

September 2002

In this Issue of TBN:

- ➔ How Are We Doing?1
- ➔ Position Announcements 2
- ➔ AFCEG and Grasslands Annual Mtg 3
- ➔ Onward and Upward3
- ➔ Washington D.C. Report4
- ➔ Call for Papers5
- ➔ New Members7
- ➔ Membership Application7

Deadline!!!

Deadline for the October *Trail Boss News* is September 15, 2002. Email, fax, or mail your information to

Production Editor, Patty Rich P.O. Box 299, 3059A Highway 92, Hotchkiss, CO 81419-9548/970-872-5932 (phone and fax) e-mail prich@starband.net

Trail Boss News

Managing Editor: Samuel W. Albrecht
445 Union Blvd., Suite 230
Lakewood, CO 80228
Phone: (303) 986-3309
Fax: (303) 986-3892
Production Editor: Patty Rich
3059A Hwy 92
Hotchkiss, CO 81419-9548
Phone Voice and Fax: (970) 872-5932

e-mail

Sam Albrecht:

sam_albrecht@rangelands.org

Aaron Barr:

acbarr@rangelands.org

Natalie Bolleurs

nbolleurs@rangelands.org

Ann Harris:

amharris@rangelands.org

Leonard Jolley:

ljolley@rangelands.org

Patty Rich:

prich@starband.net

Kirsten Tardy:

ktardy@rangelands.org

Home Page: www.rangelands.org

How Are We Doing?

Rod Heitschmidt, President

I was most impressed and heartened by Tammy DeCock's lead article in the August *TBN*. I think her optimism as to the future of SRM and the profession of rangeland management is well founded. Never before has the conservation and stewardship of rangeland resources received the public attention they receive today. The opportunities for SRM to shape the future of rangeland stewardship policies and practices are enormous and it is to this end that I want to provide members with some sense of the current "state" of SRM relative to its ability to capitalize on these opportunities.

Planning – As many of you are aware, the leadership of SRM has spent considerable time and effort developing strategic and business plans over the past couple of years. As a continuing part of this exercise, we are now in the process of developing our marketing/communication plan. This phase of the planning process is critical because it provides us with a blueprint on selling SRM and the business of rangeland management. Our hope is to have a complete draft of this plan by late fall so it can be reviewed by our members and revised as necessary for formal adoption at Casper.

It should be noted that essentially all SRM activities are now, or shortly will be, tied to our strategic, business, and marketing/communication plans. These are our road maps to the future and every attempt must be made to follow these plans if we are going to realize our dreams as a professional organization.

Membership – Membership seems to have turned the corner as it continues to rise from our low of 3,417 active members in January of this year to 3,645 by July 31. However, we are far from our peak of 5,323 members in December 1993. We still have much to do and I am grateful that 2nd VP Mort Kothmann is furiously working on developing an effective membership recruitment/retention plan. Fundamental to this plan is membership value. If membership in SRM is not considered to be of value to an individual, they are not going to belong. Mort is developing an action plan designed to capitalize on the value of an SRM membership.

Financials – As most members know, SRM's financial situation continues to be a challenge. However, our position since February has improved considerably in that our projected budget deficit for this year is only about \$15,000 as compared to the adopted budget deficit of about \$70,000 in February. This is largely because of the hard work and financial finesse of the Kansas City annual meeting committee who brought home "the bacon." Thank you Kansas City "Stars"!

But on the other side of the coin, SRM is still strapped financially in that: 1) even with the increased revenue from the Kansas City meeting, we are still subsidizing our current year's budget with about \$15,000 of reserve funds and 2) rate of returns on invested funds are at an all-time low. As such, we are far from being able to implement many components of our strategic plan because of insufficient funds.

(Continued on Page 2).



(Continued from Page 1).

This financial condition, coupled with our very slow increase in membership numbers, has triggered the \$20 a year increase in dues as initially approved by the BOD in Kansas City. Recall that at that time we chose to wait until this summer to see if we could attract a sufficient number of new members whereby we could avoid a dues increase. Since a substantial increase in membership did not happen, the BOD was forced into increasing dues \$20 per year beginning in 2003.

Committee re-structuring – 1st VP Bob Budd presented a re-structuring plan to the Advisory Council members present at the summer meeting in Flagstaff. The plan is to have the proposed structure approved and in place in Casper. We believe re-structuring of our committees will improve our ability to implement critical components of our strategic, business, and marketing /communication plans and I thank Bob for leading this important undertaking.

Website – We are continuing our efforts to develop a high quality, customer and member-friendly website. This is a high priority item and one that the Denver staff needs user feedback on. So, do not hesitate to send them a message when you find a problem and/or when you are impressed with one or more of our website features.

REAP – One exciting development in SRM is that we have been asked by the Department of Interior to help develop a Rangeland Environmental Assessment Program. We have been awarded a small \$25,000 start-up grant to begin developing the required protocols to conduct effective on-the-ground environmental assessments of varying rangeland practices and operations. Immediate Past President, Jim O'Rourke is leading this effort. One of the neat things about this program is that SRM was specifically asked to lead this effort by a group of individuals searching for technical assistance in rangeland management.

Washington DC Office – As has been announced previously, SRM now has a Washington DC office. We signed an agreement with the Tri-societies (i.e., Agronomy, Crop Science, and Soil Science) in late May with a move-in date of July. Granted, the office is small but it does provide a setting for SRM to participate more fully in the legislative process than ever before. Deen Boe continues to lead our efforts in Washington DC and although he only works part-time, he does an outstanding job and now he actually has a place to hang his hat when in DC representing SRM (see Deen's report elsewhere).

Name Change – As some may recall, I requested member opinions as to the interest in changing SRM's official name (see July *TBN*). Well, the initial results are in, but unfortunately, I'm still not very certain as to what they reflect. This is because only 3% of the membership

voted to not change the name and only 2% voted to change the name (i.e., 95% did not vote). BOD members are still reviewing these results and associated comments in an attempt to understand what the membership desires. We will keep you posted.

I hope this update is helpful. If any member has any additional thoughts, comments, or suggestions relative to these "happening," please do not hesitate to contact either me, other BOD members, or the Denver staff. We are here to serve. Thanks.

Wildlife/Range Assistantship at Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana

Wildlife/Range MS assistantship available immediately at Montana State University in Bozeman. Position involves Extension and Research programs in the area of wildlife/agriculture relationships, specifically prevention and control of wildlife damage. BS in wildlife, range or related discipline required. Position includes graduate stipend, non-resident tuition waiver, and benefits. Send resume to **Dr. Jim Knight, Professor and Extension Wildlife Specialist, Montana State University, Department of Animal and Range Sciences, 219 Linfield Hall, Bozeman, MT 59717** or Email: jknight@montana.edu

NATURAL RESOURCE STEWARD

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Division of State Parks has an opening for someone with a strong interest in tallgrass prairie management who has a strong science or range background. This is a responsible supervisory position at Prairie State Park located at Liberal, Missouri. For more information please visit **www.EcoEmploy.com**. Go to special opportunities then to Natural Resource Steward. Inquiries may be directed to **Denny Bopp, District Supervisor, 417/532-7161**.



Range Society Raises Concerns About Report Evaluating Grazing Management in Yellowstone

A recent report evaluating elk management on the northern range of Yellowstone National Park may adversely affect the management of public and private rangelands, according to the Society for Range Management (SRM). That report, released by the National Research Council (NRC), found that human influences have caused an increase in the wintering elk population of northern Yellowstone, and as a result, willows, aspen and cottonwoods have been prevented from growing to full size for many decades. However, the report concluded that elk have not caused irreparable damage to Yellowstone's northern range and concluded that natural conditions are best preserved by minimizing human influence.

For thirty years, Yellowstone scientists maintained that the northern elk herd was not influenced by EuroAmerican settlement, and maintained that elk had no significant impact on the northern range. Yellowstone scientists recently acknowledged declines in willows and aspen, but attributed those declines primarily to climate change and fire suppression. The NRC report found no evidence to support those positions.

According to the president of SRM, Rod Heitschmidt, "In spite of finding fault with a major portion of the Yellowstone research program, the NRC committee charged Yellowstone with conducting future research that monitors ecological changes and advised that Yellowstone define indicators of unacceptable change." Heitschmidt adds, "It is ironic that Yellowstone would be asked to conduct research on future changes when for three decades Park research failed to find that elk had any impact at all."

The SRM is concerned that the NRC report did not review the entire accumulation of scientific evidence, nor did the committee define criteria of what would constitute irreparable damage. Says Heitschmidt, "It appears that the committee arrived at some conclusions based on personal values rather than solid science."

Adds Heitschmidt, "Yellowstone has a major influence on public perceptions about how natural conditions are best preserved. As an international society promoting science-based range management, SRM is concerned about how a flawed NRC report may also contribute to flawed public perceptions about range management."

AFGC and Grassland Council Annual Meeting

By Jim O'Rourke

Close to 300 producers, academics and agency representatives met in Bloomington, MN July 14-17 for the Annual Meeting of the American Forage and Grassland Council. Sessions included the Emerging Scientist Program, scientific poster sessions, forage workshops, the Forage Spokesperson Contest and a symposium on Nutrient Management in Forage Ruminant Systems. The group then joined the Minnesota Alfalfa and Forage Expo on July 17, after a tour of Minnesota dairying the day before. SRM was represented at the AFGC Business and Board meetings discussing sharing the Washington, D.C. office, future venues for International Rangeland and Grassland Congresses and a future joint AFGC/SRM meeting. AFGC will be holding its 5th Conference for Affiliate Leaders (an interesting approach that the SRM Advisory Council might want to consider) in Carlisle, Pennsylvania November 5-7, 2002. The 2004 Annual Meeting of AFGC will be held June 13-16 in Roanoke, Virginia. Discussion was high on inviting SRM to participate with them at this meeting as the Summer Meeting of SRM and to then tie this into a session in Washington D.C. to acquaint the Affiliate leaders of AFGC and the Section leaders in SRM with the advantages and opportunities our office location holds in D.C. and to provide these leaders with first hand experiences in the daily happenings/process in a National Capitol.

Lost Resources

William J. Harvey, a life member from the California-Pacific Section passed away in May.

Onward & Upward

Bruce Healy has accepted a transfer with the NRCS to a Soil Conservationist position in Alice, TX effective October 6. Congratulations also to Bruce and Jill being married on August 10th. They will be residing in Tynan, TX.

If you have SRM member news you would like to share in the next edition of the Trail Boss News, please mail it to Maura Laverty, c/o SRM, P.O. Box 652, Council, ID 83612 or e-mail mlaverty@fs.fed.us



Washington DC Report – SRM Summer Meeting August 2002

By Deen Boe

Rangeland Assessment and Monitoring – The BLM, Forest Service and NRCS continue to make progress in meeting the Congressional direction (except for meeting the requested report date) as contained in House Report 107-103, Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2002. There is also additional direction language contained in the FY 2003 House Interior Appropriations Bill – which has not yet gone to conference. It is important that interested NGO's have the information contained in the pending agency report no later than the end of this calendar year. This will enable us to take advantage of a window of opportunity in the first half of next calendar year. We will continue to work with our partners and the agencies to strongly encourage a timely completion.

Third Party Vendors (TPV) – We continue to work closely with more than a dozen other coalition members to develop coordinated input to USDA as they develop TPV regulations in response to the 2002 Farm Bill. Both the Certified Professionals in Rangeland Management and the Range Consultants certification programs are providing a solid basis for meaningful SRM involvement. Leonard Jolley now has the SRM lead for this effort.

SRM Info/Focus Paper – An effort is underway to review/revise the SRM transition paper that was first used in the early part of 2001. A small group is working on developing outlines that can be used for revision. I met with the Advisory Council at this summer meeting to obtain additional input. So far it appears folks are leaning toward retaining the three issues that we had in 2001 – but strengthening them particularly the rangeland assessment and monitoring issue and rangeland conservation. Some thought is being given to adding a fourth issue related to fire rehabilitation. Current target is to have draft revisions to the Lakewood office by October 1st for editing and printing.

Co-Farm – I was invited this past June to sit in on a meeting of Co-FARM (The Coalition on Funding Agricultural Research Missions) and learn more about their organization. One of Co-Farm's goals is to "Provide a unified voice within the agriculture research community on broad scientific policy and funding issues." They currently have 21 members and have been in existence since 1990. SRM has shown an interest particularly in the last several years of finding more support for rangeland related research. So far we've done little

about it. Co-FARM may be that coalition opportunity that can substantially improve our effort. I suggest we continue to interact with Co-FARM and put on the agenda for the winter meeting a decision on whether or not to join.

Office – SRM now officially has office space in DC. We share a suite of offices with the Tri-Societies (Agronomy, Soils, Crop Science), and the Weed Science of Society of America. An intern from the Tri-Societies is currently using our office space until the end of August (with the Tri-Societies paying the lease). In September I expect to start using the office as a base to work out of when in DC. In conjunction with the National Capital Section consideration is being given to hosting an open house at our new office sometime this Fall for partners in the DC area.

Financial Resources – These are very challenging times to find funding resources to sustain or implement the various rangeland management priorities that SRM has identified. Finding resources for the rangeland inventory, assessment and monitoring effort will require substantial ingenuity and persistence over a long period of time. We should also find ways to assist the Sustainable Rangelands Roundtable in achieving its potential. It will require both more external coalition building and a grass roots effort within SRM.

Future Meetings – I will represent SRM at both the American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting the latter part of August and the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation's Congress on Non-Point Source Water Pollution in September. I also have been asked to speak to the Department of Defense's Resource Conservation.

\$5.00 Rebate for Each New Member!

Don't forget that you will receive a \$5.00 rebate applied to your dues for each regular member you sign up, we credit your account \$5. Now would be a great time to get out and recruit as many new members as possible. It's a proven fact that people are more receptive to a personal invitation from someone they know. Please take the time to ask.

On the SRM membership application, just write your name (or make sure your recruit does) in the spot that says "Name of member that recruited you". If you need a couple membership applications, please contact Aaron Barr at acbarr@rangelands.org.



CALL FOR PAPERS

56th Annual Meeting February 01 – 06, 2003 Casper, Wyoming

The theme for the 2003 Annual Meeting will be ***Rangelands: Diversity Through Time*** with scientific and technical programs to enhance our understanding of the history, ecology, values and sustainable management of rangeland ecosystems. We invite you to participate in this educational program through a presentation of research results, technical perspectives or innovations in rangeland management.

For poster or contributed paper presentations, submit your abstract and associated information in one of the following forms:

1. Attach a WordPerfect (.wpd) or MS Word (.doc) file, PC or MAC, to an e-mail message with "SRM ABSTRACT" on the subject line to:

e-mail: tbooth@lamar.colostate.edu

Note: Special symbols, superscripts, and Greek letters will be more likely to come through in Word or Wordperfect files on disk or attached.

Submit a WordPerfect or MS Word file on a 3.5" (IBM) diskette to:

SRM 2003 Abstracts
Attn: Terry Booth
Phone: (307) 772-2433
HIGH PLAINS GRASSLANDS RESEARCH STATION
8408 HILDRETH ROAD
CHEYENNE, WY, 82009-8899

If there are any problems or questions, or if you do not receive confirmation of your email submission within two weeks, contact: Bob Budd, Program Co-Chair @307-332-3388 (bbudd@tnc.org) or Kelly Crane, Program Co-Chair @ 307-766-3666 (kkcrane@uwyo.edu).

IMPORTANT:

Submit the abstract and associated information in the same format as the example provided below. Abstracts should be no longer than 250 words. Authors are solely responsible for all editing of abstracts. Authors need to select a Subject Matter Topic Code (Item 2 on Abstract Format) to match their presentation.

Abstracts should include a statement of objectives, a brief description of methods, a concise presentation of the actual results, and a summary statement or conclusions. Abstracts and titles are due **September 30, 2002**. Authors will be notified of acceptance or rejection by **November 15, 2002**.

Subject Matter Topic Codes:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 01 Animal Ecology | 09 Management/Hydrology/Riparian Ecology | 17 Rangeland Assessment and Monitoring |
| 02 Animal Interactions | 10 Insects | 18 Soils |
| 03 Animal Nutrition | 11 Invasive Species | 19 Vegetation Management/Reclamation/Restoration |
| 04 Animal Physiology | 12 Measurement/Sampling | 20 Water Quality |
| 05 Economics | 13 Plant-Animal Interactions | 21 Wildlife Habitat |
| 06 Education | 14 Plant Ecology | 22 Other (Please Specify) |
| 07 Excellence in Rangeland Management | 15 Plant Physiology | |
| 08 Grazing | 16 Rangeland Social Science | |



Abstract Format—2003 SRM Annual Meeting, Casper, Wyoming

1. Author(s) (Author's Last Name, First MI; separate multiple authors with a semicolon)
2. Subject Matter Topic Codes: First Choice, Second Choice (separated by comma)
3. Presentation Preference: Traditional, Poster
4. Institution:
5. Address: (separate address elements with commas)
6. Phone Number, Fax Number, Email Address: (separate by comma, enter N/A if not available)
7. SRM Membership of Contact Author: Member, Student, Non-member
8. Who will present the paper? (Presenting author must be a paid registrant at the annual meeting.)
9. Graduate Student Competition Category (Choose One): Traditional-M.S., Traditional-Ph.D., Poster-M.S., Poster-Ph.D., or None.
10. Presentation Preference: Traditional, Poster
11. Title/Author information
12. Abstract
13. Special symbols (see previous instructions)

EXAMPLE ABSTRACT SUBMISSION (Remember to include the numbers):

1. Pfister, James A.
2. 36
3. Traditional
4. USDA-ARS Poisonous Plant Research Lab
5. 1150 E. 1400 N., Logan, UT 84341
6. (435) 752-2941, (435) 752-2943, jpfister@cc.usu.edu
7. Member
8. James A. Pfister
9. N/A
10. CATTLE CONSUMPTION OF PONDEROSA PINE NEEDLES IN THE BLACK HILLS. James A. Pfister, USDA-ARS Poisonous Plant Research Lab, Logan, UT 84341.
11. Consumption of ponderosa pine needles by pregnant cattle often causes abortions, and the Black Hills region has a history of serious abortion problems from pine needles. The objectives of these studies were to (1) determine the amount of pine needles eaten by grazing and pen-fed cattle, and relate consumption to weather variables; (2) determine if pine needle temperature (degrees C) influenced acceptability to penned cows. Trial 1 was conducted from December 1991 to February 1992 about 20km west of Pringle, South Dakota, using 8 mature pregnant cows. The winter of 1991-1992 was mild, and cattle averaged < 0.5% of their bites as pine needles. Trial 2 was conducted in the same location from January to March 1993. Six pregnant cows were penned individually, and offered 1 kg/day of fresh pine needles. Six open cows grazed a pine tree infested pasture.

Normal winter weather prevailed, and grazing cattle consumed 20% of bites as pine needles. Cattle selected primarily green pine needles as consumption increased, particularly from small (< 2m) trees. Pen-fed cows ate 438 g/day of needles, but consumption was not related to weather. No abortions occurred. In 2 pen trials using heated and frozen needles, cattle showed no clear preferences. Weather is a major factor influencing consumption of needles by grazing cattle, but needle temperature alone may not be important.



New Members

The Society for Range Management welcomes the following new members.

Gregory Alton
Zeb Barth
Chuck Bell
Andrea Craig
Efrain Cruz-Cruz
Thomas Demianew
Ralph Donaho
Kim Dorin
Kevin Edinger
Heather Fossum
Jed Freitas

Sarah Green
Robert Higginbotham
Michael Holbert
Neal Hurley
Justin Jessop
Paul Kephart
Mason King
Justin Koppa
Ben May
Robin Morris
Kerry Olenick

Steven Park
Jake Powell
Lenny Saddler
Kameon Sam
Daniel Sellers
Tamara Streeks
Darrell Townsend, II
Stan Vallejos
Chauntelle Vitt
Sharon White
Keith Winter

Society for Range Management
Membership Application
445 Union Blvd., Suite 230
Lakewood, CO 80228-1259
Phone: 303-986-3309
Fax: 303-986-3892
Email: acbarr@rangelands.org

*(Please Print or Type) First Name		MI	*Last Name			
*Company/Organization/Business Affiliation						
Street Address		Suite/Apt#	City	State	Postal Code	Country
Phone (Include Area Code)		Fax(Include Area Code)		Email		

MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION

☐ Regular ☐ Apprentice ☐ Student ☐ Associate ☐ Life ☐ Life Family
☐ Family ☐ Institutional ☐ Commercial-Supporting ☐ Commercial-Contributing ☐ Commercial-Major

Regular—\$55 (all Sections except Mexico/Unsection) **Associate—\$25** **Life—\$1,500** (Call SRM office for installment plan option)

\$50 (Mexico/Unsectioned)

Life Family—\$1,750 (Call SRM office for installment plan option)

Student—Varies by Section....please contact office for more information.

SECTION AFFILIATION (Call the SRM office for Section information)

SRM members must choose a Section affiliation. Section affiliation is determined by geographical region, but members may be affiliated with any and as many sections as desired upon payment of additional Section dues. If you wish to belong to more than one Section, please contact the SRM office at (303) 986-3309 for additional dues.

*Primary Section Affiliation _____ Add'l Sections _____

OPTIONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members receive six issues of *Rangelands* and 12 issues of *The Trail Boss News* with their paid membership. Members may opt to receive 6 issues of the *Journal of Range Management* for \$15.00 per year.

I would like to receive the *Journal of Range Management* ☐ Yes ☐ No

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Payment must be made in U.S. funds drawn on a U.S. bank. Please make checks/money orders payable to: Society For Range Management

Dues \$ _____ Optional Subscriptions \$ _____ TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Credit Card Payment: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover ☐ Diners Club

Name as it appears on credit card _____

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature (REQUIRED) _____



Book Order Form:

SRM is Offering *Green Underwear* by Stan Tixier.

Please send \$14.95 plus \$4.00 shipping and handling to:

Society for Range Management
Attn: Kirsten Tardy
445 Union Blvd., Suite 230
Lakewood, Colorado 80228

You can fax your order with credit card number and expiration date at
(303) 986-3892 or email: ktardy@rangelands.org

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____ Fax number: _____

Email: _____

☐ Check enclosed

☐ MC

☐ Visa

☐ Amex

☐ Discover

☐ Diners

Credit card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Name as it appears on card _____

