



Society for Range Management Pacific Northwest Section

Properly functioning ecosystems provide for long-term sustainability of watersheds, plants, animals and people
Volume 61, Number 1

March 2010

PNW Summer Workshop
in Kelowna, BC – See you
there in June!

President's Message

Les Boothe, Lakeview, OR

NEWSLETTER

SRM in Denver was well worth it – in spite of a full box of emails and phone messages upon my return to Oregon. Catching up with many old friends and the interchange of information on so many topics is unparalleled in the range profession. Over 400 students were among the 2300 attendees – a very encouraging future for the Society.

A memorable moment was John Friend, a Colorado Nature Photographer who showed spectacular photos of Colorado ranches during the Plenary Session. The photos were great, but what he said about ranchers is what captured my attention. Mr. Friend admitted that he is a dedicated environmentalist and was often opposed to people who used rangeland. However, this project brought him in close contact with ranchers and caused him to change his opinion. He now sees ranchers as stewards of the land, with the same passion for nature that he has. Mr. Friend works with an organization that helps keep working ranches intact by rewarding them for not sub-dividing their private property. His story reminds me of the importance of telling range management success stories, and what happens when the message gets out that most people who use the rangelands are good stewards of the land.

PNW Section had two early morning meetings with our Three Amigos – the tri-chairs who are organizing us to host the 2012 International SRM meeting in Spokane. **Kevin Guinn, Will Keller** and **JD Wulforst** updated us on what they were learning from the Denver planning team. **John Buckhouse** and **Bob France**, co-chairs of the Vancouver '06 meeting, shared words of wisdom and offered encouragement. We are on track. Committee chair positions are filling, but there are many openings for committee members. JD,

Kevin and Will did yeoman work in Denver, and are continuing that pace. Thank them, for they represent the Idaho and PNW Sections well.

Thanks to the folks who went above and beyond to assist PNW in Denver. **Tip Hudson** worked to get **Blake Soreano** to the High School Youth Forum. Blake represented PNW Section well. **Dana Peterson, Hugh Barrett, Bob France, Joe Wagner, John Breese** and **Teal Purrington** put together a basket of PNW treasures which earned \$85.00 at the Silent Auction and helped add \$6100 to the SRM Endowment Fund. **Tessa Teems, Casey O'Conner** and **Jim Brunner** got 100 copies of Jim's *Wildland Worker's Handbook* to Denver where the **Eastern Oregon University Students** sold the handbook at their booth. The PNW was well represented during the awards program; special congratulations to everyone!

The diversity and quality of scientific information presented in Denver was outstanding. From carbon sequestration and climate change to grazing systems, sage grouse, managing cheatgrass, just to name a few – there was something for everyone. There is much new scientific information, but there is also the recognition of just how complicated range ecosystems are, and how much we don't understand. In the midst of all this knowledge, I was reminded how important *the art of range management is*. With all the advancements in science and research, proper range management still requires the art of management, often learned by experience, or trial and error. It is this melding of scientific knowledge and practical application that makes this field unique and so interesting to me.

See you in Kelowna in June!

Les

Just who are these Three Amigos?

They are three folks from the Idaho and PNW Sections who said, “Yes, I’ll do it” when asked to lead us forward to 2012 when we co-host the 65th Annual Meeting of the Society for Range Management. Get to know them.

J.D. Wulfhorst is a rural community sociologist at the University of Idaho where he conducts research, teaches and directs the Social Science Research Unit. He plays his dobro in the bluegrass band Forgotten Freight, and tries to keep up with three young daughters, and is president of Idaho SRM.

Will Keller facilitates a diversity of Coordinated Resource Management planning groups in north central Washington, many for over 20 years. He often arrives at SRM events on his black 1949 Vincent motorcycle, wearing colorful leather which still fits – ask him about his color choice! (And he confuses the motorcycle manufacture date with his wife’s birthday, which doesn’t earn any points at home!!)

Kevin Guinn, with NRCS for more than a few years, is Area Resource Conservationist based in Ephrata, WA. He is a 33 year SRMer! For fun, he is “a hiking fool” who in ’09, hiked the Wind River, Hell’s Half Acre, Yellowstone, Palisades, Grand Tetons, Canyonlands and Arches National Parks.



Three Amigos leading the PNW and Idaho Sections in planning for Spokane 2012. From left, **Will Keller**, **J.D. Wulfhorst** and **Kevin Guinn**.

Welcome New Members!

Richard Haubrich, Yakima, WA
Catherine Kershner, Jordan Valley, OR
Holly Myers, Bend, OR
Amy Peters, Myrtle Point, OR
Seema Mangla, Corvallis, OR
Liza Jane Nichols, Enterprise, OR
Breanna O’Conner, Lakeview, OR
Austin Piper, Hines, OR
Cody Rickert, LaGrande, OR
Blake Sereano, Chelan, WA
Thomas Walkem, Kamloops, BC
Kelby Witherspoon, LaGrande, OR
Angela Woodring, Paisley, OR
Conrad Bateman, Vale, OR
LaDonna Carlisle, Portland, OR
Arnold Grammon, Baker City, OR
Sarah Hill, Summerville, OR
J. Johansen, Bend, OR
Sarah Kellom, Klamath Falls, OR
Sonja Leverkus, Fort Nelson, BC
Robert Luster Pendleton, OR
Peter Grubb, Antelope, OR
Brennan Hauk, Lakeview, OR

First Response Team

If you need ideas, counsel, or advice in technical or controversial topics, a team of PNW past-presidents and others is here for you. The immediate Past-president coordinates this team. Call or send your question to **Dana Peterson**, 509-665-2119 or dana_peterson@or.blm.gov This works. Try it – you’ll like it!

PNW Bulletin Board

A fine tri-fold felt-covered board, ideal for many uses, is available for SRM chapters to use. **Mary Beth Smith**, Condon, OR., “houses” the board. Contact Mary Beth at 541-965-0451 or 541-384-5543.

Society Update -- A Few Words from Sandy

By Sandra Wyman

Sandy, from Prineville, OR, is on the Board of SRM. Representing all of us, she wants to hear your ideas and questions.

SRM in Denver was a whirlwind for the Board of Directors! We hired **Tim Cansler** as our Executive Vice President. With a specialty in business management and building prosperity for his clients, Tim has worked with agriculture non-profits to improve their business operations. BOD members heard over and over, "We need another Peter Jackson!" As great an EVP as Pete was, times have changed; we have over 3500 rangeland management specialists, including your BOD to carry the SRM Mission. We need to get the business component of the society in working order. One of Tim's first tasks is to analyze the database and recommend workable software packages. We must make it easier for folks to become members and to maintain their memberships! Tim will also explore how to more efficiently use our wonderful staff.

Thanks to **Jess Peterson**, Western Skies Strategies, who served as interim EVP for several months and was amazed at the **family that is SRM**. Jess continues as our D.C. liaison. SRM must have a presence in D.C. to provide sound rangeland science information. We've also hired **Aleta Rudeen** as Outreach and Leadership Development Coordinator. Aleta will visit as many of the sections as possible and looks forward to this new venture. Please welcome Tim, Jess and Aleta to SRM.

There was much discussion regarding the carbon verification workshop (CVW) which was one step in certifying carbon verifiers. The BOD discussed whether we should have CVW as a sanctioned workshop under Certified Professional in Rangeland Management (CPRM). It was determined that the CVW does not involve teaching actual carbon measurements. CVW teaches surrogate measures of appropriate grazing management planning and implementation.

Conversations continue related to the 2008 Briske et al. article on continued versus rotational grazing. Dave Briske is willing to visit with folks about the actual intent of the article and what he can do to help folks understand the scope and intent of the article.

On behalf of the BOD, I congratulate all our students on their accomplishments in the student contests.

Our society has one of the biggest student activities programs around, and that is fantastic. I hope the interaction with our members was just the ticket to encourage our students to continue in a career working with rangelands.

Thanks to all our PNW and Idaho Section folks as we gear up for 2012. Get ready for the ride!

Please call or email your suggestions, concerns or comments! w 541-416-6886; h 541-447-0206; wymansk@msn.com

PNW Member Update

WSU Extension Educator, **Tom Platt**, rancher **Jake Harder** and other Adams County ranchers met with scientists from the Logan, Utah USDA Poisonous Plant Research Laboratory to learn the latest lupine research. Lupine creates a toxin which threatens many calves. Jake commented to the *Capital Press* that he can't remember a year when he didn't have at least one calf afflicted with crooked calf disease.

Elizabeth Vandehey, daughter of **charter member Bill Anderson** writes: "I read the newsletter to Daddy. He enjoyed hearing names he recognized, and was pleased to hear that **Rick Miller**, whom Daddy knew when he was a student, received the Trail Boss. He was very interested in **Alf Bawtree's** letter on Kentucky Blue Grass. After I read it to him, he rattled off facts about the four layers of soils and where you'd find KBG. He has moved to a care facility – not an easy thing for a 95-year old stubborn Swede/German!"

Dispatches from Denver

Tim Deboodt, Prineville, OR: It's always good to see old friends, and, oh my, are they getting older! This meeting is in my top 10 for sure, with an excellent program. Of particular interest, were programs focused on the impacts and opportunities of renewable energy development and range management. The Rangeland Technology Equipment Workshop is usually on Sunday afternoon. If you are interested in range improvement, restoration, and the latest technologies to assist us, I urge you to participate.

Wendy Gardner, Kamloops, BC: Denver was informative and entertaining. The students attending these events continue to amaze and inspire me. The planning sessions for Spokane 2012 brought back fond memories from the planning for Vancouver (as I have forgotten all the associated stress that went along with it!).

Maureen Malenstyn (AKA Wendy's Mum), BC: Since Wendy and I were in Mongolia in 2008, the presentations on pastoral herding were extremely interesting. Mongolia strongly supports this practice. Global warming is very front and centre wherever you go. Coming from the Vancouver area, I find it interesting that in the arid areas, more rain than usual can create problems as much as too little! The most interesting poster was on making beer from cheatgrass seeds. This beer thing may gain some momentum! I enjoy the students at these meetings; we have great discussions and a lot of fun.

Kevin Guinn, Ephrata, WA: As co-chair of our Spokane 2012 meeting, Denver was a great opportunity. Will, JD and I met with SRM staff, financial committee, annual meeting planning committees for both Denver and Billings meetings, editor and publisher of Rangelands, the contractor for audio-visual, and contracting consultants for hotels, food and beverage services. Denver was a time for us to discuss and contemplate what lies ahead of us!

Emily Hurd, Prineville, OR: I was given the opportunity to judge the High School Youth Forum paper presentations. It proved to be one of the most challenging and inspiring sessions. Other highlights included an adventure of navigation through the maze of the Downtown Sheraton Hotel, a series of very informative technical sessions and committee meetings coupled with a great way to reconnect and visit with others in the profession. Denver was a true success for an SRM meeting. Thanks to all my fellow Central Oregon travelers for enhancing the SRM experience (Another tour through the Denver airport? John, Lynne, and Jay lead the way!)

John Buckhouse, Corvallis, OR: This year, with the Weed Society present, we had a whole new group with whom to network. Here's a "small world" piece: John Cation of DuPont and a Weed Society person, hosted an open house. Turns out he was an OSU football player in the 70s and played

tackle on those teams with my next door neighbor, Scott Spiegleberg, who was the quarterback!

The Wild Women of Range was special. In 2009, my wife Vicki passed the WWOR torch to Linda Hardesty, who passed it on to Laurie Abbott this year. These women are hard working professionals who have been instrumental in welcoming young women into the profession. Perhaps the best thing for me was to watch the awards ceremonies. Having known most of the winners for year, I loved watching them receive the honors which they so richly deserve. The recognition of these individuals fills me with a sense of wonder/awe/love/admiration as I reflect on what the Society for Range Management means, not only to me personally, but to the society at large!

Mike Borman, Corvallis, OR: OSU Range student **Sara Norman** ranked 8th on the URME. **Congratulations Sara!** Range Science Education Council and Range Program Chairs filled my schedule, so I didn't get to many sessions or symposia. The OSU Range Program will likely undergo an SRM Accreditation Review during spring 2011. Except for Wyoming and North Dakota State Universities, all Range Programs deal with substantial budget issues.

Merging and reconfiguration of programs continues. We had a great turnout at the OSU Alumni - PNW Section social.

Gene A. Fultz, Vancouver, WA: I had a great start at Denver by volunteering to work at the registration desk. Unlike the classic and current ecology topics, it is the only time at a range and ecology meeting that you can tell people where to go and how to get there because their objective was clear and timely and the path to their goal was invariable and repeatable! It was good to see friends from PA, LA, and AK. It was good to meet new friends at the "Taste of Colorado" to discuss feral horses in Arizona, feral camels in Australia, and the failure of neutering feral cats in Florida as a population control measure.

Brendan Brazee, Kuna, ID: What a great meeting. As always, it is good to see old friends and meet a few new folks. I am looking forward to working with everyone on the 2012 meeting to plan a fantastic Spokane meeting.



Dispatches from Denver continued on next page →

Recognized in Denver

The **SRM Fellow** recognizes exceptional service to the Society in advancing the science and art of range-related resource management. Of the four 2010 recipients, two are PNW members. **Dave Ganskopp**, Burns, OR is considered a pioneer in the use of GPS/GIS to research the behavior of grazing animals. **John Tanaka**, Laramie, WY, has served every leadership role within SRM, starting as student president at OSU through serving as interim EVP of the Society. **The Outstanding Achievement Award** recognized **Tamzen Stringham**, Reno, NV, for her research and teaching and **John & Lynne Breese**, Prineville, OR for their stewardship and outreach. **Kirk Davies**, Burns, OR, was honored as an Outstanding Young Range Professional for work in the sagebrush steppe. BLM recognized **Rob Sharp**, Burns, OR with the Rangeland Specialist Award for Oregon/Washington.



John and Lynne Breese accept the Outstanding Achievement Award in Denver for their stewardship and outreach.

Dispatches from Denver, continued...

Bob & Linda France, Coldstream, BC: Our whole family was there! **Kevin** (MS OSU) works as Provincial Rangeland Specialist, Grasslands in Alberta. **Terrie** is working on her Masters at TRU and presented in a technical session. **Brian**, returning to school, is an undergraduate at TRU and wrote the URME. This is the second year that we have all been able to make the meeting a family get-together! We had a great time in Denver. It is always enjoyable to visit with all our PNW friends.

Linda and I drove, and on our return, drove the highway through Winter Park and Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Several areas had at one time, been home to working ranches, but are now filled with houses. I have heard this discussed at SRM meetings, and have read articles on the topic, but it was still a shock to see. It gives me a much greater appreciation of the issue.

Aubrey Woodcock, Montpelier, ID: Going to SRM in Denver was exciting as a young professional. As a student, I didn't realize the amount of work that it takes to organize and run a successful meeting. With the amount of different topics of talks and papers, there was something for everyone.

Lynne Breese, Prineville, OR: Assisting with the High School Youth Forum, meeting the high school delegates and their president, and watching their advisors Barron, Mary and Hoyt in action was truly inspiring! Put HSYF on your Billings and Spokane "must see" list!

John Breese, Prineville, OR: One reason for being in Denver was for stewardship recognition. How humbling to have our true heroes (folks who have inspired us with their knowledge and abilities) greet us with so much joy and pleasure. It was also fun to be shepherded through the airport by several young experienced SRMers!

T.J. Walkem, TRU, Kamloops, BC: The hospitality of people in Denver and the surrounding area was a highlight; everyone was very kind and welcoming. I enjoy the annual meetings because I fit right in; the atmosphere is filled with so much information that I get to simply absorb. I enjoy meeting people that have the same passion in the range and grasslands field. The connections that I have grown or started give me inspiration to proceed to help preserve these lands and to help make a difference throughout my career.

Terri France, TRU, Kamloops, BC: My meeting highlight was having the privilege to present some of my research and receive valuable feedback. It was a wonderful opportunity to rub shoulders with a great group of SRM and WSSA members who provide a wealth of knowledge, guidance and support. The rocky Mountain National Park technical tour was a good way to wrap up an exciting and informative week. I look

Dispatches from Denver continued on next page →

Dispatches from Denver, continued...

forward to future meetings.

Angela LoSasso, Paisley, OR: My favorite part was connecting with other women in Range Management. As a new professional, networking and learning from my peers, both experienced professionals and newbies like me, was valuable. It helped me gain perspective that allowed me to return to my duty station energized and looking forward to the future!

Clare Poulson, Burns, OR: One strong point that came from this meeting was how important heterogeneous landscapes are. One speaker made a point of saying that there need to be moving mosaics across the landscape. These points are important because at times I feel the focus is on a more static landscape, not an ever-changing one.

Tom Bedell, Philomath, OR: Largest attendance yet (2300); about 400 were Weed Science Society. Denver provided an outstanding venue -- especially nice as across the street was Kate Mullen's Irish Pub where many hung out in "off duty" times! As usual, this meeting had many things going on simultaneously. The Certified Range Management Consultant effort will be re-initiated after a several year hiatus. I am on the newly constituted panel under the leadership of Dennis Phillippi. During 2009, SRM gained/regained 500 members; let's keep them! The Society Board has contracted a consulting outfit to handle our business. Thanks to the loyal, very capable, and recently overworked staff who keep the operation functioning.

Holly Myers, Bend, OR: I thought all the sessions were great; I particularly enjoyed the one with Open Spaces. The socials/mixers were a great way to both visit and network. The Plenary Session was a little long and could have used a break or two. Would it be helpful to have a 3-5 minute passing period between sessions to allow easy movement so people don't walk in late?

Bill Krueger, Corvallis, OR: I was struck by the enthusiasm of so many to move ahead with operational "State and Transition Models" for Ecological Sites. It is a massive undertaking, and if done well, it will have a major positive impact on range management. I like the idea of focusing on the probable history of a site in the more sobering view of what is possible now.

Will Keller, Okanogan, WA: As one of the Three Amigos, I used this meeting to network with the Denver and Billings planning committees. We were able to talk to all the contractors assisting SRM to put on these meetings -- a fairly steep learning curve! I enjoyed learning about the wind machines and their conflicts with bats and birds. The grass-finished sessions were well attended.



Brian France, TRU, Kamloops, BC: The SRM conference in Denver provided the opportunity to gain extra knowledge of range issues from people who are dealing with these issues first-hand, out in the field. The highlight was the Rocky Mountain National Park field tour, when we met the park ranger who was managing the greenhouse. Learning how she was collecting seed crops from areas prior to disturbance and growing these seeds back at the greenhouse to be replanted when the disturbance was complete. This was a very intriguing management approach, and would be the sort of career I would be interested in when I graduate.

Tony Svejcar, Burns, OR: It was nice to see the PNW Section well-represented at the national SRM meeting. Our members participated in workshops, symposia, general presentations, student activities, general society business and awards. In fact, there were four award winners who are current PNW members and two who were members up until the last couple of years (since these are career awards, we should get partial credit!). *Good news, Tony -- they still claim us even though they've moved!*

REGISTER TODAY!
PNW Summer Workshop
June 16 – 18, 2010, Kelowna, British Columbia
Conflicting demands of people and resource use in the Okanagan Valley has resulted in multiple management challenges. We invite you to view the impact of wild-fire, extensive salvage harvesting, and ecosystem restoration in two community watersheds. Speakers will present several perspectives.

PNW Chapter Presidents

British Columbia

Wendy Gardner, Kamloops, 250-371-5570

Washington

Tip Hudson, Ellensburg, 509-962-7507

Oregon State University

Michael Borman, Corvallis, 541-737-1614

Eastern Oregon University

Will Hudson, La Grande

Central Oregon

Robert Marheine, 541-460-2878

Southern Oregon

Les Boothe, Lakeview, 541-947-6141

In Praise of Blue Grass

John James Ingalls (1833-1900), Senator from Kansas from 1873 to 1891, wrote this address "In Praise of Blue Grass," printed in the Kansas Magazine, 1872, and excerpted here from Grass: The Yearbook of Agriculture, 1948. USDA, Washington, DC.

Lying in the sunshine among the buttercups and dandelions of May, scarcely higher in intelligence than the minute tenants of that mimic wilderness, our earliest recollections are of grass; and when the fitful fever is ended, and the foolish wrangle of the market and forum is closed, grass heals over the scar which our descent into the bosom of the earth has made, and the carpet of the infant becomes the blanket of the dead.

Grass is the forgiveness of nature--her constant benediction. Fields trampled with battle, saturated with blood, torn with the ruts of cannon, grow green again with grass, and carnage is forgotten. Streets abandoned by traffic become grass-grown like rural lanes, and are obliterated. Forests decay, harvests perish, flowers vanish, but grass is immortal. Beleaguered by the sullen hosts of winter, it withdraws into the impregnable fortress of its subterranean vitality, and emerges upon the first solicitation of Spring. Sown by the winds, by wandering birds, propagated by the subtle horticulture of the elements which are its ministers and servants, it softens the rude outline of the world. Its tenacious fibres hold the earth in its place, and prevent its soluble components from washing into the wasting sea. It invades the solitude of deserts, climbs the inaccessible slopes and forbidding pinnacles of mountains, modifies climates, and determines the history, character, and destiny of nations. Unobtrusive and patient, it has immortal vigor and aggression. Banished from the thoroughfare and the field, it bides its time to return, and when vigilance is relaxed, or the dynasty has perished, it silently resumes the throne from which it has been expelled, but which it never abdicates. It bears no blazonry or bloom to charm the senses with fragrance or splendor, but its homely hue is more enchanting than the lily or the rose. It yields no fruit in earth or air, and yet should its harvest fail for a single year, famine would depopulate the world.

PNW Section Officers

President	Les Boothe	541-947-6147
1st Vice Pres.	Tip Hudson	509-962-7507
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Past President	Dana Peterson	509-665-2119
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The PNW Website address is:
<http://pnw.rangelands.org>



Eastern Oregon University students greeted Denver delegates from their booth which earned 3rd place in the booth competition. They also sold Jim Brunner's "Wildland Workers' Handbook."

Calendar of Events

June 16-18, 2010	PNW Section Field Workshop, Kelowna, British Columbia
Fall 2010	PNW Section Annual Meeting & Workshop, Oregon/California
February 2011	64th Annual Meeting of the Society for Range Management, Billings, MT
Summer 2011	PNW Section Field Workshop, Washington
Fall 2011	PNW Section Annual Meeting & Workshop, British Columbia
February 2012	65th Annual Meeting of the Society for Range Management, Spokane, WA
Summer 2012	PNW Section Field Workshop, Oregon
Fall 2012	PNW Section Annual Meeting & Workshop, Washington

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

Want to alert members to an upcoming event? Comment on an article? Give us your new address? Brag about another member's contribution to range management? Tell us a story? Contact the Newsletter Editors! jlbreese@crestviewcable.com or Teal_Purrington@blm.gov