who missed it, the meeting was quite informational, mostly lots of fun, and somewhat expensive (Our currency exchange isn't quite as it has been in the recent past). We modified our proposed resolution quite extensively about a more rapid response to significant ecological changes caused by invasive plants following fires. It was combined with another proposed resolution to make something that reflects our needs much better than we originally conceived. A copy of the revised resolution that went to the SRM Board of Directors is elsewhere in this newsletter.

On another note; the USDA-ARS lab at Reno is once again targeted for closure by the Administration in the FY08 budget. A number of individuals and organizations, including the Nevada Chapter of SRM, have fought long and hard for this lab to be permanently funded. However, this Administration, like the one before it, has continually

removed it from the budget, thus requiring our delegation to include it as an add-on budget item. ARS finally have the number of scientists on location at the Reno lab to qualify it for permanent funding. Recently, two additional scientists were added to the Reno lab bringing the number of full time scientists to eight. Their primary research has been with invasive species and rangeland revegetation. Their work with saltcedar invasion has resulted in successful control work on the Humboldt drainage and also on the lower Walker River. Dr. James Young and Charles Clements are doing exceptional work with their revegetation research throughout the state, and the list goes on. To lose any of this important research will prove most damaging to the restoration efforts of the Great Basin and Nevada. These scientists are questioning their move to Reno, given the uncertainty of continuing funding for the lab. This questioning could result in preemptive moves by individuals if funding cannot be somewhat assured. I strongly encourage an aggressive effort by the Nevada chapter SRM to help assure that funding is restored and that we do not lose this vitally important ARS Lab. I've put together a draft "white paper" for use with the congressional delegation. I would like SRM members to review and make suggested changes to this draft before a final version is put together for distribution. For those of you who get your newsletter electronically, it follows this article. It is also available on our Nevada Section Website for the next week. Those who get their newsletter via mail will get a copy mailed to them. If the "tone" is not the right one, go ahead and make suggestions. It is only a draft with lots of room for change. Time is of the essence, so you need to review it this week. From there it will be given to our congressional delegation to help them with arguments to get permanent funding.

*USDA ARS, Conservation Biology of Rangelands Research Unit, Funding White Paper*

*Nevada is facing a serious ecological problem that is rapidly getting worse. This will eventually affect all of us, whether we directly use natural resources or not. Invasive plants are dominating large areas of the state and causing a deterioration of our natural resources to the point that their domination will become irreversible. We have time to reverse the trend, but proactive collaborative action is required.*

***Why is this important??*** *Most of Nevada is undeveloped desert rangeland that we depend upon for our lifestyles, well-being, and economic sustainability. As the ecological deterioration continues to spiral, more of our state's economy will be diverted to ever decreasing endangered species, water resources, and reduced soil stability.*

***How is this happening??*** *All Nevada rangelands once sustained diverse plant communities. Many changes, such as different livestock management practices, have been implemented in a proactive manner by land management agencies over the years to help maintain that biological diversity. In spite of that, over 10 million acres of Northern Nevada rangelands has been converted to a cheatgrass monoculture. Southern Nevada is experiencing the same thing brought about by red brome. These annual grasslands are unsustainable. The ecological change is happening because a very significant change in fire frequency has occurred, some ecological and some brought about by management. During dry years the annual grasses provide almost no plant cover to protect the soil from being blown away by the wind. Once the topsoil is gone it can take generations to rebuild sufficiently to support a diverse native plant community. During the years when adequate moisture is present tremendous amounts of highly flammable annual grass biomass are produced. This grass is sustaining large, frequent, fires in an environment that historically only burned at intervals of nearer 50 years or greater. Each fire increases the acres of unstable annual grasslands.*

*In Northern Nevada over 1.6 million acres and 600,000 acres burned in 1999 and 2001 respectively. The ecological impacts of these fires are still not fully realized. In a Southern Nevada fire during the spring of 2005, 48% of the state's potential habitat for the endangered desert tortoise burned. Red brome, which will not support desert tortoise, now dominates much of this desert range. Nevada is poised to convert much more of this very valuable rangeland to annual cheatgrass and red brome monocultures during the next few years. In this environment, reclamation is very difficult at best. The changes are probably irreversible unless significant changes are made in how we address natural resource catastrophes.*

*Many noxious weeds can tolerate the frequent fire interval experienced in these unstable annual grasslands. This makes the plant communities quite vulnerable to invasion and domination by perennial invasive weeds. The resulting plant community has virtually no resource values. Wildlife that are native, or that we want to see on our landscapes, along with the livestock that are a foundation of our ranching communities, would cease to exist. All it takes is the introduction of seed into the annual grasslands. Conversion would be quite rapid.*

*As most of us are fully aware, land ownership in Nevada is predominately government (about 90%). We have traditionally thought of this as a way that problems of this type could easily be addressed. What we frequently forget is that all government ownership is not equal. Many different agencies, each with its own purpose, goals, priorities, and funding levels are intermixed with other agencies with completely different purposes, goals, priorities, and funding levels. Private ownerships, which are primarily driven by economics, are intermixed with those numerous government ownerships. In addition, when compared to private ownership, government only infrequently changes title to property but management changes very frequently. All of this makes development of a long term comprehensive vegetation or natural resource management program very difficult.*

*The invasive weed problem needs to be addressed as an essential part of the larger whole of land management. While this is easily said, the previous paragraphs suggest that it is not easily accomplished. It is much easier to address the biology of invasive weeds than it is to address the sociological changes necessary before an effective management program can be implemented.*

*The only organization working in the Great Basin ecosystem that is trying to understand the ecological changes brought about by these many non-native invasive plant species and how to best address them is the USDA Agriculture Research Service Conservation Biology of Rangelands Research Unit in Reno. The knowledge being gained from research being conducted at this small location is crucial to reversing the ecological trends that we are seeing. Others within the state will use that knowledge to help in making the sociological changes necessary to maintain our natural resources in a usable condition for our grandchildren.*

### **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS!**

We welcome the new members of the Nevada Section since the last newsletter!

Michelle S. Burrows, UNR student, 17206 Aquamarine Dr., Reno, NV 89506,  
[burrows@woodlandvillage.net](mailto:burrows@woodlandvillage.net)

Jannice & Michael Cutler, ranchers, 2100 E. Horseshoe Rd., Battle Mtn, NV 89820-4059,  
[cutler@springsips.com](mailto:cutler@springsips.com)

Susan Hess, UNR student, 125 Hwy 40S HC 02, Winnemucca, NV 89445, [shess@unr.nevada.edu](mailto:shess@unr.nevada.edu)

Erin Hourihan, UNR student, 1419 E 9th St #11, Reno, NV 89512, [airhead41@yahoo.com](mailto:airhead41@yahoo.com)

Eri Maeda, student, PO Box 14802, Reno, NV 89507, [maeda@unr.nevada.edu](mailto:maeda@unr.nevada.edu)

Chandler K. Mundy, USDA-FS, 825 Ave. E, Ely, NV,89301, [cmundy@fs.fed.us](mailto:cmundy@fs.fed.us)

Julie Thompson, ENLC, PO Box 150266, Ely, 89315, [julieventure@yahoo.com](mailto:julieventure@yahoo.com)

Michael Dolan, BLM, HC Box 49508, Alturas, CA 96101, (530) 233-7903 w, [mdolan@ca.blm.gov](mailto:mdolan@ca.blm.gov)

Chris Mayer, BLM, HC 33 Box 33500, Ely 89301, [cmayer@nv.blm.gov](mailto:cmayer@nv.blm.gov)

Adam Johnson, UNR student, 1075 Porter Circle, Reno 89509, [snowmtnboy@gmail.com](mailto:snowmtnboy@gmail.com)

Jim Estill, rancher, Box 1107, Lovelock, NV 89419, [estilljs@earthlink.net](mailto:estilljs@earthlink.net)

Dirk & Marta Agee, ranchers, HC 61 Box 50, Alamo, 89001, [agee@lcturbonet.com](mailto:agee@lcturbonet.com)

David Anderson, Bechtell NV, PO Box 98521 MS NTS 260, Las Vegas, 89193-8521, 702-295-0481 (w)

Ken Mitchell, Deep Springs College, HC 72 Box 45001, Dyer, 89010, [mitchell@deepsprings.edu](mailto:mitchell@deepsprings.edu)

Michael Montero, Lemons Grundy & Eisenberg, 6005 Plumas St. Ste. 300, Reno, 89509, [mrm@ige.net](mailto:mrm@ige.net)

Cheryl Probert, USFS, HCR 1 Box 1000, Bridgeport, CA 93517, [cprobert@fs.fed.us](mailto:cprobert@fs.fed.us)

Members lost through the same period - Heather Telerico, Hudson Glimp, Heather Mobley, Chris Mendoza, and Tom Baker of Reno, Jody Nartz of Ely, Michael Stoner of Carson City and Ryan Woodland of Golconda.

### **TO PRINT A CURRENT MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION TO HAND OUT**

Go to: [http://www.rangelands.org/pdf/2005\\_Application.PDF](http://www.rangelands.org/pdf/2005_Application.PDF)

### **NOTE THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR MOVED!**

Maggie and Rick Orr have moved to Elko so if you have any submissions for the newsletter please send them to [sideoatsg@yahoo.com](mailto:sideoatsg@yahoo.com) or call Maggie at home at 753-5516. Rick is back with NRCS, his office phone is 738-8431, ext 129. If you attend a conference/meeting/have a great day at work or in the field, send me a paragraph so the rest of us can keep up with what is going on around the state or the world. If you have a suggestion of who is not a member but should receive the newsletter, please get the information to Chuck Saulisberry.

### **WINTER SECTION MEETING IN OVERTON**

The winter tour in Overton began on a beautiful day in an excellent way with the unveiling of the buckaroo saddle made by Duane Coombs for the 2007 meeting raffle. After admiring the fully tooled saddle with silver inlays and tapaderos, the group moved to a private field growing Malta Starthistle among the homes in Moapa Valley. Discussion focused on involving private groups in the effort against the weed, those directly affected with a reason to work for eradication, in this area, horse owners. We

moved up the Muddy River to Glendale to observe arundo and saltcedar. Ann Schrieber of Muddy River Regional Environmental Impact Alleviation Committee (MRREIAC) met us and explained her intense involvement with salt cedar removal by NDF Honor Camp Crews. Up on Mormon Mesa we looked at the incredibly robust Sahara Mustard and other associated annuals in the Mojave Desert. Dianne Bangle and Jessica Spencer of Lake Mead NRA staff presented the bad news that germination studies they have done on Sahara Mustard demonstrate it has incredible survival abilities at a wide range of temperatures, under high salt concentrations, in light and dark conditions and after ten weeks of submergence. The three stops made interesting juxtapositions: agronomic weeds vs. riparian weeds vs. open rangeland weeds and effective management on small scales that require personal commitment of local citizens vs. the massive scales public land or large private land managers face. Potentials exist for all these weeds/circumstances to be causal factors in type conversions. We saw first hand the effect of this at the south end of the Tule Desert where events of 2005 built on the growing menace of invasive plants.

Rick Orr, at the time Assistant Field Manager for BLM in Caliente, gave an overview of the events of 2005 that led to the situation where we were standing. Record precipitation led to 2000+ pounds per acre annual grass production in the Mojave Desert type followed by a rapid succession of storms with dry lightning in June leaving 730,000 acres of Southern Nevada burned. The fires demonstrated unprecedented fire behavior flashing through an area in the morning and creeping back through the same area in the afternoon, flame fronts jumping 100-200 feet breaks without hesitating, fire backing downhill into 20 mph winds. In this area, management is complicated further by the presence of an endangered species, the desert tortoise, and wilderness areas.

As a manager, Rick was looking for answers to questions.

- How to manage to reduce the threat of such impacts
- How to manage once we have such impacts
- How to manage when we have such type conversions
- How to manage to cross the threshold back
- Where to find the funding to manage areas subject to type conversions
- Where to find the funding to do research to know where to begin
- What research to do to understand massive ecological conversion potentials
- How to find answers if the current system doesn't allow rehab funds to be spent on research
- What can be done right here and right now on this ground

The group decided that due to current policy direction the Section should pursue a change in how rehab funds are directed in light of conditions being encountered in a variety of ecosystems so contrary to our existing knowledge base. Managers and scientists need to be able to quickly study impacts and what managers can do to reduce risks, especially risks that can forever alter an ecosystem.

After gathering again for dinner at the hotel, Cub Wolfe presented the **Range Professional of the Year Award** – awarded to Gerry Miller. (See article in next newsletter.) Also given was the **Sustained Achievement Award** – to Chuck Saulisberry – for long-serving and dedicated service to the Section. Chuck joined SRM in 1949 when he was still a student and signed the original petition to form the Nevada Section. Chuck has served as the Executive Vice President of the Section for many years and it should be noted that each year he donates his \$500 paycheck to the Nevada Section Endowment Fund. Thanks, Chuck for your dedication and example.

Barry Perryman received the President's retiring award plaque; he thanked those that had helped him and noted that we have grown but we need a lot more members. Past President Angela Mushrush stated 46 ballots were returned with the following results:

President-Elect – Gary McCuin

Zone Council:           Zone I – Chuck Petersen  
                                  Zone V – Tracy Benson

Zone III – Marti Butow  
Zone VII – Shirley Johnson

Notes from the business meeting Saturday morning: Brad said we are solvent. Leah Stile and Morgan Davis will represent Nevada at the HSYF in Vancouver. The Nevada Soil and Water Conservation Society section donated their remaining funds to the Challenge Match. Many thanks are in order. The Challenge Match deadline has been extended to 12/31/06. Sherm reported that Jess Costello received a \$1000 scholarship from the University fund. Jim Gifford will serve as secretary through 2006, we need someone to take over in 2007. Thanks are in order to Nevada Bighorns for \$600, Nevada Wildlife Federation for \$1000, the Bensons for dedicated service to Range Camp and the UNR Range Club for ironing the wild rags for the 2007 meeting.

John Tanaka, First VP of SRM, stated there were 18 applicants for the EVP position; Jason Campbell was selected, he will work out of DC and commute to Wheat Ridge. The Society is looking to make some requirements more feasible to allow current range programs to qualify for accreditation; many universities are combining departments. The Society name change straw poll returned a majority that said don't change the name. SRM has spent a lot of time in DC trying to build relationships with agencies beyond BLM, USFS and NRCS with good success. There is ongoing trouble to get members willing to serve as elected officers of SRM. Vicky Skill is the contact for CEU's. Ann Harris and John said SRM is reaching out to new young professionals and looking at retention as a real focus. Cub suggested the old car window sticker!

The Section passed the Emergency Rehab Funding Resolution which came out of discussion on the tour. It will go to the RAM and Invasive Weeds Committees in Vancouver. See other article concerning this resolution.

## **RESOLUTION**

From Advisory Council Minutes in Vancouver

“The Nevada Section re-introduced a resolution calling for use of federal emergency rehabilitation and stabilization funding for research on rehabilitation of burned areas. About 600,000 acres of Mojave Desert burned last July due to red brome invasions, but we have no experience or knowledge of fire rehabilitation in such arid areas. Funding for the necessary research is unavailable, but agency Emergency Stabilization & Rehabilitation Funds could be re-directed to gather information and allow science-based management. Availability of native plant seed is also a problem that is not being addressed. Delegates pointed out that similar situations exist in the Sonoran Desert, where 200,000 acres recently burned, and in southern California. AC delegates attended the Invasive Weeds Committee meeting earlier and obtained their support for the resolution. The PNW section moved that the following resolution be approved and forwarded to the BOD. The Nevada section seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote.

*WHEREAS: Non-native invasive plants such as cheatgrass, red brome, medusa-head, and other species are drastically altering ecosystems across the western United States and Canada, and*

*WHEREAS: Invasive plant monocultures dramatically decrease the quality of wildlife habitat, forage production, watershed functionality, scenic beauty, and other values for future generations, and*

*WHEREAS: Invasive species are altering ecological processes such as the nutrient cycle, the hydrologic cycle, and energy flow in an unprecedented manner,*

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Society for Range Management will*

*Promote increased funding for research on invasive plants,*

*Promote rehabilitation or restoration of ecological systems impaired by invasive species,*

*Promote increased funding for baseline monitoring of ecosystems, and*

*Promote the use of currently available funds such as “Emergency Stabilization Rehabilitation Funds” for collection of critical data research and monitoring data during and immediately after fires, and*

*Promote research on fire and its effects on ecosystems.”*

### **SUMMER MEETING IN THE ASPEN**

President-Elect Gary McCuin invites all to the Kennecott Ranch in White Pine County for the Summer Meeting on July 14 & 15 with the possibility of the afternoon of July 13 as well. We will be discussing *aspen and interactions with wildlife and livestock*, with the new Aspen Working Group. Potential speakers include: Dr. Dale Bartos, David Burton, and Dr. Charles Kay. We hope to welcome ranchers, members of The Wildlife Society and others who have an interest in the topic.

The current plan is for an all day tour on Friday, July 14 in the Berry Creek / Duck Creek area with a BBQ at the ranch that night. Our business meetings will be on Saturday morning, July 15. Gary is working toward a half day class the afternoon of July 13 with the Aspen Working Group. This would allow travel time Thursday morning.

Chris Collis, Brand Inspector for White Pine County and new SRM member, reports the ponds at the Kennecott Ranch are stocked with large trout that he is hoping we will catch and take home. We will camp at the ranch. There are showers and a few rooms or Ely is only 20 or so miles away.

### **THOUGHTS FROM VANCOUVER**

“I thought the Vancouver Annual Conference was very well organized with top notch facilities. I particularly enjoyed meeting and visiting with folks from British Columbia. They have many of the same issues and concerns that we have in the US Government which was surprising to me. I enjoyed hearing input from BC ranchers at the Range Management School. Above all else, I

have to say the people from Vancouver are some of the friendliest, most accommodating folks I've ever met...we were warmly greeted everywhere. I'm glad I made the trip and didn't let the lack of budgetary support rain on my parade. It was worth it." Shirley Johnson

What a beautiful city and area, Vancouver and BC is. It is always interesting and enjoyable to see new country and culture. Although similar to the US, it is different – MacDonald's does not have a sausage and egg biscuit, only McMuffin, Copenhagen comes in a plastic container half the size and twice the price. There were probably only 5 days in February 2006 that it didn't rain or wasn't overcast in Vancouver and I was there all five of them, and it is really expensive to be socialist.

Enough about the area, I come away from another annual SRM meeting renewed, excited and physically exhausted. It is possible for me to get more accomplished as an advocate for NV rangeland livestock production in one week at an annual SRM meeting than in the rest of the year at home. The contacts, ideas, science and discussions both with new folks and the usual suspects are enjoyable, thought provoking, and I feel, highly productive. This is a great organization made up of highly diverse people, backgrounds, agendas, passions, likes and dislikes. It is worth every penny for my membership dues and time input – I get tenfold back and in turn hopefully the people I represent and pay my freight on a daily basis get the same.

Now on a more somber note. I had a severe reality check. All the people that went to Vancouver and hopefully several hundred more are going to show up in Reno next February expecting a meeting as well-organized and exciting. The Nevada Section members are tied to the tracks and the train is coming full steam, whistle screaming. We have got to get it in gear and pull together to pull it off. I don't know about the rest of you Section members but I don't want to go to the 2008 meeting in Kentucky and be known as the Section that blew it. This is a good organization and I want to be able to continue being a member and be proud of our meeting in 2007." Gary McCuin

"Great food!" Rick Orr

"The arrangements seemed to be good, and the hotel set-ups were great." Chuck S.

"When we arrived, the weather was absolutely balmy. I saw people in short sleeves and shorts. Lawns were growing lush and vigorous and were being mowed. It was apparent the recent 30 continuous days of rain in the northwest had left their mark. Later it turned cold as one would expect. Nevertheless, Vancouver is a beautiful city. I was there until Tuesday night, and what I saw of the convention was run with precision, good organization, and creativity. I witnessed some of the speakers being given the red carpet treatment which demonstrated sensitivity and professionalism. I wish I could have stayed until the end." Rex Cleary

"Tracey Jean and I had a great time in Vancouver, however, the trip to Vancouver from Nevada was just as good. For the first time traveling in the northwest we had clear skies and were able to see all the volcanoes and the Olympic Range, it was outstanding. There was a lot of enthusiasm at the meeting and the paper presentations were very good. It was apparent that the US Government agencies did not support the meeting by the low attendance of government employees." Cub Wolfe

## **NEVADA WILDLAND FIRE AWARENESS WEEK**

By Ed Smith

Nevada will hold its first Wildland Fire Awareness Week from May 20-26. The purpose of this week is to increase awareness of Nevada's wildfire related issues and promote action in wildfire threat-reduction projects.

Many people are aware of the National Fire Prevention Week every October which typically focuses on house fires and inside-the-home fire safety. Over the years, most of the western states have elected to also celebrate an awareness week devoted specifically to wildfire issues. Willie Riggs, Eureka County Extension Educator, can be credited with the idea for a Nevada Wildland Fire Awareness Week. He said it was a popular event in Oregon when he lived in Lakeview. A number of Nevadans think it's the best idea Willie's had in awhile.

A number of organizations have been meeting to plan the first Nevada Wildland Fire Awareness Week, including BLM, NDF, UNR Cooperative Extension and the Fire Science Academy, US Forest Service, Sierra Front Wildfire Cooperators, Nevada Fire Safe Council, and others. The events scheduled for this week include: Nevada Wildland Fire Research Conference in Reno on May 25, Nevada Fire Safe Council annual membership meeting in Reno on May 23-24, debut of the "Living With Fire" television special, a poster contest for 5th grade students sponsored by the UNR Fire Academy, and many more happenings. For a calendar of events, go to: [www.livingwithfire.info](http://www.livingwithfire.info)

For more information, contact your agency representative:

Cooperative Extension – Sonya Sistare

NDF – Kelly Baratti

BLM – Ruta Glinski

USFS – Christie Kalkowski/Tom Baker

Volunteer Fire Departments – Willie Riggs

Nevada Fire Safe Council – Mike Vollmer

Ed wonders if SRM Nevada has any ideas for events, wants to sponsor a workshop, or would help the agencies with their outreach to classrooms.

## **STUDENT UPDATES**

The SRM 2006 annual conference in Vancouver proved to be another fun yet challenging experience for UNR students. In attendance were five graduate and eight undergraduate students. Graduate students Ann Bollinger and Kurtiss Schmidt gave oral presentations and Tracy Benson and Ryan Shane gave poster presentations. As the Range Club had hoped, four veteran undergraduate students recruited four new students to join in the SRM student activities. All eight undergrads participated in the Plant Identification Contest and Undergraduate Range Management Exam (URME). The Plant ID contest demanded the best of the best in identification skills and memory recall of scientific names. Only 6 out of 20 schools had passing scores, and, unfortunately, UNR was not one. In the URME contest, our three best students were 1) Susan Hess, 2) Erin Hourihan, and 3) Jess Costello. With her URME score, Susan earned 15<sup>th</sup> place for the overall combined score. Other students in attendance were: Jessica Dhaemers (graduate – who interviewed for and accepted a USFS job in Idaho at the meeting, Congratulations Jessica! (editor's note)), Trina Meredith, Eri Maeda, Michelle Burrows, Matt Murphy, and Adam Johnson.

Funding for the undergraduates was made possible through two fundraising events. BLM-Winnemucca and BLM-Ely both provided an opportunity and generous funding. Thank you!

Some of us are graduating this year, and therefore we will not be around as student members but as professionals and colleagues. From those of us who are graduating, I'd like to thank Nevada members for your support; for the students who remain, I hope your support continues!

Ann Bollinger

Hello Nevada Section,

Well we all made it back from Vancouver in one piece and with a new appreciation for plant identification! Our team members that took the Plant ID test last year all agreed that this year was much more difficult; we were glad to see a *few* familiar plants from the Chenopodiaceae. Along with those who took the test last year in Ft. Worth, we had several new members participate in the Plant ID. I'd like to thank these new members for putting in the effort required to learn these plants since they have not yet taken a field identification course for rangeland plants: Erin Hourihan, Eri Maeda and Adam Johnson. Members who have taken the rangeland plants course here at UNR are to be commended for their efforts also: Matt Murphy, Jess Costello, Michelle Burrows and Trina Meredith.

Each of the eight members from the UNR Range Club that attended the Vancouver meeting not only took the Plant ID test, but also the Undergraduate Range Management Exam (URME). The test was difficult as usual and the competition was stiff, but we all managed to survive it! A few of our team members came in again in the top 25% of all scores, including a team member who was taking the exam for the first year.

We'd like to thank our coaches who took time out of their own schedule and volunteered to help us. Thanks to Ann Bollinger for all of your help and dedication with plants team and also to Kurtiss Schmidt for all of your help with the URME team. Also thanks to our sponsors from this year: Dean Thawley and the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources at UNR and the Associated Students of the University of Nevada (ASUN). We are all looking forward to an even better meeting next year in Sparks!

Sincerely, Susan Hess, UNR Range Club President

**STUDENTS!** Check out the 06 Regional SCEP Recruit Bulletin from USFS on the Nevada Section website at [www.ag.unr.edu/nsrm/](http://www.ag.unr.edu/nsrm/).

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **April 18-19**, Mohave Desert Native Plants for Revegetation Symposium & Workshop, Suncoast Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, no fee, info and register at [Steve\\_Caicco@fws.gov](mailto:Steve_Caicco@fws.gov)
- **April 19-21**, Nevada State GIS Conference, Las Vegas, [www.ngis.org](http://www.ngis.org)
- **May 16-17**, Ecology & Management of Red Bromegrass Fine Fuels in Southwest Deserts, Arizona State University, Mesa, AZ, contact [john.brock@asu.edu](mailto:john.brock@asu.edu)
- **May 20**, 5 PM, Nevada Wildlife Federation Annual Meeting, Reno, by reservation to [dupree20057150@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dupree20057150@sbcglobal.net)
- **June 6-8**, 14<sup>th</sup> Wildland Shrub Symposium, "Shrublands Under Fire: Disturbance and Recovery in a Changing World," Cedar City, UT, Stan Kitchen, [skitchen@fs.fed.us](mailto:skitchen@fs.fed.us), 801-356-5109, Abstracts should be submitted by March 10, \$150 regular, \$30 student registration
- **July 22-26**, Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Conference, Keystone, CO, [www.swcs.org](http://www.swcs.org)

## **2006 RANGE CAMP**

Jim Potts reports Range Camp dates will be June 19-24, 2006. He urges all members to encourage high school youth to attend. There will be a planning meeting in April.

### **CHECK OUT THESE WEED WEBSITES**

Clayton Henriod wants input to improve the Tri-County site @ [www.tri-countyweedcontrol.com](http://www.tri-countyweedcontrol.com)  
Sage Fitch of Wasatch Weed Consulting Services (801-440-7537) wants help with content and weed images for the Utah Weed Awareness group @ [www.ob-noxious.org](http://www.ob-noxious.org).

### **INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY AWARDS**

SRM Honor award nominations are due (10 sets, hard copy) in the SRM Office by April 30. Please look at the NvSRM website, [www.ag.unr.edu/nsrm/](http://www.ag.unr.edu/nsrm/) for information from Bruce Healy, 2007 SRM Awards Committee chair. We want to get some of our folks nominated!



**Figure 1 Rick Orr standing in the unburned area showing high annual grass production on the winter tour, January, 2006.**



**Figure 2 Sherm Swanson, Jim Linebaugh, John Tanaka, and Douglas Merkler on burned area on winter tour. This was just across the road from the photo showing Rick Orr standing in the annual production. Note the early green-up of annuals in early January 2006.**