

Society for Range Management Pacific Northwest Section

Properly functioning ecosystems provide for long-term sustainability of watersheds, plants, animals and people
Volume 53, Number 1 February 2002

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• See you at
• the Colockum
• June 20 - 22!!
• DETAILS ON PAGE 3
•••••

President's Message

By Michael Borman

Thank you, **Southern Oregon Chapter** for organizing and managing an outstanding fall meeting and tour in Lakeview during October 2001. Many thanks to the **Lake County Stockgrowers** Association for the barbecued hamburger lunch in the field, too! To get the full flavor of the event (food –no pun intended, but the food was excellent, presentations and field tour), read the p. 4 summary, by **Cindy Meays and Alf Bawtree**. **John Buckhouse** topped off the opening evening with a tribute to **Lee Eddleman** and his career of excellence as an ecologist. Lee will officially retire from OSU at the end of June 2002. The evening banquet featured speaker **George Taylor**, Oregon State Climatologist – and neighbor of mine both at work and at home. George was entertaining and informative, as always.

During the Section annual meeting, President **Maurice Hansen** enjoyed himself immensely as he passed over the gavel and several boxes of materials. We owe Maurice a debt of gratitude for his service as President. His wry sense of humor was always enjoyable and his world- view from a rancher's perspective was (and is) helpful to the rest of us as we strive to address natural resources issues from a variety of perspectives. **Thank you Maurice!**

In the next newsletter, I will be able to inform you about the site selection for the 2006 SRM annual meeting. We, the PNW Section, are making a bid to host the 2006 meeting in Vancouver, BC. At this point I don't know whether to hope for or dread the "opportunity" to host that meeting. The Intermountain Section is promoting Calgary. I attended the meetings in Calgary in 1982. They were good, but it was cold. I visited Vancouver for the first time in November on a site evaluation tour with **Ann Harris**, SRM's Director of Administration/ Programs and annual meeting manager. It was a delight to work with Ann. Vancouver is a beautiful city with a great deal of diversity within the immediate area of the convention hotels and in the surrounding area. Given the dynamic members in the PNW Section and a beautiful city such as Vancouver to serve as the host, I believe we could put together a tremendous annual meeting. However, there will be a great deal of work involved. If we receive the bid, the Section Board of Directors will be soliciting help to form committees to begin preparing for the 2006 meeting.

As a Section, we have committed to expanding **Nan's Weekend** throughout our Section. Much work remains to be done, but the Breeses have given us a blueprint and an example of how to connect in a positive way with people who don't normally work on the land or interact with those of us who do. I anticipate reporting successful "spinoffs" of Nan's Weekend by year's end.

Coming in the Spring newsletter. . .
Registration for the Summer Tour at the Colockum
Recognition of 2001 Section Award winners
Who's New in the PNW. . . and more!!

NEWSLETTER

PNW Member Opportunities

Challenges in Grazing Management: Annual Rangelands & Drought

31st Annual Pacific Northwest Range Management Short Course, **March 12-13, 2002, Boise, Idaho**

Ranchers, public land managers, and anyone interested in rangelands will find helpful presentations on management of annual rangelands for livestock production, wildlife habitat, fire and weed control with emphasis on management during and following drought. Presenters will include scientists and ranchers. SRM Range Professional certification credit will be available. For complete information on program and lodging, contact Dr. Ken Sanders, University of Idaho, phone 208-736-3600 or E-mail ksanders@uidaho.edu
Sponsors: U of I Dept. of Rangeland Ecology & Mgmt. and Idaho SRM, cooperating with OSU & WSU.

Intern & Seasonal Employment with The Nature Conservancy of Oregon

By **Berta Youtie**, Columbia Plateau Stewardship Director, Prineville, Oregon

See www.nature.org/Oregon for a full listing of TNC opportunities as well as specific details (job description, requirements, salary, etc) for the following positions. For listings below, you may call Berta at 541-447-7651.

- Juniper Hills Preserve Manager: Maintain improvements on 14,000 acre site near Prineville Oregon, from April 8 – November 22, 2002. Apply by March 8.
- Crooked River Weed Mgmt. Field Assistant: Map and control weeds in central Oregon, May 6 – July 12. Apply by April 19.
- Central Oregon Field Ecologist: Oversee vegetation studies on three central Oregon preserves, May 20 – August 23. Apply by April 19.
- Columbia Basin Field Assistant: Assist with non-native species control and mapping in Boardman Oregon area, March 18 – June 21. Apply by February 28.
- Columbia Basin Field Ecologist: Implement plant community identification & monitoring near Boardman Oregon, March 18 – August 23. Apply by February 28.
- Columbia Basin Weed Ecologist: Engage stakeholders in development of cooperative weed and fire management plans in Boardman area, March 11 – August 30. Apply by February 28.

Nan's Weekend "voted in" as PNW Section Project

By **Kendall Derby**, PNW Director, Dayville, Oregon

"... mutually destructive stereotypes break down and real communication can begin." **Don Gayton**, '99 PNW Section president, offers this encouragement for the growth of a concept pioneered by **John & Lynne Breese**. During the '01 Section Meeting in Lakeview, members voted to support this concept that mixes rural and urban folks on the ground, wearing work gloves and listening and asking questions while working together. See the August '01 newsletter, p. 3 for more details. In the next couple of weeks, I need to hear from hesitant hosts like you! There is a solid host for B.C., a strong candidate in WA and a potential candidate in OR, in addition to Breeses. **Who else will step up?**

This is new. This is a wonderful opportunity. You design the project, location and timing. The Section provides "seed money"/logistical and moral support. The rangeland in your location shares its benefits with a broad audience. The target is for completion of three or more Nan's Weekends this year. The support network is strong and the benefits are yours to share. With spring on the horizon, it is time to add an outreach event to your schedule. Write Kendall at kderby@highdesertnet.com and encourage others to come along for a rewarding journey!

2002 PNW Section Summer Field Workshop “THE COLOCKUM, RIDGE TO RANGE”

Mark your calendars!

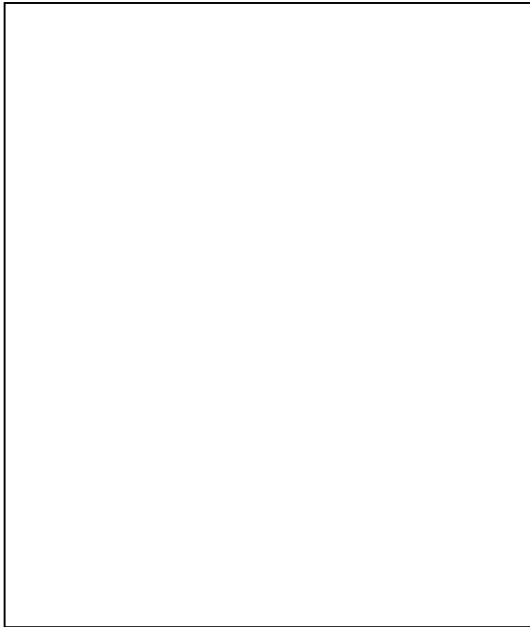
Thursday, 20 June -- Saturday noon, 22 June

By **Tom Brannon**, Unit Supervisor/Manager, Colockum Field Unit, Washington State University

The SRM **Mid-Columbia Chapter** is pleased to invite you all to the 2002 PNW Section Summer meeting. It will be held at the Washington State University, Natural Resources Department Colockum Unit. This range, forest, and wildlife habitat study area is located 20 miles south of Wenatchee, WA in the Wenatchee Mountains. Thursday will be for committee and Board of Directors meetings. Friday will be the field workshop and an evening presentation. Saturday will include more presentations and a short business meeting. The meeting will end after an informal noon lunch.

The theme of the tour and informational presentations is “THE COLOCKUM, RIDGE TO RANGE.” The field workshop will start with a short bus ride to the top of the Unit. The rest of the day will be spent in a leisurely walk downhill (about 6 miles!) to the headquarters (in time for dinner), with stops along the way at information stations. At this time we anticipate the topics will include: wildlife management issues, local ethnobotany, forest grazing, weed issues, riparian management, and rangeland health. We are lining up a stellar group of presenters to facilitate discussion at the various stations.

If you prefer not to walk the tour, a van(s) will be available to ride down to the information stations. We will kick the cows out to provide a camp spot for tenters and trailers! Showers are available at the Unit. Wenatchee has many motels if you prefer not to sleep with the critters! Registration details will be in the spring newsletter. **Looking forward to seeing you at the 2002 PNW summer meeting!**



Tom Brannon with his horse and dog.

PNW Section Officers

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2nd Vice President	Jim Tiedeman	509-784-3712
Past President	Maurice Hansen	250-427-5200
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Director	Kendall Derby	541/987-2108
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PNW Annual Fall Meeting Revisited!

By **Cindy Meays** and **Alf Bawtree**. Cindy is Coordinator, Grazing Enhancement Program, B. C. Ministry of Ag., Food and Fisheries. Alf is a Rangeland Consultant in Celista, B.C.

Hats off to all the people who put together the PNW 2001 Fall Meeting in Lakeview, Oregon.

The well-organized informative program provided an excellent opportunity to socialize with old and new friends. In the aftermath of September 11, the event opened with an emotional presentation of the Colors by local veterans carrying Canadian and U.S. flags. **Sonja Raven** and a Lakeview student were wonderful singing the Canadian and U.S. anthems. We were welcomed by the mayor and town manager.

Opening presentations served as good primers for the field tour. **Lee Eddleman** (Professor of Rangeland Ecology, OSU) gave the thought-provoking presentation, "Reading the Land: ecological perceptions of a fascinating desert landscape." Eddleman reminded us to "look for ups and downs and tiny little angles" in the landscape, and stated that "the horizon is beyond your imagination." He stressed the importance of being aware of where you are in the landform especially with respect to precipitation and wind. **Mike Gregg** (Biologist, Hart Mountain National Wildlife Refuge) summarized 14 years of research on sage grouse in the Hart Mountain, Sheldon, and Beaty Butte areas. Gregg discussed the requirements for mature sage grouse and their chicks and suggested that the decline in their productivity is linked to the decline in available habitat. **John Tanaka** (Professor of Rangeland Economics, Natural Resources, and Production Economics, E. OR Ag. Research Center) provided insight into today's ranchers; who they are and why they have chosen ranching as a profession. (For text of Tanaka's report, see *Journal of Range Management*, 1/02)

Old Time Fiddlers and Cowboy Poet Leon Flick provided merriment during the social and BBQ. Our first evening closed with a heart-felt tribute to **Lee Eddleman** who will retire from teaching in OSU's Dept. of Rangeland Resources. **John Buckhouse** kept everyone, especially Lee, in suspense as he shared stories and photos highlighting Eddleman's career.

Thanks Lee, for inspiring students and sharing your wisdom. Faculty, students and friends will miss you.

Day 2 started with panoramic views of grasses and shrubs, valleys and mountains as we explored Beaty Butte country. The total acreage of BLM land in the allotment is 506,985 acres, including 5 wilderness study areas with a total area of 228,290 acres. There are 37,380 acres of private land in the allotment. Speakers on the two buses brought the country to life in terms of people, wildlife, cattle, feral horses and vegetation. Rancher **John O'Keeffe** told us of the noxious weed problems in Warner Basin and the Working Group Management Plan to keep them under control. Rancher **John Lane** talked about the Beaty Butte Grazing Association, its membership, and their role in the management of the Beaty Butte Allotment. We learned the history of ranching in the area and the economic ups and downs of the large MC Ranch until it was cooperatively purchased by local ranchers.

We were treated to a diverse landscape of grass and shrubs created by prescribed cool-season fire that had killed some of the sage but left sufficient to satisfy the requirements of sage grouse. Grass production was enhanced for cattle, horses, and antelope. At this point we were close to Beaty Butte, after which the allotment was named, with fresh snow on its 7900-foot peak. We became well aware that we were in a high, cold and dry area that probably receives a considerable amount of raw wind such as we experienced that day. Fortunately, we were able to find shelter in a shallow draw where we feasted on grilled hamburgers and homemade cookies while learning from **Jim Brunner** about the various species and subspecies of sagebrush. He explained how important it is for range managers to know which ones they are dealing with as they have marked differences in palatability.

Tour Leader **Les Boothe** showed us where recent wild fires had killed both shrubs and grass and where they had seeded some areas. Wildfires usually occur during the heat of summer and burn very hot and fast. Numerous grass seedlings were evident in the seeded areas and it appeared the seeding would prove successful in 2002. Forage kochia, Lewis flax, and Wyoming big sage had been seeded with crested wheatgrass, bluebunch wheatgrass and squirreltail. Les reviewed the BLM horse management program. The allocated number for the allotment is 100 to 250 but despite the

removal of nearly 300 head in 1999 there are presently (August 2001) 542 on the allotment. It appears they are reproducing at a phenomenal rate which suggests forage is abundant and of good quality. In addition to the horses, there are 400 to 500 antelope, 200 to 300 deer, 50 bighorn sheep and 400 sage grouse. Cattle use is strictly controlled and they are rotated over the range under a different rotation each year. Actual annual use since 1993 has been 10,906 AUMs. Though grazing starts in April and ends in October, most of the cattle are on an irrigated meadow for about a month in August. Cattle use has been greatly reduced from the 1960s when use was 28,133 AUMs.

Lucille Houseley gave a fascinating talk on the carbon dating of 3 wood rat middens and the identification of seeds found therein. The age of these middens has been set at 1390± years, 1280± years, and 170± years before present. *Purshia*

tridentata (antelope bitterbrush) was common to all 3 middens although there is none in the area today. It is speculated that very heavy browsing by domestic sheep may have eliminated this species.

Other points of interest:

- Sage grouse have greatly decreased within living memory.
- Range condition has greatly improved within living memory.
- There may be no relationship between these two statements.

The tour was excellent and everybody enjoyed a good variety and abundance of refreshments at each stop. Overall, everybody had a great time. If you couldn't make it to this one, **we sure hope to see you in 2002!**

You can learn more about climate. . .

During his presentation at the '01 Section Meeting, **George Taylor, State Climatologist for Oregon**, took away some of the mystery of El Nino and La Nina. He introduced us to the concept of the ocean currents "linking" the Mediterranean and the Pacific Ocean and the effect of oceanic temperatures upon fish populations. George has, for several years, discussed this link. In a related story, according to an Ed Merriman article in the Feb. 1, 2002 *Capital Press*, NMFS Regional Director Bob Lohn said that near record returns of most salmon and steelhead populations in recent years have led a majority of credible scientific researchers to conclude that ocean conditions are by far the biggest factor affecting salmon and steelhead populations. We tip our hat to you, George!

George has published two fascinating books that give opportunity to explore climate. See information on [The Oregon Weather Book](#), an easy-read, keep-it-handly book and [The Climate of Oregon](#), chock full of data, at <http://osu.edu/dept/press>.

Leadership in the Journey to Change

To the Editor:

In his PNW '01 Annual Meeting presentation, **Kendall Johnson**, 1999 International SRM president, introduced us to Margaret Wheatley's book [Leadership and the New Science](#). I purchased and read the book. As management theorems go, this is far ahead of the curve. I admire the boldness of the ideas in it. The "formula" it offers does work well for SRM. Ms. Wheatley helps members of a professional dynamic organization to understand the promise that chaos can deliver. We already know that growth is not initiated during periods of comfort; nor can a period of stability last. Therefore, accepting and trusting chaos becomes a strength. SRM, with it members around the world, cannot expect predictable control at each moment. The fact that so many educated and caring people from so many positions and abilities can agree, Rangelands are Important, is of tremendous value. We trust our organization to speak for and care about an under-appreciated shared resource. I recommend the book and further discussion about its application.

Sincerely,

Kendall Derby

Section Meeting Finances

By Craig Obermiller, PNW Section Treasurer

In October 2001 at the fall meeting in Winthrop, Washington, the PNW Section formally adopted a set of guidelines for financial management of the Section meetings. 1st: the Section meetings ought to be managed to return a modest profit. 2nd: the hosting Chapter will automatically get half of the profits returned and will be able to make application for more money if needed for a specific project. This change in guidelines has raised questions and requests for elaboration.

The change in procedures was first discussed in October 1998 when the Central Oregon Chapter hosted the fall Section meeting. At that time, meetings were managed to break-even, the philosophy being that registration costs should be held low to minimize the effect of registration costs on a member's decision on whether to attend. The annual budget of the Section usually allowed for a loan to be given to the hosting Chapter to offset some of the up-front costs of hosting a meeting. There was an expectation that the loan would be reimbursed, and if a profit was made, the Chapter could request up to 25%.

Some costs associated with hosting a meeting are fixed, or independent of the number of attendees, and some costs are variable. So, if attendance levels fall short of expectations, a meeting will generate a loss; if attendance is higher than expected the meeting will generate a profit. With a break-even goal, Chapters could not always return the full loan to the Section.

The British Columbia Chapter hosted the summer 1998 meeting in Williams Lake, BC. In order to hold down registration costs, the BC Chapter cut a new path by soliciting sponsorship of events and donations for the silent auction from local businesses. The meeting included a dynamic field-oriented program that drew in a greater crowd than previous meetings; profits from the meeting were high. Organizers of the fall 1998 meeting in Prineville followed the Williams Lake model and also generated substantial profits.

The organizers of the fall 1998 meeting argued during that business meeting that a strong Section

needed strong Chapters and that Chapters needed more incentive to put on field workshops and solicit sponsorships. These arguments supported abandonment of the break-even philosophy and automatic return of a full 50% of the profits to the hosting Chapter. Though the arguments were accepted during the 1998 business meeting, record of the decision did not appear in the meeting minutes.

At subsequent meetings the shift in procedures and its potential consequences were reviewed. The guidelines today are that registration costs should be set so the break-even level of attendance is low enough to be "guaranteed". At the same time, registration costs shouldn't be so high as to discourage participation. All profits must be submitted to the Section with the financial report of the meeting, then half the profits will be automatically returned to the host chapter. If the Chapter has a project which would strain its financial resources, the Chapter can request all or a portion of the second half of the profits from the Section. However, this option is available for only one year following the meeting. If the host Chapter doesn't make application for the funds, the funds will stay with the Section.

This philosophical shift has not been universally accepted among the members of the Section and there are several nuances of the guidelines that remain unresolved. For example, what role will the Section play in the event of a loss? What, if any, criteria should the Board of Directors use for assessing a request by a Chapter for the second 50% of the profits? For the answer to these and other exciting questions, attend the 2002 Section meetings! See you there!

Seeding Our Future

By **Andrea Mann**, Student Affairs Committee

For student activity information, questions, suggestions or names, contact: **Andrea Mann**, **PNW SRM Student Affairs Chair**, 102 S. Wilson St., Wenatchee, WA 98801-2526; h: (509) 663-6670; E-mail: mannandrea@aol.com

2001 Silent Auction Nets \$672

The Silent Auction held in Lakeview, raised \$672. Thanks to those who contributed in any way to the auction. Eighty percent of the profits benefit student travel to International meetings; 20% benefits the Section Endowment Fund.

\$500 PNW SRM Undergraduate Scholarship

To qualify, a student must be an undergraduate in range management or natural resources management related major in a B.C., OR, or WA college/university, and remain an undergraduate in this field the following school year. Selection is based on academic standing, leadership, activities on and off campus, and financial need. Candidates must submit a letter detailing background and professional goals, current transcript, minimum of two letters of reference, with a least one letter from an SRM member.

Submit applications to academic Department Head or representative **by March 15**, for initial ranking. By May 1, application and ranking must be forwarded from the Department to Andrea Mann, PNW Student Affairs Committee. The Selection Committee will announce the 2001 recipient by September 1.

Student Travel Scholarships Available

Students may submit applications for travel scholarships to the International Meetings. Interested persons should indicate activities involved in at the meetings and have their advisor verify and forward them to Andrea Mann, Student Affairs Chair. It would be helpful if advisors would submit student names and activities by school in one correspondence. Travel funds are subject to fund availability and number of students applying.

High School Youth Forum

High school youth from throughout the U.S. attend the Youth Forum at International meetings. They participate in student conclave, paper and post presentations. Students are exposed to rangeland

resource issue, colleges and professionals working throughout the world. If you know students or teachers who could promote the Forum in their schools, please contact Andrea Mann.

Student Mentoring Program

- Are you interested in mentoring a student or being mentored by a professional?
- Are you looking for hands-on experience working in a natural resources field?

If so, please send your name, address, E-mail, phone number, time of year, length of time, potential projects or specialty area to Andrea Mann. We will provide the list to colleges and university contacts in our Section and match up professionals with students.

**Thanks for making time to mentor a student.
You will touch their lives forever!!**

Congratulations Cari Johnson PNW Scholarship Winner

By **Mike McGinnis**, OSU Agriculture Program, Eastern Oregon Univ., La Grande

The Scholarship Selection Committee selected **Cari Johnson** to receive the PNW-SRM Educational Scholarship in the amount of \$500 for 2001. Cari, a student in the OSU Agriculture Program at Eastern Oregon University, is majoring in Rangeland Resources and pursuing minors in Spanish and Crops & Soil Science. Andrea Mann, Student Affairs Chair stated, "Cari is one of the most well-rounded students I have met via the scholarship application process." Indeed she is! She is a solid student who works hard to maintain her grade point average in the upper 10% of her class. When not hitting the books, Cari devotes time to the Eastern Oregon Youth for Christ/Campus Life Fellowship, and serves as the middle school YFC leader in La Grande. Cari loves to camp, hike, hunt, target practice and read.

Last summer, Cari won an internship through a donor at Oregon State University and lived and worked with two Oregon ranch families. After graduation in June 2002, Cari wants to pursue a career in range management and put her skills to work helping people manage the land.

Upcoming Events

February 2002	SRM Annual Meeting, Kansas City
June 20-22, 2002	PNW SRM Summer Field Workshop, Colockum Washington
Fall 2002	PNW SRM Annual Meeting and Field Workshop, British Columbia
Winter 2003	SRM Annual Meeting, Casper, Wyoming

*Pacific Northwest Section, Society for Range Management
Caring for basic range resources: soil, plants, and water*

Want to alert members to an upcoming event? Tell us who your Chapter president is? Give us your new address? Brag about another member's contribution to range management? Tell us a story? Call, write, or E-mail the Newsletter Editors! Our mailing address is at the bottom right corner of this page; phone numbers and E-mail are listed under PNW Section Officers on page 3.

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