

Society for Range Management *Pacific Northwest Section*

Properly functioning ecosystems provide for long-term sustainability of watersheds, plants, animals and people
Volume 53, Number 2 April 2002

President's Message

Michael Borman

Since our last newsletter, many of us from the PNW Section have had the opportunity to attend SRM's 55th Annual Meeting in Kansas City, Missouri. The weather for our stay was excellent, but we just missed a major ice storm that caused a great deal of damage throughout the region. Unfortunately, many of our British Columbia members were not able to travel to Kansas City because of the recent severe budget cuts that have devastated range and natural resources programs throughout the province. To those of you in British Columbia, if there is anything we in the Section can do to provide support, please let us know.

With the exception of many of our British Columbia members, our Section was well represented and well rewarded. **John Buckhouse** received the Frederic G. Renner Award, which is the highest award bestowed by SRM. Congratulations John! **Rick Miller**, **Steve Leonard** (who has "retired" and moved to Idaho – but is still an honorary Section member), and I received Outstanding Achievement Awards. Rick was especially pleased that son **Travis** and daughter **Kristy** were present for his award presentation. **The OSU Range and Natural Resources Club** won 1st place for student display and placed 3rd in the Undergraduate Range Management Exam. Congratulations to all.

In the last newsletter, I suggested that we would know about the site selection for the 2006 annual meeting. The Advisory Council voted 24 to 14 in favor of Calgary. However, Ann Harris had not yet had an opportunity to review their proposal or to visit the facilities in Calgary. Thus, the Board of Directors tabled the vote until the Calgary proposal could be thoroughly reviewed and facilities visited. It is still possible that we could receive the bid to host the 2006 meeting in Vancouver. The SRM Board of Directors will make a decision in April.

Several of us recently (March 12-13) attended the 31st Annual Pacific Northwest Range Management Short Course in Boise, ID, which was hosted this year by Ken Sanders and the University of Idaho. The theme was "Challenges in Grazing Management: Annual Rangelands and Drought." It was an excellent program. **Jim Brunner** has prepared some thoughts he brought from the workshop for this newsletter.

Be sure to register for the summer tour at the Colockum! I look forward to visiting with you there.

To prepare for the Colockum in June and **Hugh Barrett's** Saturday morning discussion, check out <http://www.or.blm.gov/Rangelands/rangenet.htm>. It contains the range health standards for Oregon and Washington. Hugh probably won't give a test, but . . .

NEWSLETTER

PNW Section News

Nan's Weekends, 2002 – Where Is YOUR Idea! By Kendall Derby, PNW Section Board Director, Dayville, OR

This good and exciting opportunity, accepted by the Section membership at the 2001 Annual Meeting, needs you! It takes time and work to host an event like this. Combining that with a belief that most of us are at capacity at any given moment, it is difficult for me to ask people to drive themselves into a swamp. However, the results are worth it! With funding support available from the Section, it should be fiscally possible. It is still daunting. I need your help to get the ball rolling.

I have the cowboy habit of trying to do it by myself with duct tape, hammer and baling twine. This approach is not working well. I have not heard from enough of you interested in fiscal or logistical support for a Nan's Weekend event. How do we build the network to drum up sites and participants? **Hugh Barrett** suggests an article for Oregon Cattleman's Magazine. That I will do.

The possibilities are immense; we need more people willing to act on them as a group or as an individual. Personally I build nest boxes. I am creating a stack of them to be placed across a mountain valley or down the road along the river. That will be a small event (part of one day with 5-10 people). I will mix them up, cross pollinate them with ideas then turn them loose with a GPS and a map. End of the day will be a dinner and overnight if they wish. I want to invite only people that I am comfortable with; my challenge will be to welcome alternative viewpoints. I know in my head that alternatives are good to have. Still I wish that everyone would agree to see things the way I do. Am I human??? I know more of you are incubating an idea for an event. Please step forward with a plan and ask for our support. I do not want to report to you the plans in process. It will serve the process better to get you individually involved. I will report on events as they occur, share the lessons learned and celebrate the successes. Then, it will be your turn to say, "We'll do one!" Thanks to each of you willing to act on our shared interests.

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PNW Chapter Officers

British Columbia	Don Blumenauer	Okanagan Washington	Richard Fleenor
Central Oregon	Michael Fisher	Panorama Washington	Ellen Picard
Mid-Columbia WA	Brent Billingsley	Southern Oregon	Les Boothe

Welcome New, Returning and Transfer Members

Jennifer Ballard	Plush OR	Ann Humphrey	Enterprise OR
David Bowers	Bend OR	Cindy McArthur	Corvallis OR
Carol Boyd	Republic WA	Ted O. McArthur	Corvallis OR
Darren Brumback	Hines OR	Aurora O'Neill	Victoria BC
Byron Cheney	Prineville OR	Tasha G. Saporito	Albany OR
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Anne Holmquist	Redmond OR	Nathan C. Wehmeyer	Pullman WA
Tipton Hudson	Ellensburg WA	Desiderio Zamudio	Lakeview OR
Gus Hughbanks	Spokane WA	Karen Zamudio	Lakeview OR

B.C. Chapter will Host PNW Annual Fall Meeting & Workshop

Mark your calendars *(in pencil!) for October 3-5, 2002
Meet your SRM friends at Kamloops, British Columbia

Don Blumenauer, BC Chapter President, says that the chapter proposes a tour of the Highland Valley open pit mining operation – one of the largest in the world! At 4000 to 5200 feet elevation, it is still under snow. Thus, we haven't made our preliminary tour, but the field workshop will focus on reclamation projects including the following:

the use of biosolids,
livestock grazing management,
copper/molybdenum/livestock concerns,
water quality,
fisheries development,
wildlife habitat . . .

Tim Ross is coordinating other technical presentations.

*The date is tentative based on the confirmation of local issues, including cost. As information is gelled, look for it on the PNW Section web site: <http://users.myexcel.com/rangeland>

Complete registration packet will be in the summer newsletter.

(editors' note: If you haven't been to an SRM event in B.C., 2002 is your opportunity to correct that slip-up! You saw "big country" in Lakeview in 2001; you will see a different "big country" on the way to Kamloops. Look around. Collect questions – and ask them at Kamloops!)

Editors' goof report: PLEASE let us know when we err in the newsletter. Twice we have misprinted **Section 1st Vice president Tim Ross**' phone number – "*Certainly helps keep down the number of unwanted calls, but maybe too effectively?*" This is correct! 250-427-4319
And please know that **Mike McInnis** is McInnis, not McGinnis. When we offered to flail ourselves with 39 wet noodles, Mike generously responded:

*Mc, Mac, Muck,
McGinn, McGann, McGoon...*

it's pretty much the same clan. Thanks for the thought!

This newsletter is for you, the PNW member of Society for Range Management. We need you to help us make it interesting and useful for you, and correct! One of our goals is to help all of us get better acquainted. PNW SRM is "family," when we take time to know one another. Do it today! Thanks

Web site update:

John & Ann Tanaka maintain the PNW SRM Section web site. John writes, "I will be moving the site to another location in the near future – we are changing servers. The new address will be: <http://users.myexcel.com/rangeland>. We will have both sites operating, but the old one will eventually just have a link to the new one."

...and a Toast to Members of Distinction!

Tom Brannon, PNW 2001 Trail Boss Award

Sincerity, responsibility, dedication and ability – these four words *are* Tom according to Ed Deput, WSU Natural Resources Chair. “I have never met an individual with more sincere, fundamental interest in natural resources and resource-dependent people than Tom Brannon. I have not associated with an individual having a greater sense of responsibility in meeting personal and professional obligations related to natural resources, nor with a greater degree of personal dedication to meet such responsibilities. When these traits are combined with exceptional professional abilities, the result has been and *is* a truly outstanding contributor to the art, science and practice of rangeland management. I consider Tom to be one of the least self-serving professionals I have ever worked with.” **The PNW Section salutes Trail Boss Tom Brannon, and thanks him for his gentle sense of humor all along the way.**

(Trail Boss Tom will lead us on the Colockum trail in June. Don't miss this chance of a lifetime! - ed)

Jim Brunner, PNW 2001 Exemplary Service Award

Jim is the guy, who until 2 years ago was still returning to SE Nevada to monitor range plots he established in 1946. Last year Jim taught a filmed (4 cameras operating) class for an OSU rangeland watershed class and when asked how it went, exclaimed, “I sure hope I get to do that again, ‘cause I know what I would do different!” He wrote and self-published Wildlands Workers Handbook, a definitive practical guide to ground work based on his years working and observing the range. He wrote a personal letter to all Southern Oregon SRM members, saying, “We could sure accomplish more on the range if we get an SRM chapter going down here and work together. What about it?” And they did. He writes about natural resource issues for several magazines. He is a reviewer for *Rangelands*. **The PNW Section salutes Jim Brunner for bringing out the best in all of us as we strive to steward the range.**

Sh-h-h, don't tell, but there will be a Retirement Party!

Lee Eddleman, recognized at the 2001 Annual Meeting for his years of research and thoughtful teaching, will retire in June. There will be a party, June 14, 2002, 4:00 p.m. at Peavy Arboretum, north of Corvallis. Directions and information will be posted at: <http://osu.orst.edu/dept/range>

A meal (tentatively roast pig) will be served at 5:30 p.m., followed by a program.

Cost includes meal, \$15 per person over the age of 12; \$5 for those 12 years and under.

RSVP required ASAP. The instigators must know numbers and receive your payment **BY May 31**

Donations accepted toward a gift certificate for Lee.

RSVP & checks to: Sandy Sears, 202 Strand Hall, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331

Congratulations to SRM's New Leaders!

Jim Tiedeman will lead us as PNW Section 2nd Vice president and work his way to President in 2004.

Rick Forsman and **Rex Harder** were elected to three-year terms as Section Directors. These folks bring new ideas and energy to our Section. They want to know and work with each member. They invite each of us to become an *active* member – **and that's YOU, too!** **Marty Vavra** was elected a Director to the International SRM. Marty believes in “the organization of SRM, chapters and sections, which provides for education at the grassroots.” **Let's do it!**

PGE Employee Volunteer Award comes to PNW SRM

Congratulations **Robert Marheine** for being recognized with a \$500 Employee Volunteer Grant for the PNW Section SRM! “PGE is proud of the work of its employees on the job and in the community. The Employee Volunteer Grant program is one way PGE acknowledges community spirit of our employees and the great accomplishments of your organization. Your combined effort is commendable.” With those words of Terry Clelen, PGE Community Involvement Specialist, **we thank PGE and Robert**. A wildlife biologist for PGE, Robert is a mainstay in the C.O. Chapter and a behind-the lines part of your newsletter staff. Married to Teal Purrington, Robert has mastered the copy machine and supervises the folding!

Opportunities for PNW Section Members

Livestock Management for Fishable Waters: A Catchment Approach

By Janice Staats, C. Oregon SRM member and hydrologist on the National Riparian Service Team

Last fall the executive and elected leadership of the Society for Range Management, Society of American Foresters, American Fisheries Society, Ecological Society of America, Soil and Water Conservation Society, and The Wildlife Society, met to begin establishing working relationships, share information, and commit to taking action on issues of common interest. With this same collaboration in mind, the **Watershed/Riparian Committee of SRM** took the lead in developing a Symposium that was presented in February during SRM's Annual Meeting and will be repeated at the 2002 Annual Meeting of the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society, **April 27 - May 1, 2002, in Spokane**.

Livestock Management for Fishable Waters: A Catchment Approach, will be presented in two half-day sessions. Session 1 will be Sunday afternoon April 28; Session 2 will be Tuesday afternoon April 29. This symposium will promote the concept that watershed and riparian function can be maintained and enhanced in the face of planned, goal-based livestock grazing. Topics include: Stream channel and hydrology considerations, vegetation's role in catchment and riparian function, riparian plant response to defoliation, understanding livestock behavior to protect riparian areas, grazing management strategies. **Wayne Elmore**, Team Leader, National Riparian Service Team, will moderate the symposium. Speakers include managers, scientists, and ranchers. The AFS conference will be at The DoubleTree Hotel City Center, Spokane. For more information on the AFS meeting and the Catchment symposium, please visit the conference website:

<http://www.sff.bc.ca/2002.html>

Sandy Delta Field Trip: A Joint Adventure for *SRM, SAF, TWS, AFS, ESA

By Fred Hall, SRM member, teacher & chair-elect of Portland Chapter Society of American Foresters

I invite you to join me for a joint professional society "walkabout" at the Sandy Delta east of Portland on **Saturday, June 15, 9 AM to 5 PM**. This will be a good mix of people from *range, forestry, wildlife and fisheries. Linda Cartwright and I have been sampling the 1500-acre area for the last 10 years since cows were removed. I will review the changes of cottonwood forests, pastures, reaction of blackberry, ponds (reed canarygrass), and some rehabilitation efforts.

1. Bring your own lunch or sign up for about a \$12 box. *Bring things easy to carry; there will not be transportation around the Delta.* No promises on the weather, either!
2. Assemble at the parking area at the main gate of the Sandy Delta area at 9 AM. The parking area is just east of the Sandy River bridge, east of Troutdale and north of the highway.
3. From a vantage point, the history and current status of the Sandy Delta will be presented. Then, we will walk. A key item will be photo sample locations that were visited the month cows left the area in February 1992. These sites were re-sampled the first of each month for four years and then 4-times per year through January 2002. Other conditions for discussion: effects of the May 1948, Vanport Flood on black cottonwood stands and depth of water during the flood of February 1996. We will observe current rehabilitation efforts for both herbaceous and woody species, and the effects of cow removal on winter ponds.
4. RSVP, please, by June 10. To prepare handouts and order box lunches, we need to know you are coming. Please respond to me, Fred Hall, at plantecol@aol.com or 503-285-8729. Thanks for your interest.

Challenges in Grazing Management: Annual Rangelands and Drought

By Jim Brunner, SRM Charter Member, lifetime student, teacher & range believer, Medford, OR

Missed the 31st Annual PNW Range Management Short Course in Boise last month?? You missed a fine opportunity -- excellent workshop, accomplished speakers who did not run overtime, interesting information! After 2,385 words of review (a little over 4 pages), the editors said to shorten it. So, here goes!

Three things that really struck me: 1) Cheatgrass is darned good feed when it is green, and adequate feed when dry. Some cows get sore jaws from the seeds and awns, but native cattle don't; they know how to live here. 2) Everyone is working to use grazing to help cure the weed problem and let perennials back into the stands. 3) Ranchers are kind of fighting this alone to get proper grazing use on cheatgrass. The scientists are learning from the ranchers and they publish, but the bureaucrats are too busy to read the science, so they just plug along using ignorance to solve the problem. The idea of resting range after a calamity is so ingrained that they do it even though common sense says you must graze cheatgrass heavily to keep it in control.

I'll sneak in a few other key comments (every speaker made important points): ♦About 100 million acres of land in the West have introduced weeds. ♦Cheatgrass is a "weed in waiting". It is on good and excellent ranges quietly making and storing seed in the soil for the day the stand is opened, usually by fire. We must learn to manage cheatgrass ranges, because in many cases, cheat is it. ♦Cheatgrass has adapted to grow from salt desert to mountain meadows -- obviously genetically plastic. ♦Spring grazing cheatgrass can provide enough protein, energy, Zn, Si, Ca, & P. ♦Used sheep to reduce weeds and improve seeding success. ♦Sheep mostly, and herbicides, helped get perennial grasses in stands of cheatgrass and medusa head. ♦Cheatgrass likes wet winter, dry spring, hot summer. Lahonton big sage site ideal. Mountain sagebrush has wetter sites, soil moisture holds longer so perennials can grow and outlast short-lived cheatgrass. Reduce fuel loads to lessen danger of losing shrubs. ♦Frosty Tipton's Winnemucca ranch burned four times since 1989. Precipitation determines what plants grow and re-seed. Frosty tries to move livestock on soil moisture. If required to move off too early, cheatgrass regrowth is available to burn. ♦Ted Hoffman, Mountain Home ID rancher/veterinarian tried trampling medusa head to let Squirrel-tail and cheatgrass in. Two weeks after medusa head starts seed heads, cattle stop grazing it. Used Mormon crickets to control skeleton weed, then put cows in to eat stubs. On heavy snow, cows eat crested wheatgrass wolf plants. ♦Livestock is on a knife-edge in the West. Must show stock can improve range to get political support for grazing.

Noxious Weed Control through Multi-Species Grazing

By Andrea Mann, Wetland Specialist, NRCS, Wenatchee, WA

A two-year Western Region Sustainable Agriculture Research Education project is the result of a grant writing effort by Don Nelson, WSU. The objectives are to develop collaborative producer programs to design and implement multi-species grazing to control noxious weeds, reduce fuel loads and convert weeds into marketable products in a sustainable manner.

The objectives will be accomplished through a series of workshops for Extension, NRCS, agriculture agency professionals and private landowners and managers from Washington, Idaho, Oregon and California. First year workshops include Holistic Decision Making, Land EKG, Biological Planning/Planned Grazing/Multi-Species Grazing and Low Cost Cow-Calf Production/Body Condition Scoring.

In the second year, the participants and livestock graziers will work together to design and implement on-the-ground projects, apply and evaluate principles learned in this process.

In November 2003, a regional conference will assess the impact of the program and share the lessons learned with others. This conference will create the opportunity to establish relationships and networking across the region. A video by the WSU information department will document the program design, training, management/support group formation and on-the-ground project planning and implementation.

Upcoming Events

April 27 – May 1, 2002 Western Division American Fisheries Society (SRM Symposium), Spokane, WA
June 14, 2002 Lee Eddleman Retirement Party, Corvallis, OR
June 15, 2002 Sandy Delta Field Trip: A Joint Adventure, Portland, OR
June 20 – 22, 2002 **PNW SRM** Summer Meeting and Tour at The Colockum, WA
June 25, 2002 OSU Range Field Day, Prineville, OR
July 20, 2002 E. WA Forest Owners Field Day, :forest_stewardship@wadnr.gov
Sept. 21, 2002 WA/OR Forest Owners Field Day, :forest_stewardship@wadnr.gov
Oct. 3-5 (tent.) 2002 **PNW SRM** Annual Meeting and Field Workshop, Kamloops, B.C.
Winter 2003 **SRM** Annual Meeting, Casper, WY
Summer 2003 **PNW SRM** Summer Field Workshop, Oregon
Autumn 2003 **PNW SRM** Annual Meeting and Field Workshop, Washington
November 2003 Noxious Weed Control through Multi-Species Grazing regional conference

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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