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Deadline for the July 2006 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.
Send to Patty Rich at prich@rangelands.org

One Acre, One Mind, One Student at a Time

Karen Launchbaugh, SRM Director

One of the great challenges of rangeland management is that we are stewarding this beautiful, vast, and important land for people that are usually uninformed or misinformed about how rangelands work. It is frustrating to constantly face challenges to our well-informed and well-intended, management decisions. To gain public support for our work, we need to help others understand rangelands—a difficult but important skill for all range professionals. I sincerely thank those who have a passion for teaching students, young and old, about finer details of rangeland stewardship. Through their efforts they profoundly serve our profession and beloved rangeland.

A long-long time ago in a place far-far away, the Golden Valley Conservation District took a chance on young ranch kid and paid her way to the 2nd Annual North Dakota Youth Range Camp. I leaped at the chance to attend range camp. I hoped to meet a cute ranch boy who was destined to inherit a big ranch. Of course, I didn't meet prince charming. But, I was truly charmed by the prairie all around me that I had hardly noticed. I don't think the range conservationists and ranchers who ran that camp could have truly known what they set into motion. They help hundreds of students understand the inner workings of the land. This in turn affected millions of acres of rangelands. My hat goes off to those brave and altruistic souls who organized the range camp I attended. My deepest admiration and appreciation to the many professionals across North America who will spend a few days this summer in range camps and field days helping youth understand these remarkable rangelands we all admire and manage.

I was recently inspired by the efforts of students, coaches, organizers, and contributors to the National Land and Range Judging Contest held in May 2–4 in Oklahoma. Over 150 teams from all across the nation took part in this event, including the FFA team from Troy, Idaho who asked me to help them figure out the difference between blue grama and buffalograss. The FFA team from Roland, Oklahoma and 4-H team from Newell, South Dakota took top honors. Congratulations to these and all students who participated. Wow, 150 teams multiplied by 4 students per team equals how many acres of rangeland that will be affected, improved, and appreciated? Many thanks to those who generously and thanklessly gave time, talent, and treasure to host and organize this contest.

My recent grading of the final reports for my Integrated Rangeland Management class brought to mind the many teachers who helped me think clearly, search deeply, and corrected my spelling. We all have teachers who

thanklessly nurtured our academic growth. I sadly note, that a few weeks ago, our profession lost an outstanding teacher and researcher of grazingland ecology — Dr. Jerry Stuth of Texas A&M University. Jerry finally lost his long battle with cancer and died in late April in close contact with his family, colleagues, and students right up to the end. I owe a deep debt of gratitude to Dr. Stuth because he took a chance on me and accepted me into his graduate program. Jerry taught me a lot about rangeland management, scientific research, and life.

Jerry Stuth embodied enthusiastic intellectual pursuit. He started with simple little studies on animal nutrition, like the one I conducted with him, then added a dose of Near Infrared Reflectance Spectroscopy, and a few decades later he was named Science Leader for Information, Modeling and Analysis of a nationwide team of scientists working on world-wide natural resource issues. His optimistic and industrious nature are virtues I can only try to emulate. There were many ways that Dr. Stuth guided me that I did not thank him for or even appreciate at the time. I guess that is the curse of a great educator—you will seldom see the harvest of the seeds you plant and your students probably won't even recognize your actions for which they will one day be grateful.

To all the teachers, coaches, and mentors – THANKS! By helping others understand rangelands you serve our profession one acre, one mind, one student at a time.

Lost Resources

Dr. Jerry Stuth was a devoted husband, father and distinguished professor of range science in the Department of Rangeland Ecology and Management. He was employed by Texas A&M University and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station in 1975. He was widely recognized as a national and international leader in the development and application of information technology in natural ecosystems.

Dr. Stuth pioneered the use of near infrared reflectance spectroscopy (NIRS) for application in determining the nutritional value of forage intake by free ranging animals and established the Grazing Animal Nutrition Laboratory at Texas A&M. He provided leadership of the team that developed the biophysical model that is a major component of livestock early warning systems that track forage production and forecast shortfalls as a drought management tool. The model is currently used in several eastern African nations as part of a large scale FAO project, as well as Mongolia and recently funded project in Afghanistan. Dr. Stuth's research also led to the foundation of a private company that has been instrumental in the development of the first national crop insurance program for grazing lands.

Dr. Stuth was a member of the team that competed for the Department of Homeland Security's National Center of Excellence, ultimately awarded to Texas A&M University in 2004, and was named Science Leader for Information, Modeling and Analysis of nationwide team of scientists.

Dr. Stuth had an outstanding record of research and publication in his academic role. He chaired the graduate committees of over 60 Masters and PhD students and taught over 2000 undergraduate and graduate students at Texas A&M. He administered over \$35,000,000 in grants and contracts over the past twenty years, a testimony to the professional respect he had with major research funding organizations throughout the U.S. and the world. He authored or co-authored 92 refereed journal articles, 24 books and book chapters, plus many proceedings, agency publication and over 20 software programs.

A co-worker stated about Dr. Stuth's contributions; "few range scientists have devoted as much of their professional lives to expanding our technical knowledge and making it applicable to such a wide range of the earth's natural resources as Jerry Stuth. His work has placed him in an elite class of individuals that have shown the way to new horizons in our profession."

Dr. Stuth is survived by his wife, Nadine Rittmann Stuth of College Station, a daughter and son-in-law: Kerri Stuth and Derrick Bryan McCullough of Indianapolis, Indiana, a son and his fiancée' Derek Rittmann Stuth and Jodie Lynne Campbell of Fort Worth, Texas, a sister and brother-in-law: Judy Ann and Johnny Kuper of Temple, Texas and his parents, Elmer John and Mildred Lucille (Weber) Stuth of Moody, Texas.

In memory of Dr. Stuth donations may be made to Mercy Corps or the Scholarship Fund at the Dept. of Rangeland Ecology and Management at Texas A&M University, Texas A&M University Foundation, 401 George Bush Drive, College Station, TX 77840. Attention: In Memory of Dr. Stuth.

Are We a Safe Haven for Science?

John Tanaka, President

If you've been following the science news from Oregon, you've no doubt run across the controversy surrounding the publication of an article in *Science* by some students in our College of Forestry (see <http://www.cof.orst.edu/cof/news/forestregeneration.php>). In a span of a few weeks, some faculty tried to pressure the journal to withdraw the whole issue (i.e., not distribute it after it was printed), a federal funding program froze funds to the student's project (quickly restored), OSU reiterated our academic freedom standards, and Congress held a field hearing. Those of us on the outside observed the politics of science. Whether the student's article was right or wrong or interpreted correctly is not really the issue from my perspective. Apparently the short article was peer reviewed (isn't that what we expect of *Science*), yet led to a large outcry and lots of controversy when the conclusions weren't what some believed.

Last winter, SRM produced an Issue Paper on Sage Grouse that was mailed to every member with their December issue of *Rangelands*. The paper was based on the synthesis paper that had been published earlier in the *Journal of Range Management* (i.e., peer reviewed). On Thursday afternoon at the annual meeting, a symposium was held that looked critically at grazing systems research and its relationship to management. While that was not peer reviewed science, it was the professional interpretation of peer reviewed science that was the purpose behind the symposium. Both of these recent activities that were conducted as part of Society business have led to some concern among our members, threats of resignations, disparaging comments about authors, presenters, the Society, and on and on.

As a Society, one of our objectives is to properly care for rangeland resources and develop an understanding of these resources by keeping abreast of new findings in science and management. Some roles of science are to question what we are doing, find out if there is a better way, and reduce the risk associated with management. Science should be skeptical of the status quo and test to see if things are happening for the reasons we think. When science does not support what we are doing, it does not always mean we are doing it wrong. That it is the art of applying management strategies to keep you headed in your desired direction. It does mean we should question what we are doing and look for a better way or seek to understand why the science and management outcomes are different.

A few years ago when then President Bob Budd was leading the turning of the wheel of this large vessel, one of the things we spent a lot of time talking about was that SRM should be the place where it is safe to discuss issues related to range management – the Safe Haven. This was not a new idea, but we (the Board and others) realized that we had to start turning the wheel for a variety of reasons to make it a reality. Certainly, one of our goals in pulling on this wheel was to make the Society a place where anyone with an interest in rangelands would feel welcome.

I am not writing about defending out-and-out lies or intentionally misleading statements, but rather open discussion of research results, management observations, and new and old ideas. I remember moderating a symposium many years ago where we had a speaker from a litigious organization as a keynote speaker. When that person came off the podium the side comment to me was along the lines of "I just told a whole bunch of lies and no one challenged me." I was so flabbergasted that I didn't know how to respond. The fact that the person was so proud of having "pulled one over" on 550 scientists and managers has never left me.

So that is not what I am writing about. SRM, and every professional organization, must become the safe haven for open dialogue. If we conduct a study and have some preliminary results, presentations at our annual meetings (locally or internationally) should be an appropriate forum to present and discuss them. When we complete the study, publication in *Rangeland Ecology and Management* is the appropriate place for us to get peer validation through the review process. If anyone making a presentation at an annual meeting gets criticism of methods, results, or interpretation it should be something to think about as they go to the next step. It should not lead to resignations from the Society nor people feeling that our science is "a joke."

Not all of our presentations or publications fall into this process. Sometimes the results we talk and write about are based on simple observations (what is called a case study) that may or may not have been intentionally set up as a study. Sometimes they are based on a synthesis or interpretation of peer reviewed literature, grey literature, professional guesses, casual observations, and the synthesizer's experience. As part of the scientific process, some of these ideas move forward and others are left in the dust. That's just the way it works.

(Continued on page 4).

So, are we a safe haven for new ideas or even a critique of the old ones? Are we so unsure of our science that we cannot withstand criticism? Are we so sure we know all the answers that we don't need to know the questions?

I contend that we have made great strides in recent years towards becoming the open society where alternative viewpoints are welcome and different values lead to spirited discussions. We do have a ways further to go. We should look at the exceptions to each generalization and question why it occurs. Raising questions about what we hold near and dear, while it makes us uncomfortable, should not lead to attacks.

I challenge each of us to think about how our reactions to questions and answers move the profession ahead. We need to walk the talk if we are going to become a Safe Haven. We have made great strides and we need to continue to walk

Membership Stats

SRM welcomes its new members. Following is a list of new members, their section and recruiter for April 17, 2006 to May 17, 2006.

<u>Member</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Recruited By</u>
Douglas Ruppel	AZ	Dan Robinette
Steve Dorrance	Cal-Pac	Danny Marquis
David Williams	CO & Call-Pac	Dr. Larry Rittenhouse
Jerome Theau	ID	Keith Weber
Darren Dillenbeck	IM	
Kristen Hase	KS	
Aaron Hird	NM	Chuck Butterfield
Ashley Sparrow	NV	Joe Wagner
Cheryl Wagner	NV	
Kerry Wilson	PNW	
S. R. DuPree	TX	
Yasuhisa Masuda	UN	
Abdon L Schmit F.	UN	
Nancy Jenson	UT	
Lisa Reinhart	WY	Matt Hoobler

2007 Silent Auction

Silent auctions have been popular events at SRM's annual meetings nearly every year since the first one in Rapid City in 1998. The Endowment Fund Board of Governors sponsors these fund raising efforts and money taken in goes into the Endowment Fund which has been growing steadily since its inception. There are many ways an SRM member can contribute to the fund, including direct donations at dues time, bequethments provided in an estate, buying years of membership pins and participating in the silent auction at the annual meeting. As the Endowment Fund grows and gains interest through investments, a portion of that interest money can be used, at the discretion of SRM's Board of Directors, for operating costs or special projects. So, the Endowment Fund is contributing now to finance SRM and it will contribute more in the future as the fund grows.

Members can help by contributing items for the auction at the meeting or ahead of time and also by bidding on and buying items at the silent auction in Reno. Typically, the silent auction brings in upwards of \$10,000 into the Endowment Fund. If you have items to contribute to the silent auction in Reno, please contact Stan Tixier at : edenutstix@netutah.net or call 801-745-4121.

- Stan Tixier, Endowment Board member.



SRM 60th ANNUAL MEETING MANAGED RANGELANDS: TRADITIONS AND TRANSITIONS



Call for Agency/University Meeting Information

A big part of the International SRM meetings is the ability to get together with other members of your agency, organization or university for an evening of discussion, recognition, laughs, and telling lies. In order to provide this opportunity, we need to know who needs what and for how many.

If you are the lead for an agency, organization, or university that needs a place to meet in Reno next February at SRM 2007 please contact Nancy Prall at nprall@fs.fed.us or 775-738-5171. Nancy will need the number of attendees you expect, and she can provide you with information about the hotel facilities, food, bar, and any other needs you may have. Please contact Nancy no later than August 1, 2006.

Ethnobotany Symposium

There is an ever-growing interest in the study of Ethnobotany. This is the study of way people historically and currently use plant materials (outside of the usual uses for livestock, wildlife and watershed uses). In order to broaden the scope of the topics and information provided during the International SRM meetings, it was decided to have this subject as the focus of one of our symposiums. Therefore, one half day will be dedicated to the Ethnobotany Symposium with speakers from around the country.

We expect individuals from many different backgrounds and tribal members with interest in plant materials. Please join us for such topics as: growing and cultivating native plants for rehabilitation projects, traditional knowledge of native plants and ethonobotanical materials, endangered traditional foods, contemporary plant management for basketry, dyes and traditional uses, medicinal plant knowledge and conservation, edible plant knowledge, how native uses shaped native landscapes, bow making and stave trees and others.

A call for papers will be expected in July 2006. For more information on the symposium contact Co-Chairs: Dr Catherine S. Fowler, (775) 784-6704x2014, or Cub Wolfe, (775) 782-3661x109.

Bylaws Revision

The Election Committee counted ballots in the Headquarter's office May 22, 2006, for the Special Bylaws Revision regarding the change in SRM's fiscal year. There were 931 ballots returned (27% of the membership); 901-YES and 30-NO.

SRM Members Resource News

Managing Editor:

Jason Campbell
10030 W. 27th Ave.
Wheat Ridge, CO 80215-6601
Phone: 303-986-3309
Fax: 303-986-3892

Production Editor:

Patty Rich
Phone: 806-935-0249
Fax: 806-935-0249

e-mail addresses:

K. Jason Campbell
kjcampbell@rangelands.org

Ann Harris:
amharris@rangelands.org

Mary Moser
mmoser@rangelands.org

Lesley Radtke:
lrادتke@rangelands.org

Patty Rich:

prich@rangelands.org

Vicky Skiff:

vskiff@rangelands.org

Home Page:

www.rangelands.org



Conservation Seeding & Restoration, Inc.

506 Center Street West
Kimberly, Idaho 83341
(877) 423-4835
www.csr-inc.com

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Granite Seed Company currently has a job opening for a salesperson/consultant. We are looking for an individual who is passionately interested in the seed and erosion control business and would like to make their career with Granite Seed.

Granite Seed Company specializes in supplying seed, erosion control products, and environmental consulting to the land reclamation/restoration, turf and pasture industry. Our clientele includes professionals in federal and state agencies, private industry, private and public landlords and others who engage in land management, reclamation, restoration, pasture and turf.

The applicant should be knowledgeable in plant ecology and identification, land management principles, revegetation and erosion control techniques. Additionally, applicants should enjoy working with people and natural resource systems, possess good communication skills, and be well-versed in computer operations. Sales experience and/or management skills are a plus.

The successful candidate will be based in Lehi, Utah, which is situated on the outskirts of Salt Lake City. The compensation package is dependent upon experience but includes salary, plus generous benefits, which include paid holidays, paid vacation days, company paid health insurance for the employee and his/her family, company funded retirement plan, plus the opportunity to work with a fun group of people in an exciting industry.

Please send resume by mail, fax, or e-mail to:

Granite Seed Company, Attn. Don Bermant
1697 West 2100 North, Lehi, UT 84043
Fax: (801) 768-3967
donb@graniteseed.com

Research Assistant— University of Wyoming

The University of Wyoming Department of Renewable Resources seeks a highly motivated individual to join the soil science program as an M.S. or Ph.D. graduate research assistant. Research will focus on soil organic matter dynamics and carbon storage in high-elevation riparian wetlands in Wyoming and California. The assistantship begins in August, 2006, and includes a monthly stipend, tuition waiver, and health insurance. This announcement will remain open until a suitable individual is found. To apply send curriculum vitae, cover letter, and contact information for three references as email attachments to jbnorton@ucdavis.edu, or mail to the address below. For more information contact Dr. Jay Norton at 209-533-5686.

Dr. Jay Norton (c/o Janet Marsh)
University of Wyoming
Department of Renewable Resources
Department 3354
1000 E. University Avenue
Laramie, WY 82071

Assistant/Associate Professor

Texas—Assistant/Associate Professor of Crop Science. The Division of Agriculture of West Texas A&M University invites applications for a 9-month, tenure-track position. Applicants must hold a Ph.D. in Crop Science, Agronomy, Horticulture, or closely related field. Training or experience in plant breeding, crop physiology, and/or crop production is desirable and teaching experience is preferable. A demonstrated commitment to quality teaching, research, and public service is required. The successful applicant is expected to develop a strong teaching program in crop science, horticulture, and related areas and participate in multi-disciplinary research programs that include training graduate students at the M.S. and Ph.D. levels. Review of applications will begin June 15, 2006 and continue until the position is filled. Salary and benefits are competitive and commensurate with qualifications and experience. Teaching of summer courses and generation of extramural research to support summer salary are possible. Applicants should provide a letter of interest, official transcripts, and resume and arrange for at least three letters of reference to be sent to Dr. Bob Stewart (Telephone: 806-651-2299, Email: bstewart@mail.wtamu.edu), Search Committee Chair, Division of Agriculture, WTAMU Box 60998, Canyon, TX 79016-0001.

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, 701 Dane Drive,
Medford, OR 97501-4098,
phone (541) 734-8564,
or email
jimbrunner1@hotmail.com**

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

Extension Agent (Range/Natural Resource Management)

Colorado State University
Cooperative Extension
Pueblo County, Pueblo Colorado

Provide leadership, guidance, direction and assistance in the development and implementation of the Cooperative Extension programming in Pueblo County. The focus will be on the management of small acreages, livestock and natural resources acreage. Completed master's degree required. Organizational application form, including transcripts showing degree(s) conferred, must be RECEIVED no later than 6/9/06. Application forms & complete list of requirements for vacancy #17-06 located at <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/coop/jobs-menu.html> or 970-491-1617. CSU is an EEO/AA Employer.

COUNTY DIRECTOR/NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISOR

Tuolumne County, CA

University of California, Cooperative Extension

The University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources is accepting applications for the position of Tuolumne County Cooperative Extension Director (25%), and Natural Resources Advisor (75%) based at the Cooperative Extension office in Sonora, CA. This is a 12-month academic career track appointment.

This position will have the responsibility to initiate, develop and conduct educational/research programs in areas of Natural Resources (sustainable use of natural resources, invasive species, water quality) and Agriculture (including orchard, vineyard, livestock-based, and Master Gardener Program) relevant to the needs of the county and its residents. A minimum of a Master's degree conferred by the time of appointment in a field related to natural resources, such as range science, hydrology, soil science, forestry, plant ecology, wildlife biology, or other natural resource-related field is required.

Beginning salary will be in the Cooperative Extension Associate to Full Title rank, commensurate with experience and professional qualifications. For information regarding Cooperative Extension Advisor salary scales, please refer to the University of California website: <http://ucop.edu/acadadv/acadpers/tab0506/table33.pdf>. In addition, an annual administrative stipend is included. Full PVA and required academic application available at <http://ucanr.org/jobs.shtml>, or contact Academic Recruiter, UC Coop Ext, ANR No. Coast & Mtn Region, One Shields Ave, Davis, CA 95616. Email: pdtise@ucdavis.edu. Complete packets must be received by June 30, 2006. Refer to Position ANCM #06-01. AA/EOE.

Reminder!!!! Deadline Dates for the July MRN

**Don't forget to get your articles, position
announcements, columns, calendar events,
and Annual Meeting information to
prich@rangelands.org
by the 15th of June!**

**Animal Nutritionist and Assistant Professor
University of Nebraska**

Position Title: Animal Nutritionist in Beef/Range Production Systems and Assistant Professor

Salary: Competitive and commensurate with qualifications

Part/Full: Full Time

The University of Nebraska is seeking candidates for an Animal Nutritionist in Beef/Range Production Systems and Assistant Professor. This is a 12-month, tenure-leading position (50% research, 50% extension) in the Department of Animal Science and located at the University of Nebraska West Central Research & Extension Center, North Platte.

Will develop and conduct nationally recognized research program directed toward discovery of new sustainable beef production systems based on rangeland, crop residues, environment and resources. Focus will be on nutrition of beef cow-calf production systems from conception to harvest. Must have capacity to secure extramural funding as well as recruit, train, and mentor undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows. Required to publish research findings. Beef cow herd at the Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory (GSL) available for research and educational programs. Extension and outreach responsibilities include leadership in providing state-wide educational programs in cow-calf nutrition and management from conception to harvest. Focus will mirror research efforts. Development of new components and curriculum for Nebraska Ranch Practicum desired. Participation in instruction at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture and UNL is expected.

For complete position announcement, visit our website at <http://www.animalscience.unl.edu>.

Ph.D. in ruminant nutrition required. Knowledge and experience in the beef cattle industry and range beef production and ability to develop an excellent ruminant nutrition research and extension program will be expected. Must have ability to work effectively with other scientists and educators, to communicate results and application of research to industry personnel and beef cattle producers, and to participate in team approaches in ruminant nutrition programs.

Review of applications will begin August 15, 2006, and continue until the position is filled or the search is closed.

Applicants should go to <http://employment.unl.edu>, search for position #060419, and complete the academic administrative information form. Complete application materials including a detailed curriculum vita of education including transcripts of education, experience, qualifications, and publications; and the names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses of three references should be sent to: Dr. Don Beermann, Head, Department of Animal Science, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, PO Box 830908, C203 Animal Sciences, Lincoln, NE 68583-0908, Telephone: 402/472-3571, Fax: 402/472-6362, or E-mail: dbeermann2@unl.edu.

The University of Nebraska is committed to a pluralistic campus community through affirmative action and equal opportunity and is responsive to the needs of dual career couples. We assure reasonable accommodation under the Americans With Disabilities Act. Contact Dr. Beermann at 402/472-3571 for assistance.

Company/Institution: University of Nebraska-Lincoln

City, State: Lincoln, NE

Zip Code: 68583-0908