



RANGELAND NEWS

Society for Range Management
Nevada Section

LATE FALL 2006

TO FOSTER ADVANCEMENT IN THE SCIENCE AND ART OF RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

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PRESIDENT'S PONDERERS

Bob Wilson

Most who look across our landscape see the "sea of sagebrush" is as it was when John Fremont first described it. Nevada rangelands are not static, but instead are constantly changing. Most of us within the profession of rangeland management understand that. We know now that the Great Basin is substantially different than even 100 years ago. These changes have become profound and continue as an ongoing process.

Occasionally, as with the fires starting in 1999 the changes have been dramatic and immediate. Even then though, the general populous only recognized the dramatic and the destruction – but not the renewal or the long term changes.

Some of the same things can be said about our land management practices. Usually we only recognize the sameness of bureaucracies, and only occasionally the dramatic changes from people getting fired, or when major policy shifts occur. We rarely recognize the resultant policy change and how it affects our land management activities.

The point in all of this is that we might want to look at our land management practices in a more holistic manner and how these practices influence what occurs on the ground. We know that what we are doing is not working well. Our discussion this summer and winter is about inappropriate fire. But what management activities – both long and short term – have brought about the buildup of fire fuels and have done little to slow the spread of invasive plants, whether annual grasses or more permanent

perennials. We can't expect a different ecological outcome if the inputs continue as "status quo."

We have a by-law issue that will need to be addressed at our winter business meeting. Barry had only one candidate for each position. To comply with our by-laws we will mail out the ballots and have two candidates for zone council positions. In the future, if this occurs, only one candidate for each office, it would save money if we were able to conduct the elections either electronically or by unanimous vote at the winter meeting. That requires a by-law change.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

We welcome these new members to the Nevada Section since the last newsletter!

Cheri Howell, USFS, PO Box 220, Wells, 89835, 775/752-1713 w, chowell02@fs.fed.us

Clifford Merriman, BLM, 25 Hoylake, Abilene, TX 79606, 970/531-7827 w, cliff_merriman@hotmail.com

Quinn Nuffer, Churchill County Mosquito, Vector & Weed, 3750 Bottom Rd, Fallon, 89406-5874, 775/423-2828 w, brokencirclebordercollies@hotmail.com

Kristen Schmidt, UNR, 1000 Valley Rd, Reno, 89512, 775/784-1449 w

Heather Steel, NRCS, 555 W. Silver St, Suite 101, Elko, 89801-7713, 775/738-8431, ext. 131 w, heather.steel@nv.usda.gov

Ron Torell, UNCE, 701 Walnut St, Elko, 89801-2543, 775/738-1721 w, torellr@unce.unr.edu

Dave Torell, Rocky Mtn Elk Foundation, 6530 Coral Lane, Lolo, MT, 59847-9651, dtorell@rmef.org

Jennifer Ballard, PO Box 12794, Reno, 89510, pottercrk@yahoo.com

Steve Perkins, 4838 Hawk Dr., Fallon, 89406, steven.perkins@nv.usda.gov

Kimberley Wolf, PO Box 2134, Elko, 89803-2134, kwolf@barrick.com

Welcome back to **Kurtiss Schmidt** and **Shane Roche** and **John and Amy Ruhs**

PO Box 151162, Ely, NV 89315-1163, john_ruhs@blm.gov, amy_ruhs@blm.gov

Members dropped: Tess Wipfli, UNR, and John Gerlach, consultant, Fair Oaks, CA.

Chuck reports, "our total membership stands at 174, the most we have had in many years. Our recruiters are doing a great job, particularly our Extension people."

NEVADA MEMBERSHIP CHAIR / SECRETARY

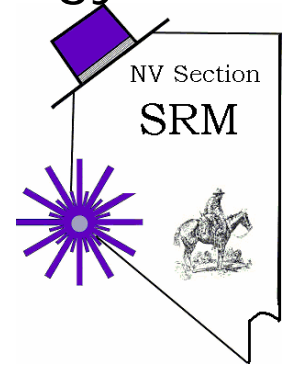
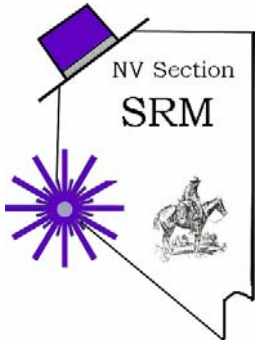
Chuck Saulisberry, longtime Nevada Section Membership Chair has indicated he will willingly hand the reins of this position to a new individual. Secretary Jim Gifford indicated in Moapa this was his last year as Section secretary. President Bob Wilson seeks volunteers to take these important jobs. We will discuss how to make the transition at the winter meeting.

WINTER MEETING

President-Elect Gary McCuin has put together an outstanding program for the winter meeting. Register to attend, spread the word, and make your room reservation early. We must fill the reserved room block to get the meeting room at no cost.

WILDFIRES

Is our Traditional Management Strategy Working? A Call to Action!



December 15, 2006 1:00 pm–5:00 pm

John Ascuaga's Nugget

Genoa Room

Cost - \$15.00 – Seminar Only

1:00 pm – 2:45 pm

Bob Wilson, Extension Educator, NV Section SRM President - *Wildfire: Disease or Symptom - Where We Are and Insight into required action!*

Dr. James Young, Agricultural Research Service, UNR – Nevada's Native Rangelands vs. *Annual invasive grasses - an insight into required action*

Brad Schultz, Extension Educator & Rangeland Ecologist, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
The role of Fire in Nevada's Rangelands and State and Transition Application to Management

Dr. Elwood Miller, Nevada Fire Safe Council – Managing Fire and Rangelands – Private and Public Actions

2:45 pm – 3:00 pm Break

3:00 pm – 4:45 pm

Call to Action Panel Discussion: How will we manage our Rangelands in the future?

Moderated Q and A Session – Allen Biaggi Moderator

NV SRM – John McLain

NDF – Pete Anderson

NDOW – Dave Pulliam

BLM – Ron Wenker

Forest Service – Ed Monnig

Senator Dean Rhoads –*Summary*



December 15 – 16
John Ascuaga's Nugget

Room Reservations only 1 (800) 648-1177 - Reserved Room Block for
12/15/06 Society for Range Management GSRM2

Room Rate \$89.00 single or Double Occupancy - Please book early

We must fill at least 20 rooms at the Nugget on the night of Dec. 15!!

***Also please pre- register for the meeting with Brad Schultz. We need to know how*
many for rooms and for meals in advance!!!**

(775) 623-6304

1085 Fairgrounds Road

Winnemucca, NV 89445

schultzb@UNCE.unr.edu

December 15

7:30 am – Genoa: Registration \$35.00 Full registration

8:00 am – 11:30 am

Genoa Room - Section Meeting:

11:30 – 1:00pm – Lunch on your own

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm – Wildfire Symposium and Panel Discussion

\$15.00 registration fee for just the Symposium

Dinner on your own

December 16

8:00 am – 11:45 am – Planning Meeting

This will be the last face-to-face planning meeting before the big event.

We need everyone there!!

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Bonanza A - Awards Luncheon

ELECTIONS

PRESIDENT-ELECT: Duane Kay Coombs

BS Range Science 1997 -- Utah State University

1988 – 1994 – Cowboy -- Redd Ranches; Paradox CO, Rassmussen Charolais; Manti UT, Indian Creek Cattle Co.; Monticello UT

1994 – 1997 -- Range Rider – South Cache Grazing Assn.; Hyrum, UT

1997 -- Cowboss/Foreman – Indian Creek Cattle Co.; Monticello, UT

1998 – Present -- Ranch Manager – Smith Creek Ranch; Austin, NV

2003 -- Nv. Section SRM; Young Range Professional award.

2005 – Nevada Wildlife Federation; Soil Conservationist of the Year award.

I joined SRM as a student at USU in 1992 soon after moving into the range program. I have always valued my membership as a tie to a group of professionals dedicated to furthering the art and science of rangeland management. As a ranch manager this fellowship is vital for me to grow in my understanding of the natural systems that I operate in. It seems like each time I have had the opportunity to attend an SRM related meeting, tour or seminar I returned home with a yellow pad full of ideas to make the ranch more ecologically or economically viable. The pool of knowledge in the Nevada Section is truly an untapped resource not only for those of us who are members but also for all those who enjoy Nevada's rangelands. I would like to see the

section continue to strengthen its camaraderie internally as well as to extend ourselves into our various communities. By doing this we can share our knowledge, ethics and skills, additionally as a result our collective intellect will increase exponentially.

ZONE 2 COUNCIL: My name is **Jessica Rudden** and I am a native Nevadan; born and raised in Fallon. I graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno in 2004 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Resource Science specializing in Wildlife Management. I began working for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in 2002 while I was a student at the university. I was a Soil Conservationist in the NRCS Yerington Field Office in 2004 and transferred to the NRCS Fallon Field Office in 2006. I am currently a Soil Conservationist within the Fallon office and am Acting Wildlife Biologist for the Lahontan Area. I became a member of the Nevada Section of the Society for Range Management in November of 2004. [I would be honored to serve the Nevada Section as the Zone 2 representative.](#)

ZONE 4 COUNCIL: Ben Bruce: I received my PhD in 1979 in Range Animal Nutrition from New Mexico State University, was born and raised on a ranch in Northwestern New Mexico and have been an SRM member since 1975. I have worked with grazing animals in Alaska, Hawaii, the Great Plains and in the deserts of the West. I have worked for various Universities for 30 years in research, teaching, and extension. I am currently a Program Co-chair for the 2007 annual meeting, and would be very happy to serve as zone 4 council member for the Nevada Section.

ZONE 4 COUNCIL: Diane Weaver: (From the 2004 newsletter) Went to college at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in animal science, then graduated from Humboldt State University with a BS in Range Management. I have worked for the Forest Service as a Rangeland Mgt. Specialist for the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, based out of Sparks, NV.

ZONE 6 COUNCIL: My name is **Ken Conley**. I am a native Nevadan, raised in Gerlach, Nevada. I graduated from Gerlach High School in 1974. I attended the University of Nevada from 1974 to 1978 and received a B.S. in Agriculture in 1978. In 1978 I became employed by the University of Nevada as a Research Aid at the Gund Research and Demonstration Facility. I became manager of this facility in 1985 and continue in that capacity at the present time. In 1991 I entered graduate school at the University of Nevada and received an M.S. in Animal Science in 1993.

I became a member of SRM in 2004. Since then I have become aware of the benefits associated with active involvement in SRM. I believe that increased participation and membership in SRM, particularly by individuals in the range livestock industry, is essential for promoting the sustainability of ranching on public lands. I would be honored to serve as councilman for Zone 6 of the Nevada Section of the Society of Range Management.

ZONE 6 COUNCIL: Jon Hutchings: Jon Hutchings is the Natural Resources Manager for Eureka County. By virtue of his position, Jon is deeply involved in natural resource and public land concerns across the state. Energy development, land tenure changes, livestock grazing, mine permitting, range management and water resource management occupy most of his time. Before coming to Nevada, Jon worked four years for the Idaho Water Resources Institute heading up the geochemistry component of the Treasure Valley Hydrologic Project, a regional ground water flow system analysis in southwestern

Idaho. Jon is a soil scientist and hydrologist by training. He received his PhD in soil science and M.S. in hydrology from the University of Idaho in Moscow.

PROPOSAL/OPPORTUNITY

Maggie Orr

When I called Leana Stitzel of *The Progressive Rancher* to get an article in about the 2007 meeting she asked me if SRM wanted to submit a regular article to the magazine, monthly or every other month. She felt the input would be “timely and add depth”. We specifically discussed the need for connection between research and application on the ground. She said *TPR* reaches about 6000 addresses. I would be willing to manage the submission of articles. I would not be writing the articles, this would be a way to get a variety of ideas/writers into the hands of producers. I think this is an opportunity we should pursue. We will vote on it at the winter business meeting in December.

COOPERATIVE MONITORING – YOU CAN DO IT

Gary McCuin and Rex Cleary

Yes, you can now do cooperative monitoring in Nevada. Thanks to the initial efforts of the Association of Range Consultants (ARC) and many Nevada SRM members it is possible to initiate a cooperative monitoring program with both the BLM and FS. This seems like a strange statement upon first glance, since BLM and FS and the Public Lands Council have had an MOU in place since 2004 and 2005 respectively. The problem was that even though the MOU both endorsed and required that cooperative monitoring be implemented, it did not define how. This is where the NV section SRM entered the picture.

Agency, rancher, academic and producer members of the NV section were all frustrated by the inability and, yes even some unwillingness, on both agency and producer fronts to actually implement cooperative monitoring. NV section members began working together across institutional and cultural boundaries to define the process for initiating a cooperative monitoring program and the accepted monitoring protocols that could be used.

Section Members utilized many fronts to advance their goal. Nevada has been in the process of updating the Nevada Rangeland Monitoring Handbook since early 2005. Many of the institutional leaders on the Update committee, as well as the technical writing team are SRM members and shared the desire to implement cooperative monitoring. The timing was right and this was an obvious place to define the need, process, and methods for cooperative monitoring. At the time of this writing the technical team is finalizing the Handbook update and incorporating review critiques from Nevada and out of state reviewers.

The updated Monitoring Handbook includes a Rancher’s Guide to Monitoring and a detailed process for establishing a cooperative monitoring program. When finalized this will become the “how to” guide accepted by federal and state agencies, UNR Department of Agriculture and Biotechnology and UNR Cooperative Extension, Farm Bureau and Nevada Cattlemen’s Association. The updated version focuses on adaptive management and objective setting as the means to determine monitoring needs, methods, and ongoing management. The Handbook also covers a number of topics that were not included in the 1984 version, i.e. riparian areas, competitive herbivory and water quality to name a few. Training in the methods and assistance in establishing a cooperative monitoring program is also available through the University members and Nevada Department of Agriculture.

Section members also advanced the concept and need for cooperative monitoring to the Nevada BLM Resource Advisory Councils (RAC's). This resulted in several RAC's adopting and promoting the need for cooperative monitoring. Ultimately, BLM State Director Ron Wenker issued an Instructional Bulletin that provided state and Washington level direction to the Nevada BLM districts.

So the question is, "Why Cooperative Monitoring?" There are numerous and varied good reasons why a livestock producer or agency rangeland specialist would want to initiate and continue a cooperative monitoring of federally managed rangelands. The most basic reason is that a monitoring plan will help the producer become a better manager and increase the long term health of the land as well as the economic viability of the ranch operation. For the agency personnel, monitoring is one of their congressional mandates. In working with the producer, they essentially get a range technician that is on-the-ground most days of the year. The frosting on the cake is that this new "range tech" is free to the agency as far as deductions from their operating budget is concerned.

Monitoring is essential to understanding the effect of management decisions and implemented actions on the health and sustainability of rangelands. It is one of the most basic and critical tasks rangeland managers, producer and agency specialist alike, can perform to make informed management decisions to effectively manage the land and natural resources. Last, but certainly not least in importance, a shared documented photographic and quantitative monitoring record over time is one of the most powerful items that the agency and producers can have when their management actions are challenged.

Several permittees have talked to their agency rangeland specialists to initiate a cooperative monitoring program as a result of the efforts described above and many permittees and agency representatives have attended three training sessions. An indoor training session is on the agenda at the Cattlemen's College to be held November 17th at the Nevada Cattlemen's Association Convention at the Elko Convention Center.

Good job Nevada Section SRM Members, keep up the good work.

STUDENT CHAPTER

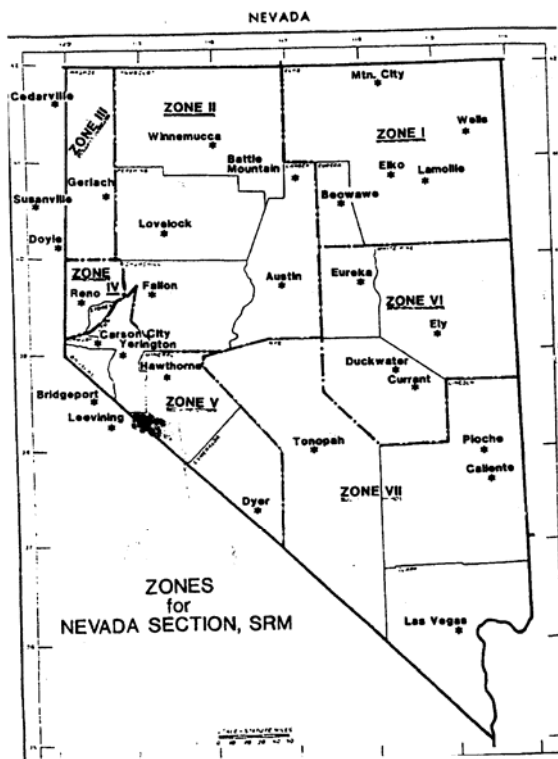
Trina Meredith

As the fall semester is in full swing the SRM student chapter at UNR is gearing up for another year of contests at the National Meeting in Reno. There are students competing in the Plant ID contest, URME, Undergraduate public speaking contest, and the new Rangeland cup. New members this year include, Brittney Askew, Brian Taylor, Heather Mobley, and Casey Boyd. These new members have really boosted our membership and we are please to have them joining us. We are excited Reno is hosting the national meeting this year and have been gathering sponsorship from businesses around the Reno/Sparks area. Hope to see everyone in Reno for a great time!

REGISTER NOW FOR THE WINTER MEETING DEC. 15 & 16!

**CUB WOLFE RETIRES JAN. 2! PARTY JAN. 10!!
SEE INFO ON NEVADA NRCS OR SECTION WEB PAGE**

Anyone have any old barn wood and/or likes to make picture frames? We are receiving a donation of 2 original artworks to use at the Reno meeting and they need to be framed. Let Maggie or Jim Linebaugh know if you can help. Thank you.



Chuck Saulisberry
 207 Doolittle Court
 Dayton, NV 89403