

June 2004
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Debates, Directions, and Deliberations

by Kris Havstad

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**Deadline for the
July SRM
Member
Resource News**

Remember to get your position announcements, columns, section announcements, agency information, etc. in by the 15th of June for the July issue of the newsletter.

The following story, brief book review, and quote have some pertinence to debates over journal names, philosophical directions, and other ongoing deliberations within our professional society.

First, I'll start with a story. I stood up in front of a fifth grade class as the teacher introduced me to her students. She told them my name, that I was a doctor, and that I was going to talk to them about the animals that lived in the world around them. The introduction seemed reasonable as I had completed my PhD some years earlier and had prepared a series of slides to show the class on large animals, from wildlife to livestock that could be found on pastures and rangelands throughout the area. As I prepared to speak following this introduction every student in this class of about 25 raised their hands. I had not yet said a word. This was a somewhat disquieting surprise, but the unrestrained enthusiasm in a classroom was also quite welcome. There was even a student in the very back of the room actually out of his desk chair and hopping from one foot to the other with his hand raised with arm outstretched towards the ceiling. I deemed it prudent not to call on him first, and selected a student in the very front row with her hand held out straight toward me. She rose from her chair and politely asked "Can a cat bite the head off of a hamster?" Apparently, they had assumed from their teacher's introduction that I was a veterinarian rather than a range scientist (probably a little or even unknown profession to these urban school children.) So, not wishing to disappoint, I answered their questions and practiced veterinarian medicine, in a roundabout fashion, without a license for about 45 minutes.

Second, Mark Elvin has written a stunning book (2004, Yale University Press) on 4000 years of environmental history in China entitled "The Retreat of the Elephants." It is a fascinating historical analysis of activities and their impacts across this immense landscape. Many of these activities (and errors) have been repeated on other continents (certainly North America) in more recent years. Elvin includes a lengthy quote by Mei Boyan written in the early 1800s about the agricultural benefits and environmental impacts of subsistence Chinese farmers. The last sentence in this quote is: "It has, alas, always been impossible for benefit or harm, either one of them, to be unmixed."

Third and finally, it has been reported that when told "time flies like the wind" that Groucho Marx, the wonderfully irreverent 20th century American comedian, replied "Fruit flies like bananas."

These above 3 reflections remind us that despite our own best intentions we are often misunderstood as to who we are and what we do, that no matter what we do

our actions are seldom benign, and that humor (even a thread of) is a characteristic of our culture. I think these are very pertinent points to remember as our society continues to debate and implement changes.

Our professional society is currently discussing a change to the name of the *Journal of Range Management*. For those that care, this is an issue of some importance. This journal has been a key aspect, a flagship, for the society since its formation over 50 years ago. For many, this society, its journal, and its original name, are inseparably linked. A new proposed name is *Rangeland Ecology and Management*. There are numerous valid arguments on both sides of this debate, and ongoing arguments about the processes of debate and change as well.

Within all of this discussion there are only a few certainties. One is that we will not know if the right decision was made, irrespective of whether the name is changed or not, for some years. It will be some time before the impacts of a decision can be adequately judged in terms of influence on membership, influence on the quality of the journal, or influence on the impact of its articles.

Other certainties, hopefully illustrated from my opening remarks, are that irrespective of what is done there will be misperceptions and misunderstandings, and any decision will have benefits and some degree of perceived harm. If we recognize these certainties, then we can hope that once a decision is made, irrespective of the outcome, that as a society we will accept that outcome, be content with the fact that rationale people considered all arguments, accept that honest efforts will be misunderstood, and that a little humor will surface to take the edge off of any disappointment. It is certain that we have and will continue to change and adapt many aspects of this society and how it conducts its business. The discourse and resulting decisions are a product of a profession and a professional society coping with a changing environment that requires us to evaluate and adapt to those changes while holding to our professional objectives. As Will Rodgers, another of the great 20th century American humorists, said probably about 80 years ago “It doesn’t matter if you’re on the right track, if you don’t move, you’ll get run over.”

Important Member Information

Starting January 1, 2005, any missed issues of *JRM* or *Rangelands*, due to a late payment of membership dues, will have to be purchased as back issues, at an additional cost.

As a member, if dues are payed late, you may not receive the next issue of *Rangelands* or *JRM*, depending on the publication month. In the past, these missed issues were sent, free of charge, to make up the back issues. This has resulted in thousands of dollars in mailing costs, which the society can no longer afford to absorb. To avoid this added charge, please pay your dues before the expiration or paid thru date of your membership.

If you have questions or concerns, **please** contact Lesley Radtke, 303-986-3309 or email LRadtke@rangelands.org



58th Annual Meeting February 5–11, 2005 Fort Worth, TX

Technical Tours Planned for Ft. Worth

The Technical Tours committee wants to extend an invitation to attend the 2005 SRM International meeting in Ft. Worth, TX. We have four very interesting tours planned for you. A traditional ranch tour will be held at the beginning of the meeting on Saturday, February 4. The tour will visit two of central Texas's finest ranches. The Winscott and Little Hoss ranches are situated within the Grand Prairie Land Resource Area of Texas. Both ranches utilize prescribed burning and livestock grazing to help meet their management goals. Wildlife is very important to both ranches.

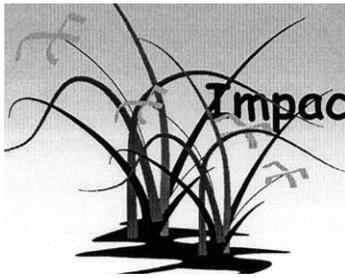
On Tuesday, February 8, we will have a half-day tour that visits the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT). BRIT was incorporated on October 2, 1987, as a non-profit organization to house the Southern Methodist University (SMU) Herbarium and botanical library. Those collections of some 450,000 specimens represented the lifetime work of Lloyd Shinnery, one of the most influential Texas botanists of the 20th century. The core of the library (about 75,000 volumes) is made up of the personal collections of Lloyd Shinnery and Eula Whitehouse and is rich in literature on botany and horticulture from the 19th century and the latter half of the 18th century.

There will be two tours on Thursday, February 10. The first tour visits Fossil Rim Wildlife Center. Fossil Rim is a leader in propagation and management programs, scientific research, diverse public education initiatives and training facilities for conservation professionals, and support of conservation programs worldwide. The animals at Fossil Rim, with the exception of the carnivores, rhinos and a few others, are free to roam on 1,500 acres of Central Texas hill country savannas and juniper-oak woodlands. Fossil Rim Wildlife Center is dedicated to conservation of species in peril, scientific research, training of professionals, creative management of natural resources, and public education.

The other tour travels to the LBJ National Grasslands near Decatur, TX. This area is under the management of the USDA-Forest Service. Visiting the national grasslands provides one the opportunity to witness the suburban-rural interface. Wanting to learn more about nature-based or eco-tourism? The grassland's close proximity to the 6 million residents of the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex makes the grassland a favorite place for horse owners to visit for trail riding. Help celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Forest Service.

Additional information concerning Technical Tours can be found by visiting the 2005 meeting webpage at <http://www.rangelands.org/texas2005/>. The committee is looking forward to being able to showcase a small part of our state and its heritage.

On-line submission of abstracts for the 58th Annual Meeting is now available @www.rangelands.org



The Science of Changing Climates Impact on Agriculture, Forestry and Wetlands

University of Alberta

July 20 - 23, 2004

Invitation to attend an International Conference and Canadian Scientific Societies Meetings

- You are invited to attend the International Conference ‘The Science of Changing Climate: Impact on Agriculture, Forestry and Wetlands’. Find out what the state of our knowledge is on this important area that affects our future.
- As well attend your choice of Canadian Society of Animal Science, Agronomy or Soil Science sessions that will be held in conjunction with this Conference. All to be held at the new Lister Hall Conference Facility at the University of Alberta, Edmonton.
- Attend the Canadian Society of Agronomy Annual meeting for the latest in agronomic research results as well as a mini-symposium on “Cropping Systems and Best Management Practices Affect GHGs” with Henry Janzen (AAFC Lethbridge) as the keynote speaker.
- Or attend the Canadian Society of Animal Science Annual meeting with a plethora of interesting topics ranging from BSE, Genomic Research, Mitigating Environmental Pollution in the Livestock Industry and Pasture Sustainability for the Future.
- Or attend the “Workshop on Below ground C dynamics in Forested Ecosystems” sponsored by the Canadian Society of Soil Science. This Workshop features world experts in the area of C-dynamics.
- Registration Information and program will be posted at www.CSAS.net : “CSAS and CSA Annual Conference in Edmonton 2004”

Partner Organization

Soil and Water Conservation Society’s 2004 Annual Conference

Experience St. Paul's old world elegance and the camaraderie of your peers in order to be refreshed and ready to adapt new processes, science, and new approaches to your work after you leave. This year's conference offers symposia sessions that include an update on the conservation implications of climate change, an overview of a project to quantify the environmental benefits of conservation programs offered by the most recent farm bill, and a summary of the current issues facing the technical service provider provision of the farm bill. You will also have the opportunity to register for some wonderful technical tours and workshops. This, and more...

when: Saturday, July 24, 2004 8:00 AM — Wednesday, July 28, 2004 5:00 PM

where: Radisson Riverfront Hotel, 11 East Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55101

For more information go to: <http://www.swcs.org>

**Position: Consulting Support Research Manager
Position ID: AG-G028-161**

The Agricultural Division of the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Inc., Ardmore, OK, is seeking a Consulting Support Research Manager. The CSRSM will manage research and demonstration projects in support of consultation within the Agricultural Division and will recommend all appropriate Division research proposals to the Ag Management Group for approval and funding. He/she will serve as a member of the Ag Management Group and will provide leadership and coordination for the individuals in the Agricultural Division research team and any other specialists conducting research. Additionally, the CSRSM will insure that consultants have ready access to relevant research findings in terms they can understand and relate to clients. This individual will be expected to publish in technical and referred journals and develop bulletins, fact sheets and other publications. The CSRSM is responsible for fiscal, personnel and other resources designated for research and demonstration activities and will supervise personnel conducting and supporting Agricultural Division research.

Qualifications required are: MS (PhD preferred) in Agronomy, Range Science, Animal Science, Agricultural Economics or related fields. A demonstrated capability in conducting applied field research, extensive experience in agricultural consulting, the ability to work constructively in a team setting, demonstrated capacity to understand and interpret research from scientific technical journals; and excellent interpersonal, writing and oral communication skills. A demonstrated capability in designing and conducting applied field research with at least five years experience in agricultural consulting. At least five years experience supervising three, or more, persons is required. Also, some experience with livestock and forage management systems is preferred.

Salary is commensurate with education and experience. Complete job description and application can be found at <http://www.noble.org>.

To apply, send a letter of application relating personal career goals to the position, a Noble Foundation Employment application, curriculum vitae, academic transcripts, and names of three references and their contact information including e-mail addresses to the following:

The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Inc.
Human Resources Department
Position Number: AG-G028-161
P.O. Box 2180
Ardmore, OK 73402
Email: NFHR@noble.org
Website: <http://www.noble.org/>

Contact Wadell Altom, Administrative Coordinator of the Agricultural Division for additional information. Application materials will be accepted until a suitable candidate is identified.

**POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT
Irrigated Pasture Research Technician III
Department of Plants, Soils, and Biometeorology
Utah State University, Logan UT**

Three-quarter time (full-time summer; half-time winter) fully benefits-eligible position managing and collecting data from a pasture-livestock research study. A full position description may be found at <http://personnel.usu.edu/w4A-111-04.htm>

**Revised Wildlands Worker's
Handbook
is Now Available.**

This final revision now contains
150 pages and 27 chapters.

Highly acclaimed by both professors and field workers, it encapsulates in one book almost all you need to know in working on the rangelands. It includes all the formulas and charts to plan and develop water and move it to where you need it. Also how-to fence, cattleguards, corrals, competition control, seeding, etc.

**Write Jim Brunner, 391 O'Gara St,
Medford, OR 97501, phone (541) 734-8564,
or email**

brunner@mail.grrtech.com

Price still \$25.00 plus
\$2.00 shipping and handling.

SRM Members Resource News

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CRM Success Story
Washington State – Part II
“A Valley for Farmers and Fish”
By Rene Featherstone
(Capital Press 11-7-01)

ENTIAT, WA—Not even Steven Spielberg could have scripted a more symbolic opening scene than the first stop on this year’s Washington Coordinated Resource Management Tour showcasing the Entiat watershed.

The tour group gathered on a bridge Oct. 23. A brisk wind was blowing sheets of light rain complete with a rainbow; in a graveled pool below the bridge fish were spawning.

Building bridges between government agencies and private folks representing a whole rainbow of environmental and agronomic sentiments, is what the 200 or so CRM projects in the state are designed to do, said Linda Hardesty, Department of Natural Resource Sciences at Washington State University.

CRM is a process that coordinates management approaches in such a way that win-win solutions are achieved. Involved parties, she said, “agree to agree.”

Thus, on the bridge, state department of Ecology speaker John Monahan gave a report on instream restoration without so much as a hint of tension, while local farmers listened without a shadow of a frown. Monahan said that there was reason to get excited about the several weir structures constructed this summer in the lower Entiat.

FISH BENEFITS

Pointing to the V-weir upstream, Monahan emphasized how surprisingly quick some migrating fish took to spawning in the shallow pools the weir creates. “We’re finding late-run chinook, steelhead and bull trout.”

The goal is to enhance the poor state of the Entiat brought on by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers stream-straightening decades ago. The straight channel of the river’s last 10 miles, Monahan said, make for bruising passage for larger fish wanting to head upstream. The new rock weirs are projected to “reduce the width-to-depth ratio, and to increase pool frequency.”

COOPERATION MODEL

Tourgoers were aware of how progressive the discussion was in contrast to other valleys of north-central Washington. There’s so much antagonism in some instances that the police have to be present at water issues meetings.

The first year involved 19 stakeholders, each with his own agenda. Some of the meetings resembled cat fights. Things have changed for the positive.

For more information contact Linda Hardesty at WSU, (509) 335-6632.

On-line Dues Payment Processing Coming Soon!!!

Beginning July 1, 2004, SRM members with email capabilities will receive their 1st & 2nd dues renewal notices via email. Amount due will be provided with a link to the SRM website, www.rangelands.org, so that you may pay your dues on-line with a credit card. These members will continue to receive their final dues renewal notice via mail. On-line payment services are through VeriSign PayFlow Pro and are secure & encrypted. On-line payments do require that you login to the SRM website—contact Lesley Radtke if you need your login information.

Members without email capability will continue to receive all dues renewal notices via the mail.

Lost Resources

Walter Fick Sr. of O'Neill, NE passed away April 13, 2004 while fishing on a farm pond. Walter was a past member of the Society for Range Management and served as president of the Nebraska Section in 1962. He was awarded the Nebraska Section Range Management Award in 1968. He received a Special Award of Merit from the Nebraska Section in 1997 recognizing "a lifetime of dedication and effort toward the prudent stewardship and management of rangeland resources by example, service, and education." In 1999, Walter Fick Sr. received SRM's W.R. Chapline Land Stewardship Award.

Walter was born on January 7, 1914 in Chicago, IL. He moved to Nebraska with his mother and two older brothers when he was 2 years old. He lived most of his life in the Inman community, graduating from Inman High School in 1933. He loved all sports and became a well known amateur boxer, advancing to the National Golden Gloves Tournament in Chicago and the National Amateur athletic tournament in Boston. He later trained other successful boxing teams.

A love for the land and ranching guided him through the depression and drought years of the 1930s. In 1942, Walter married Doris Marie Parks and they started their home on the ranch. To this union were born five children. Gary, a Professor at Cornell University, works with forage and pasture resources. Kathleen is a pharmaceutical assistant and lives in Phoenix. Walt, Jr. is an Associate Professor at Kansas State University, involved with teaching, extension, and research activities in rangeland management. Ed, manages and operates the family ranch south of Inman. Debra is a nurse and lives in Kearney, NE. Doris passed away in 1964 of leukemia. Walter married Dolores Hamilton in 1967 and they lived on the ranch until 1988 when they moved to O'Neill.

Walter was a firm believer in the conservation of our natural resources and served as a 4-H leader for many years. He trained the first place team at the National Range Judging Contest in Oklahoma City in 1961 and received the top adult award in the same contest. He served 40 years as supervisor of the Holt Soil and Water Conservation District and as director on the Upper Elkhorn Natural Resource District. As a director on the State NARD, he served 18 years as chairman of the Native Vegetation Committee. He was instrumental in getting little bluestem named as the state grass of Nebraska. His presentation and slide show on "Why little bluestem is a key plant in the composition of Nebraska's rangelands" was presented numerous times including at the SRM meeting in Washington, D.C. in 1972 and the IV Midwest Prairie Conference in 1974. In 1996, at the age of 82, Walter agreed to serve as co-chair of the newly formed Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition. Governor Ben Nelson inducted him as an Admiral in the Great Navy of the State of Nebraska in 1998.

Walter Fick Sr. was an outspoken nonconformist, fearless in his beliefs, and an individual. He wrote and published his findings in two books, "My Story" and the "Power of Ideas." Only semi-retired, Walter was still planting trees and helping work cattle the week before his death.

Committee Pages on the SRM Website

The Website Task Group has been preparing guidelines for committees to put information on the SRM Website. The guidelines will be emailed to committee chairs and you can also find them in the members-only side of ranglands.org. The Task Group feels that all committee web pages should look like part of the SRM website and have set up the guidelines with that in mind. Our Webmaster, Ann Tanaka, will be happy to work with any committee in figuring out how to get their page up and running.

New Members

SRM welcomes its new members. Following is a list of new members, their section and recruiter for April and May 2004.

Member	Section	Recruited By
David Amme	CAL-PAC	John Stechman
Michael Shay	CO	Ray Mowery
Don Edgerton	ID	
Toni Wesley	KS	Dwayne Rice & Roger Tacha
Jamey Duesterhaus	KS	Clinton Owensby
Guillen Ariel	MX	
Emily Brown	NE	
Myra Hipke	NE	
Roy Jemison	NM	
Trina Meredith	NV	
Grasslands Conservation Council of BC	PNW	
Nathan Orsak	TX	Robert Knight
Emily Hollister	TX	
Donald Miller	TX	
Stephen DeMaso	TX	
Lance Wenmohs	TX	
Julian Lane Roberson	TX	Phillip Wright
Christina Rhyne	WY	

Section Membership Totals

AZ	189	NGP	256
CAL-PAC	275	NM	188
CO	283	NV	155
FL	31	OK	114
ID	212	PNW	401
IM	27	SD	134
KS	98	SO	83
MX	33	TX	538
NC	44	UN	55
NCS	54	UT	265
NE	139	WY	225
TOTAL OF ALL SECTIONS			4050

MOVING!!!!



Let the SRM office know as soon as possible so you don't miss any publications or important information