Range Folk, the Unsung Heroes – Charles R. Hart, SRM Director

There are many heroes in the world today. Some that probably deserve it and some that may not. When we talk about heroes, the first that usually come to mind are our military heroes. Each and every person that puts their life on the line for our country is a hero in my mind.

As I write this article, it happens to be Veterans Day 2009 so obviously that is forefront in my mind. For those of you range folks that are military heroes, I personally say thank you for all you have done for me, my family and our country. Without you we would not have the freedoms we enjoy today as Americans and I hope and pray we never lose sight of that.

We all hear of and know other heroes from time to time. People that sacrifice what they have for the sake of others. Our nations’ first responders such as police, fire, and EMS sacrifice much for the sake of others. Ordinary citizens who sacrifice their own safety to help others are heroes in our cities and communities. People who battle and defeat cancer and other life threatening illnesses are heroes to many who suffer the same. But I propose to you that we have many unsung heroes in our Society and profession that go unnoticed to the general public.

Our nation is becoming more and more urban with less direct ties to the land. Severing this tie to the land through generations has lead to a general ignorance of how they are directly affected by, among other things, the conditions of our rangelands. Not many people today understand the importance of healthy rangelands in terms of ecosystem services that affects them directly. There are many examples but let’s start with the water we drink. The water we drink comes from our nation’s watersheds, whether down our streams and rivers into our lakes and reservoirs or from percolation through the soil to aquifers beneath the surface. Many of our members have devoted their careers to studying and managing the intricate details of rangeland watersheds. Without this knowledge and application, we would not have the clean,
abundant water supply we enjoy today. From managing and improving the conditions of our rangeland watersheds to understanding the proper functioning of riparian areas, those of you who protect and manage this precious resource are unsung heroes.

And what about those delicious steaks we all enjoy! Most if not all of those beef cattle that end up a steak on our plates owe their very existence to our nation’s rangelands. Without healthy rangelands, the whole beef cattle industry would crumble. We simply could not afford to produce quality beef without rangelands. Many of our members have spent their careers studying and managing our nation’s rangelands for quality livestock. For those of you in grazing management to range animal nutrition research and the managers who implement these strategies, you are unsung heroes.

And how popular hunting has become over the last decade! In many states, landowners are getting more income from hunting enterprises on their land than from their livestock operations. Good quality bird populations and those trophy bucks or bulls aren’t ordered from Sears and Roebuck. It takes good habitat management and manipulation to sustainably produce good quality wild game. Healthy rangelands are the foundation of these wildlife habitats. Many of our members have devoted their careers to the study and management of wildlife habitats. From understanding and managing good quality browse and cover to targeted brush management programs, our members are at the forefront of improving wildlife habitat to provide this uniquely American experience to its citizens. You too are unsung heroes.

So next time you take a drink of that cold refreshing glass of water, right after that juicy warm bite of tender sirloin, while you sit at deer camp in the evening talking about that 350 yard shot you made… Thank a range professional!

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Executive Vice President’s Report – Ken Johnson

I want to thank each of you for the opportunity to attend a number of Section meetings this fall. I always enjoy these meetings and the chance to meet many of you. I especially enjoy Section Board meetings (some say that questions my sanity). I can meet with your Boards for a couple of hours and really get a good understanding of what’s going on in each of your sections. I also have the opportunity to learn new things that you are doing, which I can then share with all of SRM. My intention is to have visited every section by next fall. I had hoped to make more meetings this fall but wasn’t able to since several overlapped. Thankfully, your Board members have also been attending meetings and have managed to get to most sections, so you know what your international organization is doing to improve professional expertise and improve rangelands. Thanks again.

Your Executive Committee had a very positive trip to DC in mid November. You can find a detailed report by your President elsewhere in the issue. I do want to make a few comments.

This was the most productive DC visit the Executive Committee has made since I have been involved. We asked for a number of items from the federal agencies and we received very positive response and support for most of these requests. They included: support of involvement by federal employees in the leadership of professional societies; continued support for liaison positions with SRM located in Wheat Ridge, and/or the creation of new liaison positions; and crucial support for SRM CPED ESD workshops in the spring. Support for the latter comes in both a commitment of personnel and dollars. Please take any opportunity to thank agency leadership for their support of SRM and rangeland activities.

Thanks to Jess Peterson, SRM Washington DC Consultant, we had the opportunity to meet with the USDA Risk Management Agency. This was a first for SRM. We are working with the agency on producer outreach, both to advance SRM goals and to inform rangeland users of the availability of drought insurance and management tools from the agency. I think this is very promising.

Last month I shared the guidelines for use of the Redd Fund (November Rangeland News). You may remember this fund was established to support producer outreach. Two questions have come to my attention:

1. If a section has their own booth to take to other organization meetings, do they have to use the booth from our office?

You do not have to use our booth. You may use your section booth and still qualify for cost share.

2. Is there an application to complete to apply for Redd Funds?

No. We only need a brief explanation and the cost share you are requesting. This can be as an e-mail or hard copy. Please send request directly to me and I will be sure it gets on the Boards agenda. I would suggest that, if possible, you apply at least 60 days prior to the date of the meeting to allow the Board time to consider your request.

Following is an example of a request approved by the Board for the use of Redd Funds to represent SRM at a non-traditional event.

The Prairie Partnership

The Prairie Partnership is the product of over eight years of establishing relationships with landowners and state and federal agencies in eastern New Mexico and the western panhandle of Texas. The Playa Lakes Joint Venture and The Nature Conservancy have invested significant effort in developing this collaboration. The intent of this partnership is to develop a cohesive group of producers, resource managers, and conservationists that are interested in the integrity of the short grass prairie and its rural economies. The Prairie Partnership’s purpose is to provide a forum for state, federal, and private partners to encourage and support voluntary, proactive conservation of prairie and playa habitats.

SRM, The New Mexico Cattle Growers, and the New Mexico Section will partner to man a booth at the “Prairie Partnership” meeting in Tucumcari, NM. The meeting is sponsored by The Nature Conservancy. This is an excellent use of the REDD Funds for SRM outreach to producers in a very different way than we have done in the past.

As always, there are a number of volunteers to thank. This month I would like to express SRM’s appreciation to the Election Committee members and volunteers who counted the ballots and by-law amendments results. They are Chairman Don Smith, Thane Johnson, Herman Garcia, Ned Habich, Dave Kathman, and Jerry Schwien.
Thank Ken Johnson and Vicky Trujillo for scheduling our meetings, sending agendas to those we were meeting with, and preparing handouts for Coates-Markle (BLM Liaison), and myself. In DC we were accompanied by Jess Peterson, of Western Skies Strategies, and Jack Isaacs (USFS).

The DC Report – Don Kirby, SRM President
Once again SRM leadership made a fall trip to Washington, DC. On the trip were EVP Ken Johnson, Jack Alexander, Sandy Wyman, Linda Coates-Markle (BLM Liaison), and myself. In DC we were accompanied by Jess Peterson, of Western Skies Strategies, and Jack Isaacs (USFS Liaison) for portions of our visit. You may think this is a vacation for us, but a lot of work goes into the trip to make it worthwhile. I want to thank Ken Johnson and Vicky Trujillo for scheduling our meetings, sending agendas to those we were meeting with, and preparing handouts for our meetings.

Fall is an extremely busy time for Board members. We have 21 sections within SRM, as well as other professional societies, that all schedule fall meetings. We, the Board, along with Ken Johnson and the Advisory Council leadership attempt to have at least one representative at each meeting. It is not always possible but we try our best. Ken Johnson has been the real workhorse this fall as he has attended at least six fall meetings at this time. I took the SRM display to The Wildlife Society meetings and talked to their Council (Board) about our interest in forming a coalition with them. I also attended the Texas Section SRM annual meeting in hot (90+ degrees) and humid (90%+) Beaumont. I really shouldn’t complain as it was snowing at the same time in North Dakota. I want to thank the Texas Section for being such good hosts and arranging my first tour of The Big Thicket National Preserve. I reacquainted with old friends and I made many new ones at this first class annual meeting.

I’ll need to be winding this up soon. You should have received a ballot in the mail. Please vote. We have an outstanding slate of candidates that, if elected, will be donating many, many volunteer hours to the Society and you. You should have also received the SRM-WSSA Annual Meeting information. The Denver planning committee led by John Jachetta and Dale Shaner (Weed Science Society of America), and Roy Roath and Lana Pearson from SRM have developed a great program, with multiple tours and social events to attend. Don’t miss it!

In ending, I need to mention that we continue to write letters on timely issues. We sent one to the Chairs and Ranking Members of House and Senate committees outlining our concerns over HR1018 and S1579 bills (Restoring our American Mustangs Act). Our concern is that this Act would move away from a balanced multiple-use management of our western public lands. Another went to Congressman Paul Grijalva with an issue of Rangelands detailing this and other products of the “Wildfires and Invasive Plants in American Deserts” workshop.

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Holly George and YouTube
Holly George, CalPac SRM member and Cooperative extension Farm Advisor produced a YouTube digital story, Keeping People on the Land. If you would like to view this story, click on the link below.

http://www.youtube.com/user/PassionForTheLand#p/u/8/8VbZI6FLQ

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Rangelands and Rangeland Ecology & Management Online Access:
Your subscriptions to Rangelands and REM have recently been updated. You will need to login with your Customer Number and Last Name. If you have trouble logging in, please double check that the Customer Number you are using is your Current Customer Number. This information is available in your Member's Area under your name on the My Information page or call the office and we will be happy to help you.

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Highlights of the Third Quarter – Don Kirby, SRM President
Can you believe it is time for my next quarterly report? Probably. Can I believe it? Hardly. The time is really flying by and it seems the faster I try to go the ‘behinder’ I get. Consistent with my previous reports, I will briefly touch on the most important activities of the last three months (August, September, and October).

First off, we have a change of editors for the Rangelands Journal. Current Editor Ed Fredrickson took the job on a temporary basis until a permanent editor could be identified. Rangelands Steering Committee requested that the BOD hire Lori Hidinger. Lori was offered and accepted the Rangelands editor position starting January 2010. Despite Lori replacing Ed Fredrickson, Ed won’t be going anywhere. He plans to continue contributing to Rangelands where possible. At this time I would like to express my gratitude to Ed for his contributions and leadership of Rangelands over the past two years. Ed faced some challenges and despite this never lost focus on improving the quality and financial support of the journal. Please welcome Lori Hidinger as the new editor of Rangelands.

Ken Johnson and the BOD worked months on reviewing and revising a contract with Allen Press for our journals. Contracts with Allan Press run for five years so it was in both our interests to get a fair and profitable contract developed and approved. We signed a well-discussed contract with Allen Press last month for the years 2010-2014. To summarize the financial section of the contract, SRM will pay Allen Press member subscriber fees for each volume of Range Ecology and Management and Rangelands. SRM and Allen Press will share in other revenues generated by the journals such as author royalties, advertising and commercial reprint sales. SRM will be responsible for obtaining sponsorships which will be paid directly to SRM. SRM then will pay Allen Press for page charges, etc., with any funds left as revenue to SRM.

I would like to thank Karen Ridgeway and Peter Burns of Allen Press for their patience and guidance during this contract negotiation. We all need to say a big thanks to Ken Johnson, Jeff Mosley and Jack Alexander for their thoroughness in reviewing and revising this contract. SRM hired Jess Peterson of Western Skies Strategies as our Washington, D.C. representative. Our goals in hiring Jess are to have a presence and influence in D.C., assist in public relations with legislators, agency heads and other professional organizations, as well as increasing membership recruitment efforts. Jess sends many capital updates each month. You can subscribe to these updates at capitalupdates@rangelands.org. SRM now joins two broad-based coalitions recently. The first is the Coalition for Conservation Through Ranching. It is a partnership among national conservation-minded groups to promote healthy landscapes. The coalition includes the Public Lands Council, NCBA, NACD, AFGC and SRM to name a few. The second is an evolving Coalition of Natural Resource Societies involving the Wildlife Society, Society of American Foresters, American Fisheries Society and SRM. This coalition is being developed to promote similar conservation goals, coordinate our legislative efforts, and information exchange concerning meetings, membership recruitment and retention, and professional development and marketing.

Fall is an extremely busy time for Board members. We have 21 sections within SRM, as well as other professional societies, that all schedule fall meetings. We, the Board, along with Ken Johnson and the Advisory Council leadership attempt to have at least one representative at each meeting. It is not always possible but we try our best. Ken Johnson has been the real workhorse this fall as he has attended at least six fall meetings at this time. I took the SRM display to The Wildlife Society meetings and talked to their Council (Board) about our interest in forming a coalition with them. I also attended the Texas Section SRM annual meeting in hot (90+ degrees) and humid (90%+) Beaumont. I really shouldn’t complain as it was snowing at the same time in North Dakota. I want to thank the Texas Section for being such good hosts and arranging my first tour of The Big Thicket National Preserve. I reacquainted with old friends and I made many new ones at this first class annual meeting.

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Our main goal of this trip was to meet with the leadership in the USDA and the Department of the Interior concerning our “Talking Points” which were liaison positions with SRM, sponsorship of Ecological Site Description workshops, and promoting professional development and society participation by federal employees. As trips go I judge this one as being moderately successful, more so than most.

Concerning liaison positions with the SRM, the BLM presently supports a full-time position in Wheat Ridge with Linda Coates-Markle. The Forest Service has a part-time liaison with the SRM, Jack Isaacs, headquartered in DC. The NRCS had liaisons, Jeff Burwell and Leonard Jolley, at one time, but no longer support a liaison with the SRM. All three agency leaders - NRCS Chief Dave White, BLM Director Bob Abbey, and USFS Chief Tom Tidwell, expressed the need for funding positions in the field and the alternative cost of maintaining liaison positions with other organizations. In the end, all agreed that liaisons fulfill a critical role in communication, training, and technical transfer. Each agency head would consider the best option for maintaining or establishing a liaison with the SRM, be it full-time or part-time, and in Wheat Ridge or an alternate location.

We spoke to each of the above agency leaders plus Agriculture Research Service (ARS) Administrator Ed Knipling about the SRM’s Center for Professional Education and Development’s upcoming Ecological Site Development workshops. NRCS Chief White and BLM Director Abbey agreed to sponsor the workshops by providing $10,000 each and personnel to develop the educational materials. ARS Administrator Knipling also agreed to sponsor the workshops by offering meeting facilities, transportation, educational materials, and a possible cash donation. USFS Chief Tidwell delayed any decision concerning the workshops until he could visit with his leadership team.

Our discussions with Chiefs White and Tidwell and Director Abbey concerning federal employee participation in professional organizations such as the SRM were well received. Each agency head supported membership in and participation on committees/boards of professional societies.

We ended each of our agency visits by asking “What can the SRM do for the Agency?” All three Agency heads stated that there is need for more information on the effects of global climate change on ecosystems, plants, water, animals, T&E species, etc., and on carbon sequestration on western rangelands. For the public land agencies, they need more research on renewable energy sources, wind and solar, on western ecosystems, and restoration strategies following long-term invasions by introduced species. In addition, the BLM continues to face the problems of over-population by wild horses and burros and the damage they cause to vegetation, soils, and native animal and bird habitats.

During this trip we also met with the USDA Risk Management Agency Administrator Bill Murphy, Jeff Eisenberg from the NCBA Public Lands Council, and Michael Bean of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. At the Risk Management Agency our conversation centered on the Agency’s grants programs, particularly in the areas of crop and rangeland production, management, and marketing strategies. At the Public Lands Council we discussed the new Coalition for Conservation through Ranching, wild horse and burro legislation, and DOI Secretary Salazar’s proposal of forming new sanctuaries for surplus horse populations, carbon sequestration potential of western rangelands, sage grouse and grazing, and best management practices for bighorn sheep and domestic sheep. With the USFWS we introduced the mission of the SRM, our CPED programs, and discussed our job fair at the annual meetings. Michael Bean related the Agency’s training programs and joint NTCS/USFWS state meetings of personnel to exchange information.

To wind up this report, I would like to say thank you to all who contributed to the success of this trip. Thanks to those in charge of scheduling. I wish it were possible to have met with more groups, but after a week of the Metro, taxis, and hoofing-it to various buildings and locations, we had enough. Thank you also to the members in attendance. In truth, we (the SRM) may not appear to be a well-oiled machine, but Ken, Jack A., Sandy, Linda, Jess and Jack I. were articulate and impressive when speaking of the SRM, our “Talking Points” and issues concerning rangeland management. We are fortunate to have them in leadership positions in our Society.

SRM NEEDS YOUR E-MAIL!
If you have a new email address, please login and update your online information or contact Karen Johnson, Karen@rangelands.org, for assistance.

2010 SRM-RTEC Workshop
“Green Technology and Equipment for Rangeland Applications”
Info and Request for Presentations

The Rangeland Technology and Equipment Council (RTEC) will hold its annual workshop on February 7 (Sunday afternoon) in conjunction with the 2010 SRM annual meeting in Denver. RTEC is open to all 2010 meeting participants interested in promoting the wise use and improvement of rangelands through the supporting functions of equipment development and application of innovative technology. This year’s workshop is focused on new technologies and equipment that help land managers conserve energy or adapt to and/or mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Organizers are developing the program now and would like to extend an invitation to businesses, researchers and extension specialists, land managers, and others to submit presentations for this year’s workshop. Of special interest is the use of native plants for biofuel production, energy saving technologies for rangeland improvements, and innovative applications of wind, solar, hydro, or geothermal energy sources on rangelands. Presenters will be allotted 20 minutes for their presentation and are encouraged to bring 75 copies of a one page abstract for distribution to workshop participants.

Companies interested in sponsoring the afternoon break may set up a small display in the back of the conference room.

If you are interested in making a presentation, sponsoring the afternoon break, or would like more information on the 2010 RTEC workshop, please contact either:

Mike Pellant, Bureau of Land Management, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Boise, ID 83709, 208-373-3823 (Fax-3850), Mike_Pellant@blm.gov

Nancy L. Shaw, USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, 322 E. Front Street, Suite 401, Boise, Idaho 83702, 208.373.4360;
FAX 208.373.4391  nshaw@fs.fed.us

A short meeting will be held at the end of the RTEC workshop to select the theme and committee to plan the 2011 workshop. More information on RTEC and the 2010 meeting is available at: http://rtec.rangelands.org/index.htm

IAC Room Share Program

The 2010 Annual SRM meeting is only a few months away and members are starting to organize side meetings, dinner dates, and room sharing with their friends. The International Affairs Committee (IAC) is coming to the aide of our international members with the Room Share Program. “The program has been in place for a few years and has been a tremendous success” says Andres Cibils, IAC member. The benefits of this program have included building strong life-time friendships and enabling our international members to be able to participate at the annual meeting.

In the past, the IAC has received a few requests for locating cost effective rooms or roommates to keep travel costs down. The requests are now more numerous and the IAC would like to offer this experience to all SRM members. The IAC has a very simple process to get your name in the hat to help out our international members. For those wanting to share a room, please submit your name, gender, phone number or email, smoking or non-smoking, dates available, lodging location, and any other remarks. If you have an interest in sharing a room with someone from a particular country, please, include this in your request.

Humberto Perotto-Baldivesio, IAC Chair, feels very strongly about the benefits of this program for all of our members and is willing to coordinate the effort. Please send all your information to Humberto, at hperotto@tamu.edu. Also send a courtesy copy to Herman Garcia at herman.garcia@co.usda.gov or call Herman at 303-915-7851.

Thank you for your assistance in making the 2010 meeting a greater success.

2010 Endowment Fund Silent Auction

The Silent Auction, sponsored by the Endowment Fund Development Committee, will again be conducted in the Trade Show area of the 2010 SRM Annual Meeting in Denver. Contributed items for auction should be brought to the auction area between noon Sunday, February 7, and noon Monday, February 8. It would be helpful if Committee members were aware of planned contributions before meeting. If possible e-mail Rod Heitschmidt (heitschmidt@att.net), Judith Dyess (jdyess@fs.fed.us), or Tom Bartlett (et101@ZiaNet.com) with a description of planned donated item and its approximate value before the convention. This courtesy is not a prerequisite for donating to the auction. If you are unable to e-mail us before the convention, simply bring item(s) to Trade Show area between noon Sunday and noon Monday. Your support of the continued growth of the Endowment Fund is of great benefit to the SRM membership. Please plan on participating in this fun event by either donating items for sale and/or purchasing items.

63rd Annual Meeting of the SRM and the 50th Annual Meeting of the WSSA

“Working Landscapes – Providing for the Future”
Denver, Colorado
February 7-11, 2010
http://www.rangelands.org/denver2010
Go to the Meeting Website for:
Online Registration or Printable Registration Form
Hotel Rates and Information
Pre-Convention Program

Open Space Grasslands: Science & Management

This day-long symposium will focus on the application of science to management of open space grasslands. Speakers will provide insights on open space grasslands and the associated science to open space professionals and advisory councils, county and municipal officials, special interest groups and SRM members interested in the management of open space grassland resources. The symposium will provide knowledge and understanding of the complexities of open grassland management to all the participants.

Morning Topics: Ecology
- Ecological Processes
- Role of Ecological Disturbance in Grasslands
- Influence of Fire and Grazing on Grasslands
- Riparian Management in Grassland Environments

Afternoon Topics: Management Issues
- Managing for Desired Outcomes
- Human Influence on Desired Outcomes
- Integrating Cultural Values into Management

This is a ticketed event, please check off on the registration form.

For more information visit http://www.rangelands.org/denver2010/program_symposia_openspaces.shtml or contact Meaghan Huffman (303)678-6181 or mhuffman@bouldercounty.org
Howdy Friends,

Hat’s off to the Society for Range Management Fly-In Participants! I had the privilege of accompanying this crew in their agency meetings. I have worked for over five years in Washington, D.C. and assisted on countless fly-ins. It’s truly a rarity to witness a group of individuals from across the country sit down in the hallowed halls of agency and bureaucracy and present with such professionalism and smooth advocacy. SRM was well represented during these meetings. Granted this crew might not have thought they achieved a notable mark of success, I can assure you and them— it’s extremely hard to get deliverables in Washington, D.C. Yet when reading President Kirby’s overview I noted several key achievements. (Note: check your inboxes because here shortly SRM will be issuing press noting the success of this fly-in).

On Capitol Hill Senate Democrats reached the magical number of 60 and will now be bringing a comprehensive healthcare package for a vote after the Thanksgiving holiday. The debate on this bill has soaked up a large amount of Congressional time. It is now official that the Senate climate change legislation will be shelved until the 2nd Session of the 111th Congress.

Across town it appears that no good deed goes unpunished at the federal agency level. The Department of Interior and Bureau of Land Management recently announced their plans to deal with the excess numbers of wild horses and burros on public lands. This plan has been met with an array of misinformed and misdirected responses from a few activists and organizations. The Colorado based Cloud Foundation has teamed up with Grammy Award winning singer Sheryl Crow to protest the horse management plan. Unfortunately Ms. Crow misrepresented the facts surrounding this plan when she stated “We are insisting that our government stop managing these beautiful and important animals to extinction.”

John Holland of the Equine Welfare Alliance went as far as saying that “his group is considering its legal options after the BLM rejected its request to halt the roundups.” (The Associated Press, Wild horse advocates consider legal action)

According to its November 12th release, http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/info/newsroom/2009/november/NR_11_12_2009.htm the BLM’s National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board will meet on Monday, December 7, 2009 in Reno Nevada to discuss issues relating to the management, protection, and control of wild horses and burros on public rangelands. The one-day meeting will take place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., local time at the John Ascuaga’s Nugget, 1100 Nuggett Avenue, Sparks, Nevada 89431 (hotel phone: 1-800-648-1177). The agenda of the meeting can be found in the November 10, 2009, Federal Register on page 58044.

Attendees and interested stakeholders are invited to present or submit comments. Speakers need to keep their comments less than three minutes. Speakers must submit a written copy of their statement to the BLM at the meeting. Those who would like to comment but are unable to attend may submit a written statement no later than close of business December 2, 2009, to: Bureau of Land Management, National Wild Horse and Burro Program, WO-260, Attention: Ramona DeLorme, 1340 Financial Boulevard, Reno, Nevada, 89502-7147. Comments may also be e-mailed to: Ramona_DeLorme@blm.gov. Those submitting comments electronically should include the identifier “WH&B” in the subject of their message and their name and address in the body of the message.

For additional information regarding the meeting, please contact Ramona DeLorme, Wild Horse and Burro Administrative Assistant, at 775-861-6583.

Thanks again to everyone that has signed up for the SRM Capital Updates. Western Skies Strategies is currently updating both its SRM Capital Updates database and email format. If you have subscribed we can assure you that you will be receiving new and improved updates! As always if you are a current dues paying SRM member and would like to get on this update list, please send an email with the word “Subscribe” in the subject line to capitalupdate@rangelands.org.

Questions or comments for WSS, please feel free to contact Ken Johnson or the SRM board of directors.

Ride Tall!

Jess Peterson
President
Western Skies Strategies
2414 I Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20037
202-870-3867 (o)
202-330-5184 (f)
www.westernskiesstrategies.com

National Invasive Species Awareness Week
Four Points Sheraton, Washington, DC
Jan. 10-14, 2010
Call for Presentations, Panels, Workshops, Discussions
National Invasive Species Awareness Week (www.nisaw.org) will be held Jan. 10-14, 2010, in Washington, DC. A broad coalition of agencies and organizations is hosting this event to:

✓ Call attention to invasive species issues – targeting Congress and Federal agencies
✓ Generate action – empowering new policies and adequate funding
✓ Build a national grassroots network – working together to limit the impacts of invasive species

Titled “Invasive Species: Change and Dollars,” the conference will be organized thematically and in the context of securing adequate
resources to address invasive species in a time of global change. The three inter-related themes for the morning plenary sessions are:

- Invasive Species and Climate Change
- Invasive Species and Energy (including biofuels)
- Invasive Species and the “Green” Economy

A broad range of agencies, groups, and organizations is impacted by invasive species issues. Participation by all is welcome at this national event. To that end, conference-organizers are soliciting proposals for three aspects of the conference:

- The afternoons of Jan. 11-13 are open for optional Special Issues sessions to be presented by groups with an interest in a particular issue or program. A Special Issues Session may be 30 minutes to two hours long, depending on format (presentation, panel discussion, workshop). Ideally, the session will be clearly related to one of the three themes listed above. Special Issue programming will appear on the formal agenda for the week and will be open to all conference attendees.

- The morning of Jan. 14 is open for 10-minute “Who we are | What we do” presentations by organizations/programs engaged in work on invasive species. The objective of this session is to introduce up to 20 groups or initiatives to a wider audience with the goal of starting to build a broad communication network among organizations. We would appreciate an emphasis on the three thematic areas listed above.

- To the extent feasible, conference-organizers are willing facilitate programmatic private, invasive species-relevant meetings during the week. At the very least, we can let others know (through the website and bulletin boards) that your meeting is taking place. In some instances, we might be able to provide meeting space.

16th Wildland Shrub Symposium – NEW DATES
Threats to Shrubland Ecosystem Integrity
May 18-20, 2010     Utah State University     Logan, Utah, USA
First Announcement
- Call for Papers on January 1, 2010
- Program will include Plenary and Concurrent Sessions, a Poster Session, and Field Tours
Contact Organizers: Tom Monaco (tom.monaco@ars.usda.gov) and Eugene Schupp (Eugene.schupp@usu.edu)

December Rangeland Photo Quiz
What is this “Trailboss” doing off of his horse? or Why do you need heavy chaps to read a transect?
Send your answer to  Vicky at vtrujillo@rangelands.org. Put “PHOTO QUIZ ANSWER” in subject line.

November Rangeland Photo Quiz Answer
Question: What might a perceptive rangeland observer find noteworthy about this picture? (Hint: location is 35° 57’12 N, 103 41’ 54 W).
Answer: Two of our avid readers submitted answers for our November Range Photo Quiz.
Robert Pawelek (BLM-Ridgecrest FO) took this shot: “Without looking up the lat long, I can almost bet its Northern Chihuahuan Desert after a monsoon (hence the green — that range could be mistaken for Ireland!!). Perhaps the Angus heifers were discussing their whereabouts under that mesquite?”

Cindy Salo, the sagebrush sage of Boise (blogging at http://sagebrushandspuds.blogspot.com), just “flew in” to the coordinates provided using Google Earth, then Googled “ranch Buyeros” to come up with the location, Ute Creek Cattle Company, where Tuda Libby Crews and Jack Crews ranch and maintain a bird sanctuary.  Tuda Libby Crews was honored for her land stewardship and conservation work at a Professional Issues Breakfast at the 2009 SRM Annual Meeting in Albuquerque.

Alas, no one noted the healthy mesquite sheltering the happy heifers (drought weaned in August, when the grass was crispy brown), something still somewhat unusual in north-eastern New Mexico. Could this be a harbinger of future climate and vegetation shift?

Do you have a quizzical range photo that might puzzle the pros? Please send with captions c/o vtrujillo@rangelands.org.

Rangeland News Publisher
SRM is looking to hire someone to serve as Publisher of Rangeland News. This would not entail writing articles, collecting information, or serving as editor only formatting the information and placing in the publication. We have a template based in Microsoft Publisher. If interested please send a short letter or e-mail with qualifications, experience, salary requirements, etc. to Ken Johnson in the Wheat Ridge Office.

Ken Johnson, Executive Vice President
Society for Range Management
10030 W 27th Avenue
Wheat Ridge, CO  80215-6601
Fax:  303-986-3892
Email: kjohnson@rangelands.org
### Western Governors’ Association Winter Meeting
**December 16-17**

**Registration Now Open**

Registration is now open for the Western Governors’ Association’s Winter Meeting to be held December 16 and 17 at the Hotel Del Coronado in San Diego, California.

Topics for the plenary sessions include:

- **A Resilient West: Climate Adaptation Strategies** Governors and invited guests will discuss projected impacts in the West from a warming climate and strategies for adapting to such impacts affecting electricity generation, water supplies and key animal and plant habitats.

- **The Integration of Electric Vehicles in the West** The promise of deploying electric vehicles will largely depend upon their availability, improved battery technology and sufficient power. Governors and expert panelists will discuss the benefits of a growing fleet of EVs and their potential impact on generation and transmission planning.

- **The Path to New Transmission Lines** The West has an abundance of resources that could fuel a new energy economy in the region, but the maze of federal, state and industry practices and regulations could hamper needed investment in a clean electric power system. The Governors and invited speakers will discuss these challenges and potential reforms.

- **Crafting the West’s Energy Future** The Governors will consider future generation and transmission scenarios that would enable the West to implement a long-term strategy for achieving clean, secure, reliable and affordable energy while effectively managing water, land and wildlife resources.

Anyone interested in attending the meeting can view the [agenda](https://wga.org) and register by going to the WGA [Web site](https://wga.org). The registration fee is $150 for the public sector and $200 for the private sector through November 20th. After that date, the fee will be $175 for the public sector and $225 for the private sector. The fee for guests and spouses is $100.

Meeting updates will be posted to the WGA [Web site](https://wga.org) as they become available.

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**MEMBERSHIP TASK FORCE**

### Membership Matters – Customizing Our Message

**Note new email address – memtaskforce@rangelands.org**

By Jim Thorpe and Jack Alexander, SRM MTF co-chair and BOD liaison

Having a “SRM presence,” in the form of an informational display or trade show booth, at national meetings and regional events is a good way to both build awareness (and appreciation) for our “brand” and recruit potential new members. As these occasions will vary greatly in terms of their participants (e.g. scientists, students, public, producers or government personnel), a “one size fits all” approach may not be the most effective. As noted earlier in these pages, the SRM MTF has been pilot testing the production of SRM display panels with modular elements that may be customized for particular events and targeted towards particular audiences. Not surprisingly, with today’s desktop publishing tools, it’s not that hard to do (though admittedly it may not be so easy to do well!).

The SRM tabletop display was recently deployed in New Mexico at meetings of the Quivira Coalition, the New Mexico Cattle Growers, and an inaugural “Prairie Partnership” producer event sponsored by the Nature Conservancy. One need not have to google these groups to know that the interests of their constituencies, while somewhat overlapping, are not entirely identical. As reproduced on the left (following page), the first panel for these events was modified as follows:

As the Quivira Coalition meeting was focused on the life and legacy of Aldo Leopold, the panel developed here (left panel on page 15) noted Leopold’s early work on rangelands of the Southwest. A great photograph of Leopold the Range Rider was employed courtesy of the Aldo Leopold Foundation. A month later, at the producer oriented events, the panel (right panel on page 15) was rearranged to highlight activities of the New Mexico Section. Participation at all of these events was co-funded by the NM SRM Section and the SRM Redd Fund (see Ken Johnson’s note on this in the November *Rangeland News*).

These pilot display panels were developed by NM section members and produced by leveraging local resources (outside of volunteered time, lamination was the greatest expense) As shown in the photo, the display was augmented by a continuous laptop showing of the DVDs “Hope on the Range” and “Restore New Mexico;” such A/V enhancements attract attention.

Now that the concept has been demonstrated, steps should be taken to formalize it and facilitate its availability to all sections. Sections may wish to obtain their own display modules (cost can vary from a few hundred dollars on up). Timely procedures should be set up to ensure message consistency with SRM policies while maintaining flexibility and responsiveness by SRM sections. Annual budgets, including national SRM cost-share policies, should be established for such promotional purposes (trade-show participation at events can run from $100 to $1000 or more). And finally, we need to track the effectiveness of these efforts – if we don’t succeed in communicating the many benefits of membership, we surely won’t succeed in sustaining our SRM community.

For a closer look at the display please look on the SRM MTF webpage at rangelands.org. We plan to have this display “on display” at Denver 2010.

As always, we welcome your suggestions, comments, and feedback at memtaskforce@rangelands.org.

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9-8-09 BOD Conference Call Notes/Minutes

in attendance: Don Kirby, Jeff Mosley, Charlie Hart, Ken Johnson, Rick Orr, Jack Alexander, Larry Howery, Sandy Wyman, Jenny Pluhar, Bruce Fox, Linda Coates-Merkle, Misty Hays, Vicky Trujillo

Section Reports on Members' side of website is password protected: already need to be a member to get there, does this section need additional protection? No. Will remove that restriction (K Johnson)

Rangelands Editor (D Kirby)
Steering Committee need to take on bigger role in assisting with duties such as Sponsorship, etc; need to determine what tasks there are and then assign appropriately; possibly assign individual issues of Rangelands to individual Steering Committee members

Approve 2010 annual meeting budget (K Johnson)
Based on 2,000 attendees- 1,600 SRM / 400 WSSA (original budget was based on 800 to cover fixed costs); all income will go into one pot, all expenses will be paid out of that pot, remainder will be split based on percentages of each organizations attendees

(J Alexander) sponsorship opportunities need to be explored which may increase profit

Motion to approve 2010 Annual Meeting Budget (J Mosley)
2nd (R Orr)
Motion approved

BY LAW CHANGES: (K Johnson)

International Membership by-law change:

Motion to accept by-law change regarding International Membership type: (J Alexander)
Proposal to add International Membership class to Article I, Section 2:
Insert
(h) International – A member who both resides in and is a citizen of one of the countries listed on the SRM International Country List. International members shall enjoy full membership rights and privileges, including but not necessarily limited to voting, inclusive rights to subscribe to Society publications, to serve on committees, and nomination and election to office as provided in these bylaws.

2nd (B Fox)
Discussion followed
Motion passed

Rangelands:

Motion to accept by-law change regarding Rangelands and Society publications (J Mosley)
Proposal to change membership dues structure, Article I, Section 2, Paragraph (a), as directed by the Board of Directors regarding Rangelands as a benefit of Regular membership:
Delete
2(a) …inclusive subscription to Rangelands,…
Insert
2(a) …inclusive rights to subscribe to Society publications,…

2nd (S Wyman)
Motion passed

Change audit requirements to every three years

Motion to change current audit wording in by-laws to “as directed by the BOD” (S Wyman)

Proposal to change from an annual audit (a cost of over $18,000/year) to audits at the discretion of the Board of Directors, Article IV, Section 11:
Delete
SECTION 11. The Society shall have an annual audit of income, expenses and business management practices.
Insert
SECTION 11. The Society shall have audits of income, expenses, and business management practices as directed by the Board of Directors.

2nd (B Fox)
Discussion followed
Motion passed (2 dissenting)

Life membership (J Alexander) will compose letter to existing Life Members asking them if they will forgo hard copies of publication under new approved membership structure; future Life Members will be required to conform to current by-law structure; will send to BOD for review and approval before sending to Life Members

Redd Fund guidelines (K Johnson): guidelines for use of Redd Fund monies need to be developed; will send guidelines to BOD for
Jim Thorpe has requested $250 total ($135/per) from Redd Fund to cover ½ cost of booth space/s for 2 upcoming meetings (does not include cost of shipping which is already paid from the fund)

Motion to approve J Thorpe request for Redd Funds (J Mosley)
2nd (S Wyman)
Motion passed

Possible Congressional Panel (K Johnson/L Coates-Markle) – purpose to put together a group of experts to help increase awareness of wildfires and invasives issue; will pull together information for a Hearing in February to attempt to influence appropriations to battle wildfires and invasives; Congressman Raul Grijalva (Chair of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests & Public Lands) is asking for assistance in identifying panel members to help craft the language to present at February hearing; successful hearing would result in development of a Bill to help impact appropriations for these causes

SRM participation will be to identify subject experts via a point of contact (L Howery will be BOD rep; R Orr can assist)

IRWG is doing a short program on the hill regarding the same topic

CPED ESD’s (K Johnson): had opportunity to meet with Ev Byington, Mark Weltz (ARS), Bob Bolton (BLM), Dennis Thompson (NRCS), and others regarding interest in CPED ESD workshops in the spring; they are very interested;

Multi-phase process: first phase-train the trainers to “pilot” the new handbook; second phase-train additional people; will request from participating agencies 2 people to participate on a steering committee to develop curriculum

Electronic bank draft for dues (K Johnson): not possible at this time; looking for alternatives

Broadband for America (K Johnson/Jess Peterson): Is it appropriate for SRM to sign on to something that doesn’t necessarily deal with rangeland issues – too broad?; will it minimize SRM’s impact with other issues?; not something we need to be a part of

Climate Change Synthesis Paper (S Wyman): sent out email from David Briske; please review

Meeting Adjourned

10-6-09 BOD Conference Call Highlights

In attendance: Jack Alexander, Charlie Hart, Ken Johnson, Sandy Wyman, Rick Orr, Don Kirby, Larry Howery, Jack Isaacs, Jenny Pluhar, Linda Coates-Markle, Vicky Trujillo

Motion to accept EX Committees decision to hire Lori Hidinger as Editor-in Chief of Rangelands on a permanent basis based on additional information after previous BOD conference call (S Wyman)
2nd (R Orr)
Motion Passed

Motion to send each life member a letter requesting switch in delivery or donation to offset publication costs, as prepared by the BOD (J Pluhar)
2nd (S Wyman)
Motion Passed

Motion to add 2 new donation categories specifically for Life Members. Funds from these donations will go directly to the annual operating fund and are intended to supplement income from the life membership fund to pay for annual dues for life members:

Option 1: Create "Life Member Dollar per Year of Membership" category. Life members can donate $1 per year of membership to the annual operating budget.

Option 2: Life Member Publication Category. Life members can donate the cost difference between hard copy and electronic copy delivery of SRM publication to the annual operating budget. (Currently $37/yr). (J Alexander)
2nd (J Pluhar)
Motion Passed

Motion to change the way funds from life membership are accounted for. New Life Membership dues will be apportioned so that the value of 1 year’s membership goes to the annual operating budget and the balance goes to the life membership fund. (J Alexander)

2nd (S Wyman)
Motion Passed

Motion to approve proposed Redd Fund guidelines with one amendment: (J Alexander) change cost share split to 75% Redd Fund/ 25% Section for meeting attendance (L Howery)

Motion to accept Allen Press contract (K Johnson)
2nd (C Hart)
Motion Passed
CPED/ESD’s – (K Johnson) – Draft letter attached
   Letter to FS/BLM/NRCS drafted to begin process of selection of committee to develop program; BOD to send any comments or suggestions on letter to K Johnson

Membership Task Force (MTF) (J Alexander)
   MTF asking BOD to create a Native American Task Force within SRM to address on Native American issues; including applying for grants for a long-term outreach program. Task Force will report directly to BOD Liaison.
   Proposal: Establish a SRM working group to investigate how SRM can best serve the needs of an often under-served segment of our rangeland community.
   Short term Goal: Schedule and prepare for an exploratory meeting of key players and constituencies at the Denver 2010 SRM meeting.
   Intermediate Goal: Leverage earlier NMSRM initiatives by lending support to continued regional SW marketing/PR efforts in 2010, including sponsorship of a special segment of "Indian Livestock Days" [re-label as "Range"] spring 2010 at Laguna, NM.
   Long term goal: Enhance the value of an association with SRM, via traditional membership or other TBD arrangements, for Native American nations, tribes, range professionals, producers and grazing associations.
   Action Steps:
      Form a coordinating committee including:
      SRM BOD liaison / Washington DC expertise (Western Skies?) / Agency liaison (Interior, BIA, NRCS?) / Regional SRM coordinators (e.g. SW-Bob Alexander, NW, Northern Plains?) / SRM MTF (Jim Thorpe, and others interested) / Native American representation, regional or national (suggest for SW John Romero of Laguna, but need to check with him prior)

Motion that the BOD supports the creation of a Native American Task Force and appoint a Board Liaison who will work with the Task Force to develop objectives, recruit members, and report to the BOD (J Alexander)
   2nd (J Pluhar)
   Motion Passed
   J Pluhar will be BOD Liaison

Motion to establish a subcommittee under the Annual Meeting Committee to focus on Annual Meeting Sponsorship (S Wyman)
   2nd (J Alexander)
   Motion Passed

Motion to establish a subcommittee under the Annual Meeting Committee to focus on Trade Show Coordination (J Alexander)
   2nd (R Orr)
   Motion Passed

Annual Meeting update (K Johnson)
   2010 is in good shape; an article update will come out in November Rangeland News

Outreach and Leadership Development Coordinator (K Johnson)
   Position to take the place of meetings coordinator; position has been offered to someone; hoping position will be filled within the next few weeks

Excellence in Range Management Poster (L Howery J Alexander)
   Synergy Resources has offered to donate funds for the winner of this category for 2010; Awards Committee should be working with Membership Task Force (MTF)

Capital Updates (J Alexander)
   Email list is increasing; is sending updates; J Alexander and J Peterson will do updates for the monthly newsletter

PLC report (R Orr)
   Attended PLC meeting and sent out update; suggestions from PLC to SRM on how we can assist them in getting information out through taking the lead in synthesis articles, bringing together the state of the art of the science and putting it in laymen’s terms; also suggested having an issue of Rangelands sponsored to target specifically producers taking science applying it on the ground; NV Section is doing something similar by sponsoring articles in Progressive Rancher magazine, www.progressiverancher.com
   Thanked by J Eisenberg for SRM participation in Conservation Through Ranching Coalition
   Discussed Equal Access to Justice Act and how it is used by groups
Lost Resources—Imanuel Noy-Meir
2 February 1941 – 6 October 2009

Imanuel Noy-Meir was born in Colonia Avigdor, Entre Rios, Argentina. His family fled from Germany in 1938 and his father and grand-father, who were lawyers in the land of their birth, turned to agriculture in Argentina as a way of life. The family emigrated to Israel in 1950, to live in an agricultural village in the western Galilee. Imanuel studied plant physiology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem but switched to ecology for his doctorate at the Australian National University in Canberra. His thesis on the arid vegetation of South West Australia was one of the first large scale studies that used component analysis to determine the relations between vegetation communities and environmental conditions. He went on to expand the application of novel mathematical methods to vegetation study. On his return to the Hebrew University, he wrote a series of widely cited papers on desert ecosystems and participated in the editing of a number of comprehensive books on desert ecology.

A significant portion of Imanuel’s research related to systems in which grazing is a central process. In 1975 he published a seminal paper on the application of predator-prey models to the stability of grazing systems, a paper that gave a comprehensive explanation to many previously puzzling interactions between grazing animals and pasture vegetation. Imanuel’s contributions to the Journal of Range Management spanned three decades. Most notably, his 1989 paper with Mark Westoby and Brian Walker of Australia introduced the concept of State and Transition to vegetation analysis, a concept that underlies much of the vegetation analysis of the Western Rangelands today. This is by far the most-cited paper published in the Journal of Range Management or Rangeland Ecology and Management since records are available.

Imanuel taught landscape ecology at the Hebrew University, conducted research on a wide range of ecological topics and supervised students in many areas of range, forest and landscape research and management. He conducted joint research with many range scientists in the United States, Australia and Europe. In recent years, he spent much time in Argentina at the University of Cordoba. Complications during heart surgery led to his untimely death. He is survived by his current wife, his three children, his sisters and a brother.

3 Based on ISI Web of Science database spanning volume 20 (1967) to date (November 2009).

2010 Rangeland Job Fair
Sunday February 7th, 2010
10 am-6 pm
at the
63rd SRM Annual Meeting and Trade Show in Denver, Colorado

Just as rangelands are diverse, so are related careers. Just look at the SRM membership as an example of this diversity! In order to better match job opportunities with job seekers, SRM will once again expand professional employment efforts at their 2010 Annual Meeting and Trade Show to be held at the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel, Denver, Colorado.

This is a free service for SRM members and Trade Show participants.
Reservations are required by interested employers.
Prospective employees are invited to attend free of charge!

2010 JOB FAIR
Our mission is to match prospective employers from the federal agencies, state and provincial governments, private industry, academia, and conservation organizations with the high caliber of educated and enthusiastic prospects from SRM membership. We also hope to recruit potential employers from non-traditional sources such as the military. Attendance at the joint meetings this year is expected to be between 1000-1500 people; 25 percent of which may be students and young professionals.

The job fair will involve a full day on Sunday February 7, 2010. Registered employers will be provided space (6-ft table) to display employment information, distribute vacancy announcements and interact with job seekers in a large exposition area. We will encourage all interested meeting attendees to drift through and browse the JOB FAIR between other scheduled activities, meetings and workshops. We do expect that all participants staff their tables/displays and be prepared to answer questions.

REGISTRATION FOR EMPLOYERS
To register for the 2010 RANGELAND JOB FAIR, please print, complete and return the reservation form that is available on-line. Reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first served basis, and space is limited. The deadline for receipt of all reservations is Friday January 15, 2010. On-site reservations may be accepted, depending on available space, and will require payment of a $100 late fee.

Program information and reservation forms are available on the SRM website at: http://www.rangelands.org/jobfair.shtml or please feel free to contact the JOB FAIR Coordinator, Linda Coates-Markle, BLM Liaison to SRM at: lcmath@rangelands.org and/or 303-986-3309.

Please do your part to promote the range profession and encourage your favorite employer to reserve a booth for the 2010 RANGELAND JOB FAIR! See you there!
### Upcoming Functions & Continuing Education Pre-Approved Courses

Below is a calendar of functions that have been pre-approved for SRM Continuing Education Units (CEUs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 1</td>
<td>Petaluma, CA</td>
<td>Grazing Livestock &amp; Water Quality: Options &amp; Solutions for CA Rangelands</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 8-9</td>
<td>Grand Junction, CO</td>
<td>2009 CWMA Conference: Awareness to Action</td>
<td>13(t-8/w-5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 13-16</td>
<td>Reno, NV</td>
<td>4th National Conference on Grazing Lands</td>
<td>16 max</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 16-17</td>
<td>Coronado, CA</td>
<td>Western Governors Assn 2009 Winter Mtg</td>
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<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Early Career Skills Workshop for Rangeland Mgmt Specialists</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 4-7</td>
<td>Kingsville, TX</td>
<td>KRIRM Gus T. Canales Prescribed Burning Lectureship</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 13-15</td>
<td>Boise, ID</td>
<td>ID Section Winter Annual Meeting</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 18-20</td>
<td>Prescott, AZ</td>
<td>AZ Section Winter Mtg - Livestock Wildlife Native Fish Interactions: What Do We Think We Know?</td>
<td>11 ttl(d1-7/d2-4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 7-11, 2010</td>
<td>Denver, CO</td>
<td>63rd Annual Meeting of the SRM Joint with the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA)</td>
<td>16 max</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 11, 2010</td>
<td>Denver, CO</td>
<td>AM10-THUR SYMP Open Space Grasslands Science &amp; Management</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 6-10, 2011</td>
<td>Billings, MT</td>
<td>64th Annual Meeting of the SRM</td>
<td>16 max</td>
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**Rangeland Careers—It’s All About the Future!**

The demand for professionals who can manage rangelands is currently very high. Nearly all students graduating with degrees in range science & management are finding opportunities for jobs. Many mid-career professionals also appear to be switching to rangeland management as a second career choice. Though the demand for quality new recruits appears high, there also appears to be a decreasing supply of job-ready seniors from university programs.

The Society for Range Management (SRM) is concerned about the future management of rangelands. We are especially concerned about the future of the workforce dedicated to managing these lands. Information from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) reveals that at least 25-33% of the workforce currently classified as “Rangeland Management Specialists” (i.e. 454-series) within the US Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will likely retire in the next 10 years. Who will fill their shoes?

In efforts to continue to address these concerns, SRM plans to once again expand its job hiring and career development opportunities at the 2010 63rd SRM Annual Meeting and Trade Show in Denver, Colorado February 7-11, 2010. This will be a joint meeting with the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA).

Preliminary information and scheduling for planned activities, including the popular Agency-on-the-Spot Hiring Programs, can be found at: [http://www.rangelands.org/jobfair_rangelandcareers.shtml](http://www.rangelands.org/jobfair_rangelandcareers.shtml).

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**Taste of Colorado Social**

Wed, Feb 10, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Colorado Convention Center

John Stulp, Colorado Agriculture Commissioner, will be your host, along with the SRM Meeting Planning Committee and Colorado Section. For dinner, we proudly present a collage of foods from Colorado beef, lamb, pork and vegetables to Colorado wines and beers. Complimentary wine and beer will be served. You'll enjoy the sounds of “Cowboy” at the pre-dinner reception (6:00 – 7:00 pm) and after dinner listening/dancing.

Purchase your ticket online today! Tickets are just $35/Adult and $25/Student.
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<th>Section</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>Matthew A Kennedy</td>
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<td>Aaron J Michalewicz</td>
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