

Society for Range Management Pacific Northwest Section

Properly functioning ecosystems provide for long-term sustainability of watersheds, plants, animals and people
Volume 55, Number 1 February 2004

See you in
Merritt BC
June 16-18!

President's Message

Will Keller

The SRM International meeting in Salt Lake City set a new attendance record with about 2000 folks registered. Quite a show! The meeting was a tremendous opportunity to be exposed to new ideas. While we were there, **John Buckhouse**, co-chair of the PNW Vancouver 2006 meeting, gathered his core chairs to make decisions and set time-lines. One of the requests that John made was for each of us to observe what worked well and what did not. This will build on their experiences. There was a world of sessions; the most difficult part was trying to choose which of several interesting topics to listen to. From the student mixers to the banquet there was a constant stream of new faces to talk with from all over North America. The chance to interact with such a wide variety of people from different places was quite a thrill for me. I came away from the meeting energized!

Tim Ross and I attended the parent society Advisory Board meeting as voting members. *We informed the board that our PNW Section applied for and received the copyright of the Trailboss logo for the Society. Thank you, **Jim Brunner**, for spearheading this effort.* In the Plenary Session, Mark Brunson of Utah State University talked about our profession from a sociologist perspective. He pointed out that the population at large has a place in their hearts for legends surrounding the cowboys of the west. I think it is important that we should maintain our connection to our roots and celebrate our Trailboss logo. For me, the artwork within the Trailboss logo by Native American artist Smoker Marchan connects our historic roots to our perception of the ecosystem today.

The notion of sustainability and change were challenged by Dr. Fred Provenza in a number of his talks throughout the week. When we look at our own lives, the fast moving pace of change becomes apparent. The Denver office now has a secure site for members to query a data base for names and contact information of members. Now we receive Member Resource News electronically. Information dissemination and communication are clearly the goals of the computer age, but sometimes I rather enjoy just a hard copy.

Be ready for the April PNW section newsletter which will have all the particulars about our upcoming Section Summer Field Workshop in Merritt BC, June 16-18.

Stay Tuned!

NEWSLETTER

Trailboss Award 2003, Acceptance Speech

By Fred C. Hall, *Plantecol NW, LLC*

Ed. note: The Trail Boss Award was presented to Fred Hall at the PNW Society for Range Management meeting in Ritzville, WA, October 24, 2003. Accepting the award, Fred paid tribute to The Trail Boss. In these unsettled times on the range, it seemed appropriate to share his thoughts with all PNW members. Thanks, Fred! See related award article elsewhere in this letter. Fred mentions rancher J.C. Harder; J.C. is an SRM member from Ritzville.

Thank you for the Trail Boss award. It is a real honor to be selected. The TRAIL – BOSS.

BOSS – what does that imply? Is this relaxed person (pointing to the man astride his horse) asleep? Or is he looking ahead? Is he ready to make decisions by taking chances? He might be looking down the trail he wanted to take, but realizes that “Joe Bonner’s” herd has already taken the grass down to a 1-inch stubble leaving little forage. So a new path must be taken for the next few days. A new path – hopefully, a rewarding one. So considering the options and alternatives, he makes a decision and believes it is a good one.

Which TRAIL? According to whose advice? An old, used, trusted trail or a new one? A stream and riparian area is an old, trusted trail. We know about it. People tell us that cattle increase the coliform count in streams. So in the fall, the count went way up in an eastern Washington stream. “Cows did it!” was the cry. But the cows had been gone for several weeks. **J.C. Harder**, the local rancher was amused. “Not my cows” he was heard to say; “migrating ducks use the area for feeding and resting”. And indeed, the fruits of Ducks Unlimited had been sown. So what do we really know about the trails we feel so comfortable about? How ready are we to “change our trails” with new information? Are we ready?

The TRAIL BOSS. Think about the opportunities, the limitations, the successes, and the consequences of the TRAIL BOSS.

Thank you for your confidence and your patience.

“Rangelands and rainbows – sounds like heaven to me.”

Tim Ross, 2003 PNW Section President

Homework assignment from the editors: Go to your October 2003 copy of “Rangelands”. Our own Tim had the leadoff article! The article is a print of the opening address given by Tim at the April ‘03 PNW Section workshop in Prineville, OR. This article is a “must read” or “re-read” if you are new to SRM and wonder who we are; if you are an “old” member, discouraged by the barrage of rhetoric and report writing; or if you simply need a break or a refresher course. Here are a few “one-liners”; read the whole thing and report back!

“The Trail Boss is in charge of the well-being of cattle, horses, people, and yes, the range. Adopted as a symbol of care – as I believe Charlie Russell drew him. The Trail Boss is a symbol that we as members of SRM are stewards of rangelands. . . . That is because range is a kind of land, not a use of land. Range management is the big picture . . . [requiring] a wide variety of people not just for their expertise, but also for their energy, their diversity of opinion, outlook and experience, and their humour.”

PNW Headliners

Congratulations to PNW SRM's New Officers

During the Ritzville Annual Meeting, results of the 2003 election were announced. **Will Keller** is our '04 president. Due to illness, Will missed the meeting, but, as you read in his "President's Message" he is now energized and moving on fast-forward. **Kevin Guinn**, advancing to the 1st VP position, stood in well for Will and will be President in 2005. **Bob Drinkwater** was elected 2nd VP and will work his way up to PNW President in 2006 (just in time for the '06 International SRM meeting hosted by PNW!). **Les Boothe** and **Nancy Phelps** were elected to three-year terms as Section Directors. *Thank you for accepting the challenge and opportunity to lead our Section forward. We are with you.*

Jim Brunner is National Winner at Salt Lake City

Jim Brunner, Charter Member of the Society for Range Management and an ACTIVE member all 55 years since, received the Sustained Lifetime Achievement Award. "This man is an inspiration! He is 85 years old and constantly puts much younger individuals to shame with his never failing energy, enthusiasm, willingness, and positive attitude. . . He is sometimes accused of being 'politically incorrect' but never - 'scientifically incorrect'. He simply 'tells it like it is'." *Way to go Jim! We all are proud of you!*

PNW '03 Trail Boss Award goes to . . . Dr. FREDRICK HALL!!

The PNW's highest award went to Fred Hall - "an interesting man, a dedicated scientist, and a faithful worker of the PNW Section. Fred served his country as a soldier in World War II and as a fighter pilot during the Korean War. In 1967, he received his PhD from the Department of Rangeland Resources at Oregon State University. His long and successful career with the Forest Service was as a Regional Ecologist for the PNW Region. His 'Plant Communities of the Blue Mountains' is the benchmark work. His handbook on photo monitoring is a classic. Dr. Hall's trademark is painstaking detail which demonstrates that with careful observation, one can conduct excellent research. His photo monitoring shows that with proper care, photo is a data-rich document which can illustrate ecological

change and statistical veracity. His teaching is well received because of his wealth of knowledge and the enthusiasm with which he delivers it. Fred is currently a consultant for his own ecological consulting firm and is active in several professional societies. The PNW Section of SRM is pleased and proud to present Dr. Fredrick Hall with the 2003 Trail Boss Award."

PNW '03 Exemplary Service Award goes to. . . The PNW Newsletter Team!!

"The team of Lynne Breese, Teal Purrington, Robert Marheine and John Breese puts long and arduous hours into garnering news, preparing copy, maintaining lists, collating information, preparing ballots and mailing the newsletter. The newsletter serves as the 'heart and soul' of the PNW Section, providing the encouragement and inspiration that each of us needs to carry us through the day to day challenges which we face."

Marty Vavra (Director of SRM parent society) Changes Hats

Marty Vavra has changed careers. After 32 years with the Agricultural Experiment Station at OSU, he has put on a new "hat." As superintendent of the E.O. Agricultural Research Center (Union and Burns experiment stations), his research focused on livestock grazing management and livestock/wildlife relationships. Marty is now at PNW USDA Forest Service Lab., La Grande, OR, studying the role elk, deer and cattle play in affecting ecosystem patterns and process as they relate to periodic disturbances like wildfire or forest management.

Roger Sheley Comes to the PNW

Many PNW members already knew Roger Sheley, and more of us met him at the 2001 PNW workshop in Vernon BC. He caught our attention when he said he loves to kill weeds just as much as the next guy, but that just "killing weeds" should never be our goal. At that time, Roger was Extension Noxious Weed Specialist at Montana State University. Roger Sheley has become one of "us". He is the USDA-ARS Noxious Weed Research Agronomist at the Northern Great Basin Research Center in Burns, OR. *Welcome to PNW Section, Roger!*

Tanzania – a Range Guy’s Big Adventure

By Joe Wagner, BLM Range Conservationist, Lakeview, OR

(This is the first in a series which the editors asked Joe to share with us all. Thanks Joe!)

The 2003 International Rangeland Congress (IRC) in Durban, South Africa beckoned. For this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, I took 6 weeks off to see as much of Africa as I could. This article will cover two weeks in Tanzania as a true tourist, but also as an inquisitive land manager. Let me share with you.

First stop – Kirurumu, a permanent tented camp atop the Great Rift Valley’s western escarpment. I took an ethno botany walk to learn some plants: toilet paper plant (very soft velvety leaf) and sand paper plant, used to file fingernails (don’t get these two mixed up!); several Euphorbias which are poisonous, and Amarula which makes an alcoholic drink. Mint leaves are burned in open household fires to keep mosquitoes out.

At Lake Manyara N. P., below the west escarpment, I saw lots of animals - which burned up a lot of film. Tourists always burn up at least 2 rolls of film when they first see animals. A lot of water surfaces on the face of the escarpment, creating a ground rain forest – dense and moist with very large trees. This forest is quite different from the surrounding bush land typical of this part of Africa. Surrounding the lake was a band of 30-50 feet tall dead trees which were flooded out during a major El Nino event about 8 years ago. A new forest is growing back underneath – reminiscent of stand replacement following a Lodgepole pine fire.

We entered Serengeti Park at the Naabi Hills entrance. Climbing the hill, I could see why the Serengeti means “The Endless Plain”; it was flat as far as I could see. The plain is a sea of knee-high grass, with scattered umbrella acacia and numerous mid-sized scrubby acacia. The further west we drove, I began to understand “the bush”, a local term for a lot of acacias separated by large open areas.

Every morning the sky was clear, but by afternoon you could not see the hills because of smoke. Serengeti Park attempts to burn 20 to 25% of the park each year. It’s pretty amazing that 25 to 30 % of the grass is still left standing after the flames go through. Young acacia, one meter or less, may be killed by fire, but most acacia species re-sprout. Two years of rest after burning? Hardly!! Gazelle, Zebra, Ostrich, Giraffe and many more animals are in there grazing while the grass still smolders.

Serengeti Park more than pays for itself through eco-tourism – in fact it “carries” several other Parks. Tanzania recognizes the value of their wildlife and National Parks as eco-tourism magnets. The country has designated about 20% of the land to Parks and Game Reserves, because of the tourism economics. “Viewing only” is allowed in some areas, while hunting is allowed in others.

The Park Service and tour guides make a point that they practice ecosystem management and people are a part of the ecosystem – man has been a part of it for 2 million years. If you don’t believe it, go to Oldapai Gorge and you can see that man has been a part of the African landscape for a long time.

Continued on next page

A few “wild” observations:

- Wildebeest have screwed-up compasses in their heads. They run this way, stop, then run 180 degrees the other way – even crossing the river several times where crocodiles wait. They aren’t the best life insurance risks.
- After visiting the Serengeti and seeing the migration of the animals, I think I can now truly imagine what the bison must have been like on the Great Plains in the 1850s.
- I thought of John Buckhouse and other hydros, when I saw elephants eroding stream banks as they scratched their behinds on the riverbanks. I wondered how this fit into the African PFCs??
- The concept of high-lining on trees took on a whole new dimension after seeing what elephants could do to trees – high-lining from the top down. These guys can truly change the structure of vegetation from over-use.
- The lion, “King of Beasts”, is very deserving of that regal title when right-side up; but they are truly lazy slugs when they are up-side down.

...Tanzania, continued from previous page...

Tanzania has evolved some ingenious ways to manage the landscape for both people and wild animals. The Massai Tribe agreed to move permanent villages and pastoralism out of the Ngonogoro Crater floor, within the Conservation Area, so that the cattle, donkeys and goats don't detract from the wildlife and tourists. However, they are allowed to bring their cattle into the crater for one day, once a month. The cattle need to drink water from the alkali lake to prevent a disease.

Another example of an unusual land management solution involves the private land between Lake Manyara and Tanagire Parks (50 miles), where people are settling. The area is a migration route between the two parks. The elephants are becoming mean as people chase/harass them to keep them out of farm fields. This has created a significant conflict. What is being worked out is that the tribe has agreed to give up farming and to practice pastoral grazing within the migration route. In return the tribe receives the eco-tourism receipts from Tanagire Park. This compromise is still being implemented.

**Meet us in Merritt BC in June
PNW Summer Workshop & Field Tour**

Theme: Exploring Rangeland Health

16th - Board of Directors and Vancouver
2006 Committee (all are welcome at both)
17th - Field Workshop
18th - Presentations and Business Meeting

Student Scholarship Opportunity

Masonic-Range Science Scholarship

The Society for Range Management (SRM) Masonic-Range Science Scholarship offers financial assistance and recognition to a high school senior, and/or college freshman or college sophomore planning to major in/presently majoring in range science and/or closely related field. The "closely related field" is not specifically defined - evaluation will be based upon how the applicant expresses interest in a range science career.

This scholarship (maximum of 8 semesters) requires the student to maintain a 2.5 GPA (4.0 Scale) during the first two semesters (freshman year only) and a 3.0 GPA in any subsequent semester (GPA is per semester, not cumulative) to continue to receive the scholarship for the remaining years of eligibility. The students will provide copies of their college transcript annually to the SRM Office to verify their continued eligibility. Failure to do so could result in termination of the scholarship.

Applicants must be sponsored by a member of the Society for Range Management (SRM), the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), or the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS).

Application will include the following: completed application form, copy of high school transcripts (and college transcript if applicable), certified copy of SAT or ACT scores (even if a college student); two letters of reference from teachers, county agents, employers, etc., and brief essays on leadership experience, community service, most important honors and awards and why interested in range science career.

PNW Student Education Scholarship

Applicants should submit a letter describing their background, education, and activities, and attach college transcripts, two letters of reference from SRM members, and a letter from their department head recommending them for the scholarship.

**Contact Andrea Mann, PNW Student Activities Chair for information,
including application form and 2004 deadlines. E-mail = andrea.mann@wa.usda.gov**

Chapter Action

One of **President Will Keller's** goals for our Section in 2004 is to rebuild/wake up our chapters. He has asked **1st VP Kevin Guinn** to head up the Advisory Council, which is the Council of Chapter Chairman/Presidents. Kevin will be challenging us all to build our local chapters.

PNW Chapter Officers

British Columbia	Don Blumenauer	Mid-Columbia, WA	Dana Peterson
Central Oregon	John Swanson	Okanagan, WA	Richard Fleenor
Southern Oregon	Les Boothe	Panorama, WA	Ellen Picard

How do we get “Society for Range Management” on billboards?

Here's one Chapter's start on it. The green sign by Highway 97 announces →

It started when **Michael Fisher** said, “Hey guys, I've got an idea for getting our name out where folks can see it.” “Oh sure. Well -- OK”. Three years later, the Central Oregon Chapter continues to turn out for the 3-4 times a year patrol, and has gotten really good at it. There are some skills involved! **Bob Ehrhart** is current ringmaster. Read on!!

**Adopt a
Highway**
Society for Range
Management

Trash Talk (or Litter Patrol on 97) and a Random Act of Kindness!

By Tory Kurtz, Rangeland Management Specialist, Ochoco National Forest

Last fall, a sunny Saturday morning welcomed me to my first experience participating in the "Adopt-a-Highway" program through the Central Oregon SRM. Though the day was beautiful and warm, I had little expectation for a fun time picking up trash. I was soon proven wrong.

Since I was a newcomer to the litter patrol duties and experiences, my partner, being the veteran (Bob Ehrhart) that he was, kindly shared some information. He informed me of the general rules and regulations: don't pick-up bio-hazardous materials, large objects are brought to the side of the highway, keep your gloves on, etc. He also shared a past experience where he had stumbled upon a love letter in which the couple had broken up and the man was begging for a second chance. After hearing this, my hopes picked up that perhaps I might stumble upon something just as exciting. Well, my partner and I stumbled upon an entire collection of baseball cards scattered along the side of the highway. I concluded that this must be the response the women had to the love letter; she threw out his baseball cards! Another bonus I stumbled on along the way was an ATV saddle pack in really good condition, so already my expectations were proven wrong.

There were two other non-trash items found in the day. Often times along the highway there is a good collection of weeds and this was no exception. However, some of the thistle was in bloom and if you have never seen a thistle flower, you are really missing out; they might be ugly plants, but their flowers really make up for it. We also saw a praying mantis trying to act like a stick amongst the weeds. Again, not at all what I had envisioned.

So, at this point in the day I had had a pretty good time. My partner and I had shared stories and made jokes about some of the litter found. We had seen some of nature's beauties. But, the topper of all was the small act of kindness we received towards the end of the day. Remember, it was a beautiful and warm day, and we were getting pretty thirsty. Well, a man who lived in a house along the highway must have seen that. He came out with two bottles of cold juice, asked what we were doing and, thanking us for picking up the litter, he handed us the bottles of cold juice. That made it all worth it. That one small, random act of kindness really made me feel good and carried me the rest of the day. One gentleman reminded us why it was worth it to clean up the highway

PNW Section Officers

President	Will Keller	509-422-2750	Director	Darren Bruhjell	250-371-6058
1 st Vice Pres.	Kevin Guinn	509-754-3553	Director	Les Boothe	541-947-6147
2 nd Vice Pres.	Bob Drinkwater	250-565-4115	Director	Nancy Phelps	503-808-2940
Past President	Tim Ross	250-427-4319	Membership	Bob Drinkwater	250-565-4115
Secretary	Mike Malmberg	250-489-3068	Student Affairs	Andrea Mann	509-663-6670
Treasurer	Craig Obermiller	541-923-2777	Awards	John Buckhouse	541-737-1629
Director	Rex Harder	509-257-2800	News. Eds.	Lynne Breese	541-447-6762
Director	Rob Dinwoodie	250-558-1768	News. Eds.	Lynne Breese	541-447-6762
Director	Dana Peterson	509-665-2100		jlbreese@prinetime.net	
				Teal Purrington	541-923-6924

Kevin Guinn will coordinate the Section Advisory Council made up of Chapter chairman/presidents.
Nancy Phelps will coordinate chapters to plan the Section Annual Meeting and Summer Workshop.
Bob Drinkwater will coordinate a membership committee of state/province representatives.

Vancouver 2006 Planning Update

By John Buckhouse & Bob France

The Beat goes on. . . . Many members of the V-2006 Planning Committee attended the SRM's Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City. They "shadowed" the SLC Team. This gives a huge benefit to our planning effort. The SLC physical set-up was similar to what we can expect in Vancouver: two excellent hotels, across the street from each other; ample, elegant facilities to include trade show and refreshment space; and a daily schedule similar to what we are planning (Directors' meeting Saturday, Committees meeting Sunday, Plenary session beginning Monday, adjournment Thursday, post-convention tours on Friday). Though we have a different organizational mix of assignments (from co-chairs to greeters) than did they, we were able to easily see tasks which needed to be done and see how they were tackled.

We contacted Don Caudell of the Texas Section which will host the 2005 meeting. We are on the Texas list-serves and are privy to their conversations and approaches for the Fort Worth meeting. This, too, is proving useful as we anticipate the challenges of the 2006 meeting.

When the PNW Section meets in Merritt, BC, June 16-18, there will be another V-2006 meeting. Mark your calendar and feel welcome to join us: Wednesday, 4:00-6:00 PM, between the PNW Board meeting and the evening social. All V-2006 Committee members should plan to attend. There will be a trip to Vancouver on Saturday, June 19th if you would like to take an extra day to see the Vancouver facilities. Please contact John Buckhouse if you are interested. john.c.buckhouse@oregonstate.edu

Mark your calendar
right now
for the June 16 – 18, 2004
PNW Summer Field Workshop
in Merritt BC

Upcoming Events

June 16-18, 2004	PNW SRM Summer Field Workshop, Merritt BC
Fall 2004	PNW SRM Fall Annual Meeting and Field Workshop, Oregon
February 2005	SRM International Meeting, Fort Worth, Texas
Summer 2005	PNW SRM Summer Field Workshop, Washington
Fall 2005	PNW SRM Fall Annual Meeting and Field Workshop, Oregon
February 2006	SRM International Meeting, Vancouver, B.C., <i>hosted by PNW Section</i>

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! jlbreese@prinetime.net or tpurring@or.blm.gov

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• **Merritt BC** •
• June 16-18! •
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