



RANGELAND NEWS

Society for Range
Management
Nevada Section

SUMMER 2000

TO FOSTER ADVANCEMENT IN THE SCIENCE AND ART OF RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

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In my last message I stated my general goal was to enhance communication and further continuing education. With the advent of the World Wide Web there are many web sites that provide information that is useful to all rangeland management professionals.

Below are a number of web sites that I have come across and brief descriptions about their content. I encourage all Section members to send Nancy Ballard similar information about sites they have found, for distribution in future newsletters.

Professional Societies

Ecological Society of America-
<http://esa/sdsc.edu/> - Many links to electronic journals, archives, list servers, government sites, organizations and associations, research centers, professional societies, universities, databases and career opportunities.

Society for Ecological Restoration—
<http://www.ser.org/> - Provides general information about the Society and abstracts for papers including information relevant to the Great Basin.

Wildlife Society --- <http://www.wildlife.org/index.html> - General information about the Wildlife Society, their publications, etc.

Society for Conservation Biology ---
<http://conbio.rice.edu/scb/> - General information about the Society, keyword searches of articles published in their journal, their newsletter.

Federal Research Stations and Centers:

Rocky Mountain Research Station---
<http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/> - Lots of useful information

Pacific Northwest Station---
<http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/> - Similar to the Rocky Mountain Station web site.

Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center, USGS Biological Resources Division ---
<http://fresc.fsl.orst.edu/> - Background information for many ongoing research projects, many in habitat types typical of the Great Basin. Several online publications available.

Grazing Lands Technology Institute ---
<http://www.ftw.nrcs.usda.gov/glti/homepage.html> - Downloadable information and publications and links to NRCS Institutes and Centers for the national resource inventory, social sciences, soil quality, watershed science, wildlife habitat management, and national water management.

Cooperative Extension or Other University Sites:

University of Nevada --- <http://www.nce.unr.edu> - Many downloadable publications

University of Idaho Extension --- <http://www.uidaho.edu/ag/> - - Numerous electronic publications and others that could be ordered

Colorado State --- <http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/CoopExt/> - Numerous downloadable publications

UC Davis -- <http://agronomy.ucdavis.edu/CALRNG/PUB.HTM> - A large number of electronic publications and a link to Grazing Management: An Ecological Perspective. The water quality fact sheets developed by Ken Tate contain a wealth of information.

Libraries and Databases

UNR Library --- <http://www.library.unr.edu/mainmenu.html> -

Nevada Natural Heritage Program --- <http://www.state.nv.us/nvnhp/> - An inventory and current databases on the locations, biology, and conservation status of all threatened, endangered, and sensitive species in the state; conservation priorities for over 600 kinds of native animals, plants, and their habitats; information and technical services to meet diverse conservation, planning, development, and research needs; "early warning system" designed to minimize future resource conflicts and help prevent the need for burdensome regulatory listings of species.

National Agricultural Library --- <http://www.nal.usda.gov/> - Provides access to AGRICOLA, a bibliographic database with over 3 million agricultural and natural resource records, and the Agriculture Network Information Center (AgNIC). AgNIC is a distributed network that provides access to agriculture-related information, subject area experts, and other resources.

UnCover Web --- <http://uncweb.carl.org/> - Database of current articles from over 18,000 journals; provides for key word searches. Costs are variable and may be too expensive for individuals, but for large organizations it provides a useful tool for keeping current on new literature.

USGS Global Land Information System --- <http://edcwww.cr.usgs.gov/nfwebglis>

The Global Land Information System (GLIS) is an interactive computer system developed by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). GLIS contains abstracts, descriptions, and search information for each data set; online samples of earth science data.

Management Guides and Information

Arizona Ranchers Management Guide --- <http://ag.arizona.edu/arec/pubs/rmg/ranches.html> - Has a large number of downloadable publications.

Forage Information System --- <http://forages.orst.edu/> - Links to peer reviewed, world-wide, forage related information; links to related organizations.

Grazing Lands Forum — <http://www.forages.css.orst.edu/Organizations/GLF/index.html> - Lists numerous online publications that discuss a variety of resource issues.

Weeds

Weed Information from the USFWS — <http://refuges.fws.gov/FICMNEWFiles/FICMNEWHomePage.html> - Web site maintained by the Federal Interagency Committee for the management of noxious and exotic weeds. Many links to web sites that focus on weed and invasive species issues.

Brad

THE ENDOWMENT FUND

Rick Orr

What is it? For all of you who do not know, the Nevada Section of the Society for Range Management has an Endowment Fund. An Endowment Fund is a very unique method of funding projects and activities of the Section that can protect and maintain programs now and in the future. An Endowment Fund is basically a savings account from which only the earned interest can be spent. The CORPUS or the original gifts to the Endowment can be any form of value item from cash to real estate to stocks, bonds, or other such instruments. This original value can never be spent, however, interest or cash value increase in these items can be used by the section for any project we wish.

Our endowment fund has grown primarily from donations or memorial donations and from profits from the national meeting in Reno several years ago. We have used interest income to fund information kiosks along I-80, send one H.S. Youth Forum student to the national meeting, print the soon-to-be-completed Section History, and many similar projects.

A gift to the Endowment Fund is one that keeps giving forever. Please contact Rick Orr, Jim Linebaugh, or Chuck Saulisberry for information.

SUMMER MEETING — JUNE 2000

The 2000 summer meeting of the Nevada Section was held in Winnemucca on June 9 and 10. The field tour on June 9 focused on fire rehabilitation on Wyoming sagebrush sites north of Winnemucca. During the past 25 years about half of the Wyoming sagebrush plant association on the Winnemucca District has burned. These sites had little or no perennial grass understory, thus most of the burned acreage had the potential for direct conversion to cheatgrass and subsequent shortened fire cycles. The type conversion to cheatgrass and increased fire frequency adversely affects habitat for mule deer, pronghorn, and numerous sagebrush obligate avifauna, including sage grouse.

Mike Zielinski and Pete Christensen from the BLM's Winnemucca Field Office led the tour. We visited numerous sites that had burned in the past 4 to 20 years and had been seeded with a variety of seed mixes. Rehabilitation efforts have evolved from single species seedings of crested wheatgrass to increased efforts to meet the needs of wildlife species through the use of both native and introduced species. Recent efforts have increased the use of native shrubs and forage *Kochia*, an introduced forb that provides excellent feed for a variety of wildlife. Green stripping with largely crested wheatgrass has occurred in many areas as an attempt to break up the cheatgrass fuels and reduce a fire's rate of spread so that suppression crews can control undesired fires quicker. The BLM hopes that green stripping will slow the spread of fires into previously unburned areas and areas that have recently been seeded, giving them a chance to establish perennial vegetation that can withstand future fires with minimum additional rehabilitation efforts. One situation that is aptly suited to green stripping is along highways that are prone to fires started by vehicles.

Mike has been monitoring many of the burned areas and seedings throughout his 20+ year career as a soil scientist in Winnemucca and was able to provide valuable insight into the rehabilitation of Wyoming sagebrush sites. He noted that referring to "restoring" burned areas often results in confusion and unrealistic goals. It can create the perception of native plant communities similar to those prior to settlement. Unfortunately, this is an unattainable objective as long as cheatgrass and other exotic/invasive species can quickly dominate a site. Mike emphasized that most Wyoming sagebrush sites can be rehabilitated so that they meet "functional" needs for habitat and watershed protection. While individual sites can be rehabilitated, managers must also look at larger

landscapes and develop strategies for "stabilizing" undesired ecological changes.

Throughout the tour Mike emphasized that there is a brief, one-year window of opportunity for establishing a perennial plant cover before cheatgrass attains dominance. Mike's experiences have demonstrated it is imperative to get seed in the ground prior to fall and early winter precipitation, particularly if the seed mix contains early germinating species. This provides the best competition with cheatgrass seedlings during the first post-fire growing season. If perennial species are not established this first year, the abundance of cheatgrass in subsequent years sharply curtails their establishment.

Mike believes that the BLM has become fairly good at rehabilitating the level areas on alluvial fans and near the valley floors. He feels that the real challenge is the steeper slopes where mechanical treatments are impossible. Finally, Mike reminded us several times that successful rehabilitation must take a long-term perspective. On a number of Winnemucca's rehabilitation efforts, the first several years looked rather bleak but then the seeded species began to rapidly increase.

The checkerboard land ownership pattern throughout the Humbolt River drainage can hinder rehabilitation efforts. Effectively managing the private-public rangeland interface will remain a long-term challenge throughout the region.

The tour also visited a small demonstration plot where Jim Jeffress, from the Nevada Division of Wildlife, is attempting to control cheatgrass with OUST. OUST is a powerful herbicide that is suppose to affect annuals and leave perennials unaffected. The treatment was 100% effective against cheatgrass, but also killed many of the desired perennial grasses, perhaps because the dosage was too high. Other adverse effects are restrictions on land use for the year following application (i.e., no grazing or seeding). Despite these constraints OUST may have numerous uses for controlling cheatgrass and other weeds in certain situations. For example, the plowed or bladed shoulders of roads where fences can keep livestock from entering the treated areas. This could control weeds and reduce the spread of seed into other areas. Another potential treatment is establishing green strips in large blocks of cheatgrass rangeland.

BUSINESS MEETING

The winter meeting for 2001 is set for Ely on January 19 and 20. An all day technical session is planned for the 19th on the topic of sage grouse management. Pete Christensen has responsibility for planning the meeting. Gerry Miller has made most, if not all, of the physical arrangements. Kent McAdoo has agreed to help Pete with the necessary planning and arrangements. Any members with suggestions for speakers or discussion topics are urged to contact Pete (775-647-5000) or Kent (775-738-6713).

Next summer's tour and business meeting have tentatively been set for the third week in July (20-21) for the Elko area. The tour will be a field based follow-up to the winter meetings discussions about sage grouse. Both the winter and summer meetings are expected to be approved for continuing education units for those certified as Rangeland Management Professionals.

Brad Schultz discussed several actions and activities at the President's level. He is reviewing the Stillwater Wildlife Refuge EIS for comment by the Nevada Section. This is a follow up to his tour of the refuge several years ago, at the request of then President Desi Zamudio.

Brad has suggested to Jeff Burwell (Denver office) that certified professionals in Rangeland Management should receive continuing education units for writing professional papers published in journals and symposium proceedings. Brad feels this is added incentive to document and disseminate information from the many demonstration plots, case studies, and long-term monitoring efforts that occur on rangelands. Jeff was very favorable about awarding CEU's for such efforts and was going to bring the subject before the remainder of the Certification Committee.

Mrs. Yerda Roberston (wife of the late Dr. Joe Roberston) has donated \$50,000 to the SRM. A luncheon to honor Mrs. Robertson will be planned for early August. Brad urges all members to acknowledge Mrs. Robertson's substantial contribution with a letter to her. Her address is 920 Evans Ave., Reno, NV, 89512.

Finally, Brad announced that he and Jim Jeffress, President of the Nevada Section of the Wildlife Society, have initiated discussions about how to forge stronger ties between both organizations. Both Presidents agree the two organizations have too many common interests to not be working closely together.

On the financial front, the section made a little money last year. The Section also provided \$500.00 support for the Lincoln County FFA and 4H teams to participate in the range and soils judging competitions in Oklahoma City. The parent society returned a \$15,000 loan that will be placed in some long term investments following further review by the Finance Committee.

There was some movement towards developing a section homepage. Brad presented an initial outline of material that should be included. He will follow several potential avenues for turning the outline into reality.

Jim Linebaugh and John McLain discussed activities at the parent society level. The Hawaii meeting is moving forward despite the original convention hotel being sold and closed. A new contract should have been signed by the time this newsletter is received. The public affairs committee is working on position statements for introduced species, wild horses, off highway vehicle use, and fisheries (particularly Salmon). "Rangelands" will be making changes to increase its human interest content. Also, the SRM has associate memberships available for \$25.00

Continuing education was also discussed. Brad emphasized the Section must identify continuing education needs for its membership. Floyd Rathbun further emphasized that SRM's continuing education program can also meet the needs of other groups (i.e. school teachers). Brad was going to arrange a meeting with Karen Hinton, Dean of Cooperative Extension, to initiate discussion about how SRM and Cooperative Extension could work together to meet the Section's continuing education needs. Once again, Brad urges all section members to send him any ideas they have for continuing education programs.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS

The Nevada Section will be holding elections for President Elect and Zone Council Representatives from Zone 2 (Northcentral), Zone 4 (Reno), and Zone 6 (East-central) regions this November/December. (See the map on the back page.) Past President, Gerry Miller, is chair of the nominations committee and is requesting that all members identify potential nominees for these positions and contact him as soon as possible. Early nominations will permit Gerry to discuss the nominated individuals availability and desire to serve. Gerry's work and home phone numbers are 775-289-4065 and 775-289-8771, respectively. Gerry can be reached by email at gerald.miller@nv.usda.gov.

RANGE CAMP 2000

The Nevada Section co-sponsored its 40th Youth Range Camp from June 18 through 24. The Camp, located at Big Creek in the Toiyabe Range, south of Austin is also sponsored by the Nevada Wildlife Federation and UNR's Cooperative Extension. Thirty-six youths between the ages of 14 and 17 spent the week learning about natural resource issues and management.

Among the activities pursued were hands on investigations about range plants and vegetation inventories, soil descriptions and how to use soil surveys, woodland fire ecology, wildlife and their habitats, and aquatic inventories. The campers also visited a SNOTEL site to learn about snow surveys; were introduced to the basics about using maps and compasses, and subsequently navigated (to varying degrees) a night-time compass course; took a tour of the Smith Creek Ranch; constructed weirs in a stream to enhance riparian and fisheries habitat; and were introduced to the concept of riparian functioning condition.

A new feature this year was an evening presentation from Nevada Bighorns Unlimited about Nevada Bighorn's conservation efforts throughout Nevada. They also provided the entire camp with a steak dinner. Their excellent presentation was well received by all. The campers also were expected to learn the local flora. Both Brian Orr and Katie Johnson had perfect scores on the plant identification test (53 plants), and many campers scored 85 percent or better. The final exercise of the week was integration of everything the campers had learned into a coordinated resource management plan.

Numerous awards were presented at this year's Camp. The Trail Boss and Big Buckaroo awards both went to Katie Johnson from Spring Creek. The Trail Boss is the individual selected by the camp counselors as the best camper. The Big Buckaroo award is bestowed by the campers on one of their own, in recognition of the winner's performance, leadership, and overall contributions throughout the week.

Four Special Achievement Awards were presented this year, to individuals who have had a long-term commitment to Range Camp. They are: Charlie Fisher, Ed Peterson, Sherm Swanson, and Chris Freeman. Charlie has been associated with Range Camp for almost 40 years, first as the director and an instructor, and, in recent years, as the creative and artful builder of the plaques awarded to winners of the Trail Boss and Big Buckaroo. Ed Peterson received his award for the

many years (over 10) he was camp director in the 1980's and early 1990's. During much of his reign as Camp Director, Ed was working for the NRCS in Oregon and took annual leave to return to Nevada to direct the Camp. Somehow, Cub Wolfe managed to get Ed and his family from Pendleton, Oregon, to Big Creek again without Ed knowing he was going to receive an award. Sherm Swanson has organized the Camp every year since his arrival in Nevada in 1984, and is responsible for developing much of the curricula. Chris Freeman has been a counselor every year since 1987 and is notorious for leading his group to victory most years in both the night time compass navigation course and the plant identification test.

Cub Wolfe, the Section's Awards Committee Chairman, deserves some well earned recognition for having the leadership to suggest the Sections recognize those individuals who have made some long-term commitments to the Nevada Section's Range Camp, following through with obtaining the awards, and getting them to Camp.

Other recognition for achievements at camp go to Debi Benson, and her parents John and Charlotte. None of these individuals have any affiliation with the Society for Range Management but have been the cooks at Range Camp for about seven years. They prepared excellent meals, ran an efficient kitchen, purchased necessary supplies, provided appropriate first aid for some minor injuries, and, in general, contributed immensely to conducting a smooth running Camp.

Sandy Higa, with the NRCS in Alturas, California, directed an excellent Camp. Camp counselors this year included Angela Carito (BLM), Chris Freeman (Division of Conservation Districts), Jim Gifford (NRCS), Chris Olson (USFS), Brad Schultz (DRI), Bill Wolfe (NDF). Also assisting at various times were Kent McAdoo (Cooperative Extension) and John Fisher (NRCS). Angela and Jim conducted a very successful snipe hunt, and Kent made some excellent presentations about primitive bow making and archery. Last, but definitely not least, Jim Linebaugh worked behind the scenes buying most of the groceries many of us probably took for granted. Jim has conducted this underappreciated job for many years, and has done a superb job.

Despite some periodic, but frightful, appearances by a wandering skunk, that in the dark looked very similar to Sandi's Jack Russell terrier, this year's Range Camp was a very positive experience for all who attended. Most, if not all campers expressed a desire to return again.

MEMBERSHIP

Section membership is similar to the parent society, increasing slowly, but at least not going down!

New Nevada Section members since the last newsletter include: Duane Coombs, Austin; Maria Ryan, Dayton; Steve Robinson, Fairfax, VA; Jay Sevy, Hailey, ID (he has been with us before but got dropped); Troy Wirth, Las Vegas; Jay Davison, Fallon; Forest Halford, Gardnerville; N. Chrystine Olson, Elko; Denise Adkins, Carson City; Gabriel Fogarty, Carson City; Matthew Spaulding, Carson City; Gregory Peterson, Moses Lake WA; Robert Vaught, Reno; and Susan Forbes, Ely (another of those who got dropped but are now back with us)

Members lost since the last newsletter are: Gordon Long, Minden; Chris Freeman, Carson City, and Joan Wright, Reno.

Section membership as of June 30 stands at 137. It was 127 in the last newsletter.

CHARTER MEMBERS

At the Winnemucca meeting, our two Nevada Section Charter members joined us for the event. John Morris Fenley, now of Modesto, CA, was one of those who signed the petition forming the section in September 1950. Chuck Saulisberry was another. John is currently a member of the Calif. Section, is 85 years old, and had quite a long and productive career with the Forest Service in Paradise Valley, with the Nev. Extension Service in Tonopah and Las Vegas, and finally with many years foreign service in Africa.

John was asked to prepare a brief writeup on his remembrances of forming the Nevada Section for the upcoming 50 year history of the Section which will be distributed at the 2001 winter meeting in Ely. John will be added to our rolls as an honorary member of the Section. Research of the National Society rolls did not reveal any more names of the 17 people who signed the petition.

Those of us who had the opportunity to meet and talk with Dr. Fenley (and his son) walked away enriched by the experience. In a letter to Chuck last February, Dr. Fenley briefly tells the story of a remarkable career and adventure. It's substantial, thought provoking content will be shared in the next few issues of this newsletter, beginning now. .

Dear Chuck:

I was very much surprised but happy to receive your letter of Feb. 2. Have often thought of my days in range reseeding research in Nevada, when several of us range associates launched the Nevada Section of the American Society of Range Management. I had previously become a Charter Member of the National Society at its organizational meeting in Ogden, Utah in 1948. It took a year or two after that event before state sections were authorized. By then I was stationed in Nevada.

Yes, I would like to come to Ely next January, to be able to see you and discuss the old days in range work in Nevada. It would also be interesting to attend parts of your Section's Winter Meeting and meet present Section members.

I would prefer to drive from here [Modesto] to Ely, but my family objects to that idea. I'll be 85 this coming June, and while I drive okay, my head begins to nod after a while, especially if I am driving alone. There are long stretches on US 50 that are mostly in uninhabited areas, and although that part of Nevada is very beautiful with many forested ranges at high elevations along the route, the peacefulness and quietness might just stimulate my nodding. . . .

. . . Wasn't the BLM District Manager in the Winnemucca area (sorry not to recollect his name) a member of the group that inaugurated the Nevada Section? He was present at most of the meetings. In fact, when we met in Winnemucca, we had our meetings in a conference room in his district office, just east of town on old US 40, now I-80.

Also, I was surprised Joe Snyder's name did not appear on any attendance rosters of our Section meetings. He and E.R. (Tiny) Greenslet, both of the Reno BLM office, were always present at our meetings.

The news of Archie Murchie's recent death had not reached me before your letter. I was sorry to hear it, for he was my main contact in Ely for two or three years in range reseeding activities. I have a very interesting episode involving him and me in a range reseeding episode, about in 1950. The site of the story was not far from Ely, in a very mountainous area, within his district. I have a book I am presently writing, which includes that episode as one of my stories. The tentative title of the book is *Have You Ever Been to Elko? And Other Nevada Stories*, which I hope to finish "one of these fine days."

My activities in range management in Nevada started in 1948 . . . *To Be Continued*

**WinCo Foods Supports
Nevada Youth Range Camp**

For the second straight year WinCo Foods has generously supported the Nevada Youth Range Camp by providing a \$100.00 gift certificate. For those Section members who are unfamiliar with WinCo Foods, they are headquartered in Boise, Idaho and make donations to non-profit organizations that follow their simple application procedure, and submit the paperwork at least six weeks prior to the event for which food items are required. WinCo's donations have benefitted our Section's Youth Activities, therefore, Brad is reminding Nevada Section members who live in the Reno area, or who visit Reno, to please shop at one of the two WinCo stores, whenever possible. WinCo's stores are located at 9750 South Virginia Street, and 2855 Northtowne Lane (next to the Walmart at Hwy 395 and North McCarran). His experiences shopping there have been good. The prices usually are less than other stores, and the quality of the produce has been excellent.

**THANKS
FOR RANGE CAMP AND THE
HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH FORUM**

Brian Orr

In 1999, I attended the Nevada Youth Range Camp in Big Creek Campground, south of Austin, NV. During that week, we had many activities, including working on plant ID, learning how to use a compass, studying soil structure, and learning how to determine the composition of plants on a range site. I have been competing at both state and national level in range and soils judging for four years now. From that experience and what I learned at Range Camp, I was selected for the Big Buckaroo and Trail Boss Awards. By winning the Trail Boss Award, I was selected to go and compete at the High School Youth Forum (HSYF) at the International meeting of the Society for Range Management in Boise.

HSYF was one of the greatest experiences of my life. On Sunday, the first night, we had an orientation/social activity to get to know each other. We had little group contests to break the ice and you could see the group start to mesh together after just one night. After that we had presentation practice. This was a big help in getting the presentation to their final form.

The next morning, we attended the President's Breakfast. It was a good way to start off the week. It set the tone for the Forum.

After breakfast, we attended the Plenary Session

and were able to take in some of the talks by various people. I was especially interested in Dr. Wayne Burkhardt's talk on herbivore management techniques.

Then we went on a field tour. Our first stop was the National Interagency Fire Center for lunch and a presentation by representatives from the Birds of Prey Center in Boise. The presentation was very entertaining. It gave a rundown of what Birds of Prey is trying to accomplish and how they are managing the land to increase its potential.

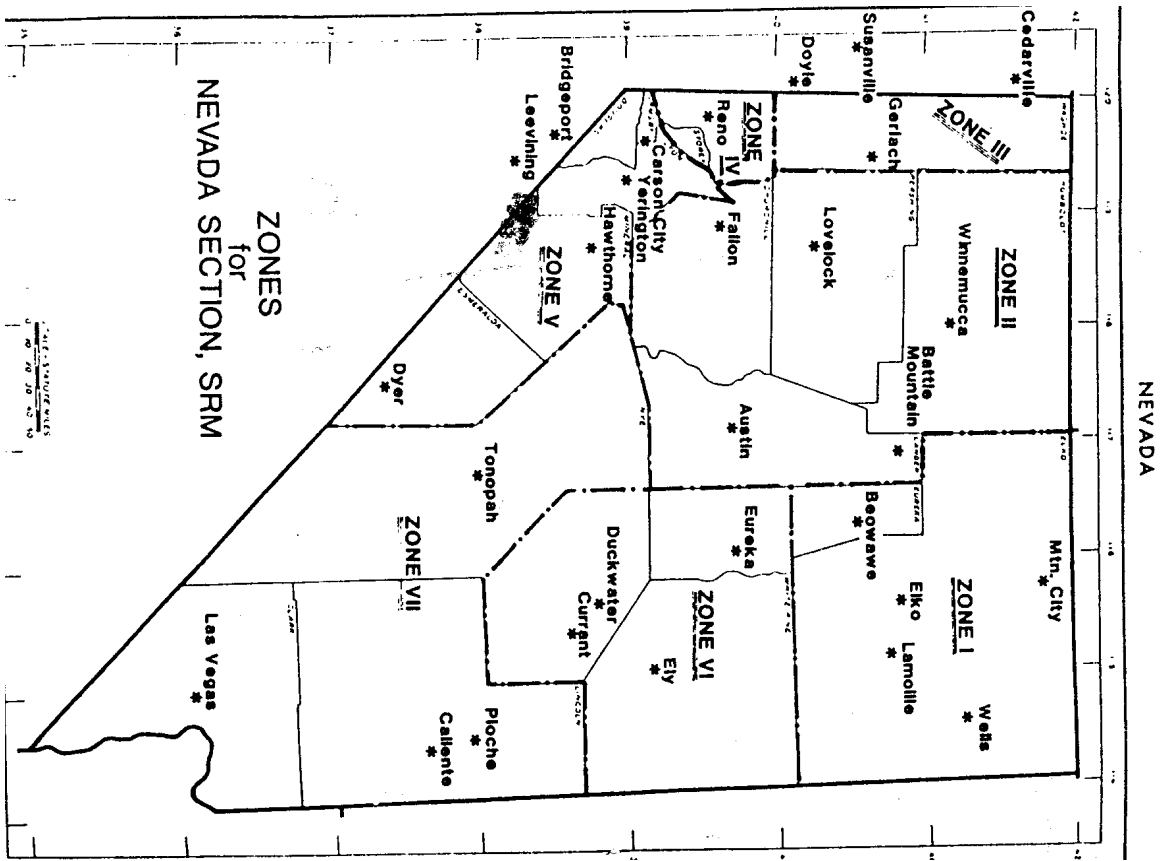
Then we went to the Snake River Birds of Prey Sanctuary. Along the way, we viewed a local sheep ranch in action. We learned how the shepherders manage the resource so that they will have it for another day. It was a very educational tour.

When we got back, we went to the Tapping the Top Mixer where we were able to meet many different people from various public and private agencies to ask questions and receive information for such things as job descriptions, work requirements, education requirements, and other information for working in the field of range management. I thoroughly enjoyed the session. Then we went to a Professional Interactions dinner for up close and personal interviews with people from all sides of the range management equation.

The next morning we had a group breakfast to "steady the nerves" before we went to the Presentation Session and gave our reports. The presentations had to be between six and eight minutes long, had to have an audio/video component, and had to cover a topic relating to range management. Some of the best presentations I have ever heard were in that session. They covered a wide range of topics including the Endangered Species Act, EWP, prescribed fire, prairie chicken management, and herbal dietary supplements. It was such a relief to get it over with!

After that we got to unwind at the President's Reception and Dance. It was an interesting experience because I knew so many people or they knew me through my parents. A local band came in to play and we danced the night away.

The next day we went to the HSYF Business Meeting. This is probably the most important part of the whole Forum. It felt good to be able to help plan the next Forum and to know that I was helping to further educate high school students in range management.



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