

RANGELAND NEWS

Society for Range Management
Nevada Section

LATE SPRING 2005

TO FOSTER ADVANCEMENT IN THE SCIENCE AND ART OF RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

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PRESIDENT'S PONDERERS

News from Goober, Gaylord, and your Section President,

It looks as though summer is upon us and I know many of you will be out in the field again. It has been an amazing spring and early summer so far. Reservoir levels are increasing for the first time in several years, and plant response to the precipitation we got last fall, winter, and spring is incredible! Wildflowers are blooming in profusion all over the southern part of the west. Dr. Ben Bruce, myself and 18 university students just returned from a field trip class that took in all 3 of the hot deserts in the southwest U.S. It has been an amazing year for plants of all kinds. Everything was in full bloom, saguaro cactus, organ pipe cactus, palo verde trees, false dandelion, creosote bush; and in the Four Corners region the desert globemallow made the desert grasslands look like tulip fields in Holland, as far as you could see in every direction! Enjoy it folks, it may be a once in a lifetime event!

By the way, while we were in Death Valley, we learned that the springs on the east side of the park that support several threatened or endangered pup fish

species are connected to the aquifers in eastern Nevada that the Southern Nevada Water Authority is proposing to mine. The Park Service is very concerned about the proposal. Those of us who have the access in the public scoping of the proposal should take the time to inform ourselves and provide input to the appropriate agencies and advisory boards to ensure activities are balanced with good management and current science.

We received good news from the parent society last week. The 2 letters the Nevada Section sponsored on wild horse management and sagebrush ecosystem management were sent to agency heads, cabinet officials, and congressmen. They are included in the newsletter for your consideration. Thanks to all who assisted in this endeavor, and a special thanks to Gary McCuin of the Nevada Dept. of Agriculture for working up the first drafts that were sent to the Advisory Council and Board of Directors. It is good to know that the Nevada Section has had some tangible input on natural resource management issues at the federal government level. I applaud you all on your leadership as a state section in our professional society. The Nevada Section needs to continue to provide leadership at the national level and I charge each of us to make it happen. I am also pleased to report that the Nevada Wildlife Federation, Inc. provided us with a check for \$1,000 to support this year's Range Camp! I'll get an official thank you letter out for the Nevada Section, but personal thank you's are certainly in order, so feel free to do so. Thank you Nevada Wildlife Federation.

It is now time for me to once again make a special pitch for membership. One of my goals as Section President and Past President next year, is to increase our membership base in Nevada. I see no reason why we cannot reach the 200 mark. We currently have about 160 members. If all of us make it a special point to sign up one new member, we're there! Anyway, I would like all of your assistance to achieve this goal for our section. Any agency personnel, ranchers, grazing permittees, miners, or other individuals or entities, that have some kind of interest in natural resource management should be able to find a number of benefits provided by the Society for Range Management. We have to make them aware of those benefits. So that is my charge to you, let's get some more folks involved! If you haven't jabbed somebody in the ribs about it yet then you better get after it, 2005 is half over.

Items to remember are our summer section meeting (July 22-23), range camp (June 19-25), and the CABNR Field day at the Gund Ranch (Aug 4-5). Good things are happening in Nevada with respect to natural resource management. Keep up the good work! Until next time, happy trails!

Adios Amoebas,
Barry

SUMMER MEETING INFORMATION

The Nevada Section will be holding its summer meeting and tour at the Cottonwood Ranch in the O'Neil Basin of Elko County. Host Agee Smith says, "Come to have fun!" He says he has never seen it so green; this should be a neat year to come see it. There will be tours, great food, a dance, good company, beautiful scenery and fascinating subjects. Both the

Cottonwood and Boies Ranches operate under holistic management. Simply stated, holistic management takes a look at the whole ranch, how everything interacts, from the land, insects, people, cattle, grass, everything. It addresses quality of life with a financial and biological component as it integrates business, natural resources, and family goals and values. The Cottonwood Ranch has pursued holistic management for 10 years so they have lots of good experience to share. The SRM tour is Friday, July 22 at 9 AM, with the business and 2007 planning meetings Saturday morning from 8 AM to noonish. SRM members are also invited to the Boies Ranch tour on Thursday, July 21 at 9 AM. Check out the Cottonwood Ranch website for a preview and information: www.cottonwoodguestranch.com. Any other questions, call Kent McAdoo at 775/ 738-7291 or Bob Wilson at 775/ 289-4459.

SCHEDULE / INFORMATION / DIRECTIONS

Thursday, July 21

9 AM - Meet at the Boies Ranch – Vineyard Unit for a quick meeting to discuss the route. Visit two riparian sites on the ranch, one improved and one with an enclosure. There will be discussions on site. Bring your own lunch.

Post-tour – come over to the Cottonwood Ranch for grass-fed beef hamburger BBQ and a guest speaker. Cost \$15 per person.

Friday, July 22

9 AM – Cottonwood Ranch holistic management overview with maps and photos and a more in depth than usual HRM discussion including history of the ranch. This will last about two hours and you want to be there for it. Chuck Peterson of NRCS will be the facilitator. The tour will go to several places cattle have been and are; will be on both USFS and BLM, both riparian and upland. Sack lunch provided by the ranch if you order ahead.

Evening – BBQ dinner and dance to the stereo!

Saturday, July 23

8 AM – SRM business and 2007 planning meetings at the Cottonwood Ranch.

Afternoon – Agee invites anyone who would like to stay another night to do so. He reports there is good fishing.

Directions to Cottonwood Ranch from Wells, NV: 36 miles north on US 93 is a highway sign for the O’Neil Basin. Just after that sign is a USFS sign, turn left. Follow the road 0.1 to 0.2 mile to a cattleguard, take the right hand “Y”. Stay on the main county road, past the reservoir, about 25 miles to a “T”, turn right. Proceed to the next “Y” where you will see an old fashioned mail box, take the left “Y” about four miles. Where a USFS road takes off to the right, stay to the left about 100 yards and look for the Cottonwood Ranch gate. Go down to the parking lot by the barnyard and walk to the Lodge. There is a map on the NV Section website under Announcements.

Directions to Boies Ranch from Well, NV: go north on US 93. You will see two Boies Ranches, first the Hubbard Unit and then the Vineyard, located next to the highway. Turn left off 93 at the Vineyard. If you get to Contact, you have gone too far.

Weather could be hot or cold, the mosquitoes will be biting, bring a bird book, sunscreen and snacks. They have good water on the ranch. Meals are available at the Lodge, \$40.00/person/day for three meals; if you want to do just one meal it will be \$15. The Thursday night BBQ is \$15 per person. Camping is free, rooms in the Lodge are \$45/night/person. Reserve those on the website. You may camp and use the bathroom/showers for \$20. If you bring a motor home there are no hook-ups but they can provide power and water. Agee has camp trailers and such around; he says, "We can always find a bed for somebody." There will be one payment, to the ranch, for the meals, separate from the SRM registration. If you have any ranch questions or want to make lodge reservations or just let them know how many days you will be there taking meals, please contact the ranch website: www.cottonwoodguestranch.com.

REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER MEETING

Name _____

Phone _____

Early Registration for Meeting (#) _____ x \$20 = _____

Student Registration (#) _____ x \$10 = _____

Total = _____

Registration at the gate: \$25

All meals paid to the Cottonwood Ranch-please use their website to notify them. (www.cottonwoodguestranch.com)

Mail to:

Brad Schultz

UNR Cooperative Extension

1085 Fairgrounds Road

Winnemucca, NV 89445-2001

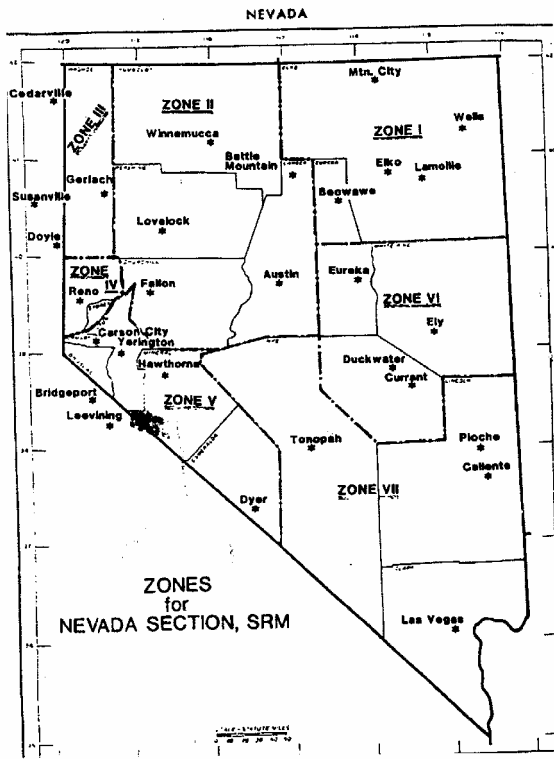
THINGS TO LOOK FOR /WHAT'S COMING UP

Barry and Gary report the letters from SRM Denver to Agriculture Secretary Johanns and Interior Secretary Norton regarding **sage grouse and wild horses** are on the Nevada Section website for your use. Sorry they wouldn't fit in the newsletter so please look for them there under "Announcements." Gary would "like to see them get as much exposure and use as possible." The Nevada Section website is: <http://www.ag.unr.edu/nsrm>. Please check these out.

Gary also reports there will be a presentation by the **National Riparian Service Team (NRST)** of the Creeks and Communities Strategy to the Martin Basin permittees and other Winnemucca area folks on June 8. The Creeks and Communities Strategy is a collaborative problem solving approach for local residents, permittees, agencies and other interested folks to solve conflict ridden riparian issues. The presentation will be followed by a facilitated discussion at the Stone House Inn in Paradise Valley. The NV PFC Cadre will also be on hand for discussion and future involvement in identifying issues, defining objectives and developing management strategies to reach objectives.

The **Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition's** Sixth Annual Workshop will be June 17 at the Bristlecone Convention Center in Ely. There will be a tour to the Gleason Creek Project area and a barbeque at the White Pine County Fair Grounds. This year's speakers are Peter Weisberg of UNR speaking on "How an understanding of past landscape dynamics can help inform current landscape restoration," Maria Ryan of UNCE discussing "A Comparison of Landscape Level Restoration Projects in the U.S.," Mike Strobel of USGS covering "The Hydrology of Eastern Nevada," Steve Monsen, private consultant focusing on, "Features and Attributes of Sagebrush that Influence Natural Recruitment and Restoration," and Bob Budd of the Red Canyon Ranch presenting, "Challenges in Ranching in the Next Century." There will be a volunteer work day on Saturday, June 18. Call for a registration form at 775/ 289-7974.

**SEE YOU AT THE
SUMMER
MEETING!**



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