

Rangeland News
July 2008, Volume 61, Number 7

Society for Range Management
10030 West 27th Avenue
Wheat Ridge, CO 80215
(303) 986-3309
info@rangelands.org

Board of Directors Monthly Meeting Notice
Monthly Conference Call

The Board holds a monthly conference call on the 2nd Tuesday at 11:00 am Mountain Time. It has been cancelled for July due to the International Rangeland and International Grasslands Congresses. The next scheduled call will be August 12.

~~~~~  
Washington, DC - 1st Vice President Don Kirby

I had my first SRM experience in Washington, DC last May. It was a long time in coming as I had had two trips scheduled for 2007 cancelled for one reason or another. Due to the cancellations and no flight insurance, I paid for first class accommodations but sat in economy. Luck of the Kirbys' I guess.

The Washington schedule was developed by John Tanaka, Allen Rasmussen, Linda Coates-Markle, Cindy McArthur, and suggestions by Board members and the Denver staff. In retrospect, I believe it was a very productive visit. One very positive outcome of the trip was that, despite how hard the DC drivers tried, they were not able to make a hood ornament out of this trail-worn North Dakotan. However, there were moments when I thought I might have been in Spain attempting to out run the (metal) bulls.

Now to get at the heart of this travelogue, a day-to-day description of the trip. Monday May 19 started with catching the Metro subway to attend the spring meeting of the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation at the American Geophysical Union building. I'm not sure of the exact number of members in the Foundation, but there were representatives from eight nonprofit conservation organizations at the meeting. Most of these organizations had offices in DC. The discussions centered around recommending priorities to a new administration in DC, opportunities for sharing information, and opportunities for collaborative activities. Various conservation subjects were discussed and during the discussion one quote I remember (from Mark Twain) was "Whiskey's for drinking, water's for fighting". Guess M.T. had his priorities in order. In the afternoon we met with Maggie Beal, the Agriculture Legislative Assistant to Senator John Barrasso of Wyoming. Senator Barrasso is knowledgeable and concerned about global climate change. We delivered a letter of invitation for Senator Barrasso to speak at a Climate Change Workshop in Cheyenne, WY this September, sponsored by the USDA and SRM. Lastly, we visited with Ralph Crawford, USDA Forest Service. Ralph informed us of the research and development emphasis of the Service. He also made suggestions on how the Society could provide politicians and agency heads with scientific-based information by which to make sound decisions. Two suggestions he made to SRM were providing specific briefing papers on

issues such as climate change and sponsoring seminar series' for aides on "the hill". These activities would promote SRM's credibility and visibility in DC.

May 20, day 2, was extremely busy starting with a meeting with the Secretary of Agriculture, Ed Schafer, Undersecretary Mark Rey, and NRCS Chief Arlen Lancaster. We presented them with an SRM drought letter, and one page handouts detailing SRM activities and rangeland research needs. Next we visited with, in succession, Ed Robeson, Assistant Director of Renewable Resources and Planning, BLM; Christina Muedeking, Regional Assistant Chief, NRCS Central Region; Ralph Otto, Associate Administrator, USDA CSREES; Jeff Eisenberg and Dustin Van Liew, National Cattlemen's Beef Association; Utah Congressman Rob Bishop; and Joel Holtrop, Deputy Chief USDA Forest Service, National Forest System. Our discussions with each centered on climate change, carbon sequestration, CPED activities, CPRM availability, agency employee membership in professional societies, rangeland research needs, and numerous other topics specific to the agency. My first impression upon meeting with each of these individuals was wariness on their part. "What did we want?" However, after we explained who we were and why we asked for an audience which was to serve as a source of information, training, and education materials for rangelands, their wariness turned to "Where have you been?"

Our last day, Wednesday May 21, was filled with office visits again. We met with Tony Tooke, a USDA Global Climate Change specialist; David Whittekiend (Craig's son) and Rick Cooksey, USDA Forest Service Legislative Affairs Specialists; and seven USDI BLM staff including Linda Coates-Markle and Bob Bolton by phone. Again, the majority of these meetings centered on the SRM leadership gathering and dispensing information concerning climate change, carbon credits and offsets, legislative strategies for SRM to be more effective for policy makers, and writing and exchanging effective briefing papers. We also had discussions of the BLM's Healthy Lands Initiative and Assessment, Inventory and Monitoring Strategy, and distributed SRM information on the CPED program, CPRM, the Climate Change Workshop, the December 2008 CPED program on Wildfires and Invasive Species in the American Deserts, and rangeland research needs.

Whew! As you have read, they were a busy three days. I had the impression that everyone we met with were happy to see us in Washington and would like to see the SRM play a larger role in policy making concerning rangelands and natural resources. Speaking for myself, I feel fortunate to have John and Allen representing SRM and our interests. John may not have known everyone we met with, but those he had met before showed a distinct respect for him. Allen also did not know everyone but he knew his way around this big city and, as I found out, has a gift of gab that fits in our capital. Finally, I want to say a big thank you to those that made this trip so successful. Thank you John, Allen, Linda, Cindy, the Board and Denver staff.

~~~~~  
Executive Vice President Report - John Tanaka, Interim EVP

What a great month it has been! The Board of Directors met here in Wheat Ridge, interviewed EVP candidates, selected and hired a new EVP (Ken

Johnson), and then had their Board meeting. All I can say is that it was a busy and productive week. I am really looking forward to Ken starting the position in September for a couple of reasons.

First, I believe he will be the stable force to move the Society into the future; and second, I get to go home with the feeling that the Society will be in good hands.

I know there was some frustration by some members that it appeared that the search committee and the Board of Directors did this search in secrecy. I can attest that they tried to be as open as possible but there were personnel issues involved both on our side and on the side of the people that applied. We didn't want to lose a good candidate over public announcements. I would like to thank the search committee, the Board, and everyone that applied.

The Board also approved the annual meeting location for 2011. It will be in Billings, MT with Tammy DeCock and Todd Yeager as General Co-Chairs. The Board also approved investigating the possibility of holding a joint meeting with the American Forage and Grassland Council and the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative in March 2013. Nothing is set, this is just in the exploratory phase. The other two groups have to approve the idea before we go any further.

The Board of Directors did vote to continue 6 issues of Rangelands (reversing their earlier decision to go to 4 issues). We have discussed and written about Rangelands for several years. I believe the latest discussions the task force report began were a healthy thing. It really forced all involved to look towards the future of where we wanted Rangelands to be and also what we wanted it to be. I'd personally like to thank all the members who weighed in on these discussions through the task force, Rangelands steering committee, Advisory Council, section members, Allen Press, and the Board members. We are moving forward. The Board has also given authority to the steering committee to set direction for Rangelands, recommend a new editor-in-chief, find and appoint Associate Editors, and work on finding sponsors and advertisers. If you have ideas or leads on any of these, I'm sure they'd like to hear from you (or maybe you'd like to volunteer to be involved).

The Center for Professional Education and Development is continuing to move forward. We are co-sponsoring "Climate Change in Western Rangelands" in Cheyenne, WY on Sept. 4 and "Wildfire and Invasive Plants in American Deserts" in Reno, NV on Dec. 9-11. We are receiving more proposals to co-sponsor training events and those are being evaluated.

Lastly, I need to publicly apologize to the Arizona Section for any confusion I caused. I am still learning this job and have made a few missteps lately. It probably comes from the shoot from hip mentality of let's get things moving. As we figure out the new world of how annual meetings will be hosted and sites selected, there are a lot of questions. One thing that is probably certain, if we want to put meetings under one space with the number of concurrent sessions and activities that we have, is that there are very few places in the western U.S. that can host us at a price we want to pay with the space we want. In my hurry to identify places for meeting sites in 2011 and 2012, I talked to a lot of people. Billings turned out to be the only place we could get a bid from for 2011 to meet our needs. The city also really wants us to be there and if all works out, we could be the largest convention they have ever hosted.

That left 2012. Conference Direct, the company we contract with to negotiate meeting locations, looked at several locales from which to

solicit bids. Some were out of our price range, others declined to submit bids since they did not think their facilities matched our needs, and fortunately some did bid. Once we knew which cities were even in the realm of possibility, sections were contacted by the Advisory Council leadership. Two things happened. First, I had talked to some sections prior to getting bids to see if they were interested, but not all potential sections. For example, we thought Tucson would be an excellent place to go in February and I talked to the Arizona Section president as well as others down there. Well, it turned out that they are building a hotel near their convention center and remodeling the center, but it is scheduled to be completed right about the time of our meeting. I decided that it was too much of a risk to try to host a meeting at a site that might be ready in time and crossed it off the list. I forgot to tell the Arizona Section that and for that I am truly sorry. I really hope we can get to Tucson as soon as their building is done.

The second thing that is happening is that we are backwards from the "way we've always done it." The 3 cities that submitted bids are not ones that the sections were contacted for until after the bids came in. They are our only options for 2012 that meet the space needs, hotel rooms and rates, and travel requirements. So, we as a Society have a couple of options. (1) I can beg and plead for a section to take this on, (2) I can beg and plead for multiple sections to take this on, or (3) we can lead it out of the headquarters office and beg and plead for members to step up and take on specific tasks. I don't know what the best solution is; I just know our options are limited. I can tell you there are many cities that would love to have us if we want \$300 a night hotel rooms and \$60,000+ fees for the convention center (start thinking \$400 registration fees). Our members have told us that neither of those are acceptable options.

I have been told that I have insulted some sections, shown lack of respect for some sections, and just generally ticked off everyone because I didn't do it the right way. While I take total responsibility for all that, I do have one thought to try to get us thinking about this in terms of rangeland management. Have any of you run into the land owner, manager, recreationist, or anyone that does things the way their grandfather or mother did it regardless of what you know to be the most up-to-date management techniques? What is your response? I believe we are at the same crossroad with our annual meeting.

My last thought on this (well, probably not the last thought) is that we are not trying to build empires here in the headquarters office. The entire staff is dedicated to trying to provide the best service we can to you, our members. We have to find ways to put on the annual meeting that are cost-effective for our members and their employers, utilize the talents of our staff, and provide continued excellent training and learning opportunities. It comes down to trust, either you trust that the staff that you are paying for are trying their best or you don't. It really is that simple.

I didn't start out to be so long-winded, but this is an important issue that we have to figure out. If you have any thoughts on any of these topics, please send them to me. Sooner is better than later because as I've said, these decisions will be made and they'll be made as soon as possible. It is hard to change the course of a large ship (or any bureaucracy) and I've been pushing on this one for the last seven

years. I only have a few months left and plan to work with all involved in that time to chart the course for the future of this Society.

~~~~~  
We Need Your Help!

I hope you have noticed the difference in the newsletter. I get a few comments each month and have tried to adapt the newsletter to meet our members' needs. We now produce 3 versions for electronic distribution. The smallest at about 50k is small enough that it should download on dial-up accounts without choking your system. The largest has been around 2 MB that you should have high speed to download. The middle is around 250k that we print and mail to our members that either do not have internet access or will not give us their email. That is where we need your help.

We are spending around \$6-8,000 per year to continue printing and mailing our newsletter. We want to keep our members apprised of all that is going on and really want you to get whatever form will work best for you. While the \$6-8,000 is well spent for this, they are funds that could be spent on other projects to further our vision and mission. If you will provide an email address in your personal profile, we can reduce these costs. Log into the "members only" side of the website and update your information. You'll be doing a little thing to help out the Society. You'll also get to receive RangeFlashes...we don't send those out any other way. If you don't know how to log in, send an email to Paige at pgerbitz@rangelands.org and she should be able to help you out.

~~~~~  
The Importance of a Professional Profile

By Dan Simmons and Don Hunter
Reprinted from the Animal Science Monitor (www.animalsciencemonitor.com),
June 4, 2008, Issue 60.

If you're under 30, this is a MUST READ article. If you're like us—fondly remembering the age of 30— you might wonder what all the hype is about, but you can read along, too. This could be very important to your kids.

Recently, corporate America has started checking social networks as part of their background checks. Social networks such as MySpace, Facebook (or LinkedIn for the more mature crowd) are being reviewed during the interview process. If you have an account with one of these, the next time you post either text or pictures to it, you should ask yourself these questions:

Would I send this to my boss in an email?

Would I send this to a prospective employer in an email?

If the answer to these questions is "No," then perhaps you should re-consider the way in which you handle your social networking. The reason is simple. More and more employers are finding out information regarding candidates—not to mention current employees—by searching for them on social networking sites and on the Internet in general.

Pro-active vs. reactive

According to a recent study conducted by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), 11.1% of employers are using MySpace, Facebook, and/or other networking sites in order to discover more information about current and prospective employees. But wait, there's

more. Over 60% of those polled also said that the information they uncovered ultimately had some influence on their hiring decisions.

And here's something important to remember about these numbers: they're only going to go higher. Social networks are here to stay, and the number of people using them increases every day. What can begin as a novelty or a fun way to get to know people can have disastrous consequences if it prevents you from landing the job you've always wanted . . . or leads to your dismissal from your current position.

The key is to be pro-active about the situation, as opposed to reactive. That way, you can reduce the chances that you'll have to perform damage control down the road, as well as the chances that you could be passed over for a new job, even though you appear to be a perfect fit for it.

'Googling yourself'

Your first step is to conduct an online inventory of yourself. In other words, identify everywhere you're located on the Internet and make sure that those areas won't harm you in any way. You can start by doing the following:

"Google" yourself. Type your name into the search engine box, hit "enter," and see what comes back. If you have a common name, like Joe Smith, then you may have to wade through a bunch of people who aren't you. (Which means that a company official would have to do the same thing.) Use applicable variations, such as Joseph Smith; Joe Smith; Joseph L. Smith, Ph.D.; etc. If you have accounts with social networking sites, meticulously review all of the information that you have on those sites. Use the two questions we posed at the beginning of the article to help you determine if the information is okay or if it should be pulled. If there's any question in your mind, take it down immediately.

Avoid being guilty by association. Did you attend a party recently where people were taking pictures? If so, those pictures could be on somebody's Flickr account right now—and you might not even know it. The last thing you need is for a company official to see you enjoying yourself a little too much at a party. Contact anybody you know who might post such pictures to their photo-sharing account.

Personal and professional

There's good news in all of this. You ultimately control the information on the Internet about yourself, so you can use company officials' rising propensity for mining the Internet to your advantage. In fact, you can almost use it as an extension of your resume. Okay, we know what you're thinking: "Hey, these are supposed to be social networking sites. They're not supposed to be for work."

True, but as you well know, the way things are supposed to be and the way things are can often be quite different, and that's certainly the case in this instance. Now, we're not suggesting that these sites become all work and no play. We're suggesting that you approach them in a slightly different fashion, with the expectation that they will one day be viewed by a prospective employer (or your current employer). View this as an opportunity for them to get to know you better, but in a way that will further entice them to want to hire you. It's possible to be personal, while remaining professional at the same time.

As the Internet evolves and becomes more and more a part of people's lives—including their employment lives—be prepared to make that evolution work for you in a positive fashion . . . instead of surprising you in a negative one.

~~~~~  
Preparing for Your First Job or Making a Job Change

By Dan Simmons

Reprinted from the Animal Science Monitor ([www.animalsciencemonitor.com](http://www.animalsciencemonitor.com)),  
June 4, 2008, Issue 60

If you invest in a mutual fund, you'll come across this disclaimer: past performance does not assure future performance. The same holds true with people. However, managers definitely want to hire candidates who have a demonstrated track record of success because when it comes to people, past performance is usually an indicator of future success.

When you prepare for an interview, document your successes beforehand and then be ready to discuss them. Below are some other tips that will help to prepare you for your next career move.

Line up your references. One simple way to do this is to stay in touch with your professors, colleagues, and prior supervisors throughout your career. A well-networked professional with good references will always beat out one without them.

Know who you are... Knowing who you are is a gift that you give yourself. I recommend that you take a little time and get to understand who you are and what you want. This does not mean take the next year off and travel Europe finding yourself. I mean take a weekend and give considerable thought to what you want out of life. Talk with those most dear to you and those whose opinion you trust and ask for their help in understanding your strengths, weaknesses, abilities, and values. Put all this together and then find the cultural match for you.

...and what you really want. About half of recent college graduates leave their first job in less than 12 months. Why do you think that is? There are two reasons. The first is that companies often don't screen candidates for cultural fit and passion. The bigger reason is that the grad wants a JOB and doesn't stop to consider who they are and how they'll fit into the working world.

This is also true of some people in the later stages of their careers. This explains why about half of America is always passively looking for a new job. Find out who you are and where you can fit. I hope that you find you can happily fit into a few roles. Then chase them, focusing on the one about which you're the most passionate.

Be prepared to answer situational questions, not simply "yes" and "no" ones. Behavioral interviewing is in vogue, and you should be prepared to answer questions such as, "If we wanted you to accomplish X and provided Y and Z, how would you proceed?" That question isn't just for jobs in a lab; you might get that same type of question in a sales role or a supervisory role in manufacturing. Be prepared to draw upon your education and work experience to provide examples of your accomplishments, and be prepared to relate them to future situations.

Determine your goals, not just in the workplace, but in life. Then ask questions about the job, corporate culture, and career path. This will allow you to choose a job that fits your goals and values.

Understand that in most jobs, you're providing value to a customer. This could be an internal customer or an external customer. Let me give you an example. In farming, the customer might be the packing company, while in academia, it's the student. In industry research, it's the sales staff. In marketing, it's the sales staff. In government, it is

often industry. Come to the workforce prepared to provide value to the customer, and come to the interview with that same mindset.

Read books that will help you to be a better professional and a better person. Read books on self-improvement, your industry, your skill set, and your faith. Let's pretend that you had to hire one of two people, and you asked each person to list the last three books they've read. The first one listed three Harlequin romance novels, and the other one listed How to Win Friends and Influence People by Dale Carnegie, The Effective Executive by Peter Drucker, and a biography about Ben Franklin.

Which would impress you?

To paraphrase Ben, investing your time and money in yourself is money well spent.

~~~~~  
Come to Albuquerque in February

Want to get away for a while? Want to have a great time visiting with old friends? Want to learn something new? Do you like being a winner? You deserve to have it all - come on down to the Society for Range Management meeting on the banks of the mighty Rio Grande, February 8-12, 2009.

The New Mexico Section is excited about the opportunities to showcase New Mexico culture, science and innovation - the appropriate theme for the meeting. If you are tired of bad weather, you will be pleased to know we have good weather planned for the entire week and we are planning on you coming. New Mexico is known as the Land of Enchantment but it is also known for its warm winters and sunshine. You will love it as we do.

Speaking of friends, where else will you find such a diversity of rangeland interests from many nations including land managers, ecologists, ranchers, erosion control specialists, educators and scientists, and decision makers in state and federal government agencies. New Mexico has a history of bringing many individuals from "out there" to the state via its trail systems. The trails have included the Loving, Goodnight, Santa Fe, Camino Real, Spanish and many others. The latest trail is the "Roadrunner." The Roadrunner is New Mexico's version of the "Bullet Train." It's faster than the ox cart we used in the past. But never fear, you can get to the meeting via walking, car, bus, train, and airplane. It's your choice!

Oh yes, talk about learning - opportunities abound. We will have a trade show, enlightening speeches, scientific papers and tours lined up. We have tours planned to showcase New Mexico rangeland science and application programs. If you are looking for "Bang for your buck," one tour includes a chance to see the Trinity Site. The Trinity Site is home for America's first atomic bomb explosion.

Put us on your calendar, there are a number of your friends counting on you coming to Albuquerque. Information concerning the meeting is available at <http://www.srmmeetings.org> ... Bob Alexander and Tom Bartlett, Co-Chairs of the 2009 SRM Annual Meeting Committee.

~~~~~  
Grazing Strategies or Systems: Ecological Process Management  
December 2-4, 2008  
Fort Collins, CO

Colorado Section SRM and many other co-sponsors. Watch for more information.

~~~~~  
New Approaches to Managing Semi-arid Grasslands: Promoting Habitat Diversity While Supporting Livestock Production
October 8-9, 2008
Cheyenne, WY

Society for Range Management, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, The Nature Conservancy of Wyoming, Wyoming Audubon, and Environmental Defense Fund

~~~~~  
A Workshop and Field Day for Discussing its Relevance to Ranchers, Public Land Managers, and Society

Global climate change has been called one of the most pressing environmental challenges of our times. Not surprisingly, this pronouncement has been fiercely debated among various experts and interest groups, in terms of both the reality and accuracy of the prediction, and the overall impact of climate change compared to other pressing matters. In 2007, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its 4th Assessment Report, a description by the world's top scientists of the nature of climate change, and its likely impacts on Earth and its inhabitants. This and many other similar reports that have been issued in recent months indicate an emerging consensus among scientists that human-induced climate change is a reality, and that it is underway.

The most catastrophic outcomes of climate change which have been featured in the popular press include global warming, melting of the ice caps and consequent flooding of low-lying regions around the world, loss of coral reefs, and increased severe weather activity. While these are certainly high priority concerns, there are many other potential impacts of climate change, some of which have important consequences for western rangelands, a region that is not often featured in media presentations about climate change. Evidence suggests that rangelands have already been affected by global change. Intelligent management of these lands must include an understanding of what has already happened due to climate, and what's in store for the future.

Researchers in Colorado and Wyoming have been at the fore-front of climate change research over the past two decades, and have compiled a strong knowledge base on local aspects of climate change, including the expected consequences for the region. However, this information has been disseminated primarily at professional society meetings, scientific journals, and through national and international climate change reports. Less time has been spent talking to folks who are more directly impacted by climate change, the land managers. To share this knowledge and advance our regional understanding of climate change and its potential consequences for rangelands, the USDA-ARS, University of Wyoming, and Colorado State University, in partnership with the Society for Range Management, are hosting Climate Change in Western Rangelands, a half-day workshop to be held in Cheyenne, WY on Thursday, September 4, followed by a field tour of an on-going climate change experiment at the High Plains Grasslands Research Station near Cheyenne, WY.

The morning workshop will feature presentations by climate change experts and discussion sessions among attending scientists, ranchers, public land managers, NGOs, policy makers and the general public on the latest knowledge of climate change and what it means for rangelands. Research is already underway evaluating current rangeland practices for their ability to cope with a changing climate and reduce their contributions to greenhouse gas emissions. The degree to which this research will be accepted and implemented, and the degree to which it can contribute to prudent global change policy, will depend on how well land managers and the general public understand these issues. Our goal is to provide information on climate change that is specifically tailored to western rangelands, and thereby to help people with an interest in these ecosystems to participate in this important discussion.

In the afternoon, the group will have the opportunity to visit an on-going and unique climate change field experiment, the Prairie Heating and CO<sub>2</sub> Enrichment (PHACE), Experiment which is evaluating the consequences of rising atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), warming, and altered precipitation patterns on a northern mixed-grass prairie. The research is a collaborative effort among USDA-ARS, University of Wyoming and Colorado State University scientists, and is being conducted at the High Plains Grasslands Research Station, near Cheyenne, WY. Visitors to PHACE will be able to view the experiment; meet individual project scientists, technicians, and students; talk to them about their particular climate change research; and learn more about how scientists construct experiments to understand climate change and its impacts on rangelands.

The release last year of the IPCC's 4th assessment report has essentially ended the debate on whether human-induced climate change is occurring, and has turned our attention to better understanding the nature of climate change and what can we do about it. The Climate Change in Western Rangelands workshop and field day will give all concerned the opportunity to learn more about this phenomenon, including why it matters, and to begin discussions on how we can address it. How will climate change affect drought, forage production and quality, species composition, and other aspects of rangeland ecosystems? Join us for a workshop exploring these questions, including presentations from experts in climate change and rangeland ecology, and a field tour of one of world's few experiments to measure effects of both warming and carbon dioxide enrichment.

September 4th, 2008  
9:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Cheyenne, WY  
Little America Hotel  
(2800 W. Lincolnway, Junction of I-25 and I-80)

The field tour will be at the USDA-ARS High Plains Grasslands Research Station, which is celebrating its 80th year of agricultural research.

8:00 am Check in  
8:30 am Welcome and opening remarks  
9:00 am Presentations by David Williams and Steve Gray(UW), Alan Knapp(CSU), Jack Morgan(ARS), and Linda Joyce(FS), followed by a panel discussion  
12:00 pm Lunch (provided)

1:30-4:00 pm Experiment tour (transportation provided)

The field site can be very windy. Please dress accordingly.

Advance Registration Required:

[www.rangelands.org/zencart](http://www.rangelands.org/zencart)

Registration is \$20, free for full-time ranchers (courtesy of the Society for Range Management)

Participation will be limited to the first 200 registrants.

For more information, please contact Ann Heckart. Phone: 307-772-2433

ext. 100, E-mail: [Ann.Heckart@ars.usda.gov](mailto:Ann.Heckart@ars.usda.gov)

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/News.htm?modecode=54-09-00-00>

~~~~~  
Overcoming Nature Deficit Disorder

By Cynthia McArthur

Forest Service Liaison to the Society for Range Management

Shortly after moving to Washington D.C., I came to the shocking realization that with very little effort, I could spend an entire day without ever going outside. Many offices now function as virtual indoor cities. For example, the Department of Agriculture building offers restaurants, a post office, barber shop, medical center, police station, gift shop, exercise gym, child care center, dry cleaning services, shoe maker and even watch repair. In addition to these conveniences, there is a complex network of tunnels linking the Department to many other buildings and the Metro Rail (D.C.'s more civilized version of the subway). Adapting to an indoor lifestyle is something I was not prepared to do. For years working as a Range Management Specialist, my daily activities were dictated and inspired by the natural world. Now, without conscious efforts, I may unintentionally join the millions of people who suffer from Nature Deficit Disorder.

"Growing evidence shows that today's children are gravitating away from outdoor experiences and towards a virtual indoor reality. This disconnect from nature has serious long-term implications for the health and well-being of our nation's children and the future stewardship of our public lands. Young people who grow up without a connection to nature may lack the knowledge, skills, abilities or inspiration to seek careers in natural resources and land management, an understanding of the dynamic environmental processes and the role human behavior plays in them, or awareness of the value of public lands."

<http://www.fs.fed.us/kidsclimatechange/kids.shtml>

According to a study by the Kaiser Family Foundation, the average American child spends more than six hours a day, forty four hours per week staring at electronic screens. Children who watch significant amounts of television are more likely to be obese, violent and less intelligent than children who spend an hour a day outside.

How can we as rangeland professionals help to combat the symptoms of Nature Deficit Disorder?

First, invite others to explore rangelands with you. The Wyoming Resource Education Days (WyRED) allows students and adults to spend a week on a historic working ranch. This year, 53 students and adults

learned about: range management, geology, soils, plant physiology, plant identification, ecological sites, range utilization, water quality, riparian ecology, wildlife interactions, weed control and fire ecology. Barry Crago, owner of the Willow Creek Ranch, took the group on a historic tour of the area, pointing out old teepee rings, the stagecoach trail, a buffalo jump, and Hole in the Wall, the actual hideout for Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid!

Anita Bartlett, District Manager for the Powder River Conservation District explains that the goal of WyRED is to teach students the importance of natural resources. "We want them to understand how to manage the natural resources to preserve them for future generations."

Professional expertise for WyRED was provided by: the Natural Resource Conservation Services, University of Wyoming Professors and Extension Services, Soil Water Conservation Districts, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Northeast Sage Grouse Coalition and Anadarko Petroleum Company-Reclamation Analysis. WyRED generous sponsors include: Powder River Conservation District, Wyoming Section of Society for Range Management, Willow Creek Ranch, Anadarko Petroleum Company, Powder River Energy Company, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Wyoming Department of Agriculture, University of Wyoming, Wyoming Private Grazing Lands Team, First National Bank of Buffalo, Wyoming Ag in the Classroom. To learn more about WyRED please visit <http://www.prcd.us> or www.willowcreekranch.com

Second, take nature into the classroom. My husband and I recently spent the day with preschool children from the Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center in Washington D.C.

The children worked together to build their own ecosystems. Each student was assigned an important role to play including water, air, soil, and all types of insects, plants, animals and people. To demonstrate our connection to nature, students passed the end of a string from one friend to another, finally making what looked like a giant web. Students then thought about what they can do to help preserve our important natural resources.

"Within the space of a few decades, the way children understand and experience nature has changed radically. How the young respond to nature, and how they raise their own children, will shape the configurations and conditions of our cities, homes -our daily lives (Richard Louv, Last Child in the Woods, 2008)."

~~~~~

Hold That Date!

Wildfires and Invasive Plants in the  
American Deserts  
December 9-11, 2008  
Reno, Nevada  
The Grand Sierra Resort and Casino

You are invited to a workshop to be held in Reno, NV that is designed to investigate the interactions among invasive plants and the changing fire regimes in the Sonoran, Chihuahuan, Mohave, Great Basin, and Colorado Plateau deserts of North America. Beyond the relationships involved, we will focus on what managers can and are doing to address wildfires in the face of the invasive plants.

One goal of the workshop is to find out what managers in the different desert regions have tried, what worked, what doesn't, and how land management and fire fit together.

The major topics covered in the symposium and workshop includes:

1. Historical fire regimes, desert ecology and current management.
2. Invasive plants/wildfire status and predicted trends (including climate change).
3. Wildfire suppression and pre-suppression strategies.
4. Control techniques for key invasive species
5. Contemporary post-fire restoration practices and effectiveness in the short and long terms.
6. Case studies in adaptive management of fire-prone landscapes.
7. Social and economic impacts on and from ecological and fire regime changes.
8. Policy and funding issues related to these topics.

This workshop is currently co-sponsored by:

Society for Range Management Center for Professional Education and Development

Bureau of Land Management

Agricultural Research Service

Joint Fire Science Program

University of Nevada, Reno

The Nature Conservancy

Arizona State Parks, Resource Management Section Heritage Program

~~~~~

New information on www.Foragebeef.ca

Forage and beef producers in Canada and the northern United States have a source for the latest research information on forage and beef production. www.Foragebeef.ca summarizes forage and beef cattle research for farmers and ranchers. It is a unique approach to developing and organizing North American research information for the Canadian forage and beef cattle industry.

A new booklet on Poisonous Plants affecting livestock in Western Canada has been developed by Dr. W. Majak retired scientist at Agriculture, B. Brooke at Agri Food Canada Research Centre in Kamloops, BC and Dr. R. Ogilvie at the Royal British Columbia Museum, Victoria, BC. This publication is the most up to date information source on a wide variety of poisonous plants that affect livestock and includes the toxic principles associated with numerous plants and sketches of the plants for easy identification.

Sod Seeding ... Seeding forages into existing stands using minimal tillage is a new publication covering all aspects of pasture rejuvenation using sod seeding techniques. The publication was organized by the Manitoba Forage Council and includes sod seeding results from studies done at Agriculture and Agri Food Canada Research Centers at various locations. This publication presents many recommended techniques for improving pasture productivity and would be of interest to anyone involved with pasture management in Canada.

www.Foragebeef.ca is a living library for research and extension information that is useful to Canadian beef producers. The website provides three levels of information. The top level is "cut to the core" information on a particular topic. Called "Knowledge Nuggets", this level

provides the most important pieces of advice on that topic. The next level is for the reader who wants more information about that topic. Links are provided to the best related information, usually in fact sheet format. The objective is to select the most comprehensive and applicable information for Canadian and northern USA agriculture. The third level is for people who want related, in-depth information. This level focuses on relevant scientific review papers, research abstracts, research papers, major publications and links to research communities through out Canada and the world.

Knowledge Nuggets for the folders titled Grasses and Manure on Forages have been added to provide the first level information that readers have come to appreciate. Approximately 200 research papers have been added to the website as they became available over the past year.

The site features in depth information on forage production, silage management, forage seed production, beef cow calf management, animal health issues, grazing management, and range management in addition to many other topics.

This is a living web site and news items, research results and summaries will be continually added to the site. With these knowledge summaries, fact sheets, and research reviews, www.foragebeef.ca is the gateway in the future for forage and beef information for the forage and cow calf industry.

For further information or to offer the latest in fact sheets or research papers contact Ken Ziegler of Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development at ken.ziegler@gov.ab.ca.

~~~~~  
International Symposium - Universidad Autónoma Agraria Antonio Narro, Saltillo, Mexico  
August 27-29, 2008

[http: v-pastizales@uaaan.mx](mailto:v-pastizales@uaaan.mx)

~~~~~  
Lost Resource

Edward "Rex" Naanes passed away on April 13, 2008 in Parsons, KS. Since childhood, Rex was a lover of nature. Time spent planting trees as windbreaks in Kingman County, KS, sparked his decision to pursue the study of forestry at Colorado State University in Ft. Collins, CO. After serving in World War II, he picked up where he had left off and took his first U.S. Forest Service position in Reno, Nevada. Rex and his wife, Marg, were constantly touched by nature.

For 20 years he was chairman of the Kansas Tree Farm Association and he was a Fellow of the American Society of Foresters. He was a member and past president of the Erie Kiwanis Club and a life member of the American Legion.

Rex joined the Society for Range Management in 1956 and was an active member. He will be missed.

~~~~~  
Ecosystem Services and the Farm Bill Website

As you are probably aware, the new Farm Bill has become law. There are many websites where you can get information. Cindy McArthur has sent

one in that the Forest Service has made available. While it focuses on ecosystem services, it does have links to several other sites. This may be helpful to you as you answer questions about the new Farm Bill. Check out: [www.fs.fed.us/ecosystemservices/farbill](http://www.fs.fed.us/ecosystemservices/farbill)

~~~~~  
2009 RANGELAND JOB FAIR

Sunday February 8th, 2009
10 am-6 pm
at the 62nd SRM Annual Meeting and Trade Show in Albuquerque, New Mexico

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 2009 Annual Meeting and Trade Show to be held at the Albuquerque Convention Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

This is a free service for SRM members and Trade Show participants. Registration is required by interested employers.

2009 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 8, 2009. 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 2009 RANGELAND JOB FAIR, please print, complete and return the registration form that will be available on-line very soon. Registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first served basis, and space is limited. The deadline for receipt of all registrations is Friday January 16, 2009. On-site registration may be accepted, depending on available space, and will require payment of a \$100 late fee.

Program information is 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: lcmarkle@rangelands.org and/or 303-986-3309.

Please do your part to promote the range profession and encourage your favorite employer to register for the 2009 RANGELAND JOB FAIR!

~~~~~

Textbooks Needed - Nangarhar University, Afghanistan

EVP Note: The following was forwarded by Kim Stine. With the permission of all, I have reprinted it below. If you want to send some of your old books, ship them to Kathleen Dobler at the address below. If you have other coordination questions, direct them to Cheryl Simmons at 817-509-3314 or cheryl.simmons@ftw.usda.gov. If you can pay for shipping the books, it would really help out a region in the world that could use it.

Fellow NRCSers,

I recently met with some 3rd year students who are attending Nangarhar University, and have met with the Chancellor and Deans of the Ag dept and Vet Sciences Dept. The Ag Development Team from the MO Nat'l guard has funded a project to translate some Extension documents into Pashtu, however the need is still very great.

The (Provincial Reconstruction Team) PRT is working to revitalize the University, which suffered greatly during the Taliban time. Among other devastating acts, they burned all the textbooks. Now, several years later, the students still do not have text books. They are given very poor quality photo copies in lieu of what we would expect. The library is pathetic as well. This group of 8 that visited yesterday all spoke English very well, as they are encouraged to take English classes in addition to their regular curriculum. Attached is a picture of the students we met with and some pictures of the new Vet Sciences Dept Building.

Many of you and other NRCS employees have connections to a number of Universities and Extension, and I am asking that you let your contacts know that any gift of textbooks would be more than appreciated and definitely used. Education is key to rebuilding this country.

Thanks,  
Kathleen Dobler  
USDA Ag Advisor  
PRT Nangarhar  
APO AE 09310

~~~~~  
Nominations for Society for Range Management Officers Sought

Do you know an SRM member that has leadership skills, a keen interest in working for the common benefit of all, and a dedication to sustainable rangelands and the advancement of the Society for Range Management? If so, the SRM Nominations Committee needs to hear from you. The SRM Nominating Committee is seeking nominations for the office of Second Vice President and for the Board of Directors (two positions) to be filled beginning in 2010. Nominations are sought from SRM members, Committees, and Sections. A total of six candidates, two for 2nd Vice President and four for the two Director positions, will be selected from the list of nominees submitted.

Members or Sections who wish to put forth a nomination should submit for each nominee:

v Nominee's full name, address, phone number, and email, and the office for which they are being nominated

v 2-page (maximum) biographical sketch highlighting the nominee's qualifications (including education, employment, professional emphasis, SRM and other activities, and honors, awards, and recognitions)

v ½-page (maximum) statement of why the nominee wants to serve as an SRM officer at this time (including nominee's qualities, skills, and passions)

A cover letter with:

v A statement from the nominee consenting to the nomination and asserting his/her willingness to serve

v Evidence that the nominee's Section, if applicable, has been notified of the nomination (this could include copying the Section on the nomination or a note from the Section acknowledging awareness of and/or support for the nomination). Additional materials, such as letters of support, will not be considered by the Nominating Committee.

Members may nominate themselves or other SRM members.

The Nominating Committee will interview nominees during its meeting at the SRM Annual Meeting. Nominees are encouraged to be available and participate in these interviews. If a nominee cannot participate in the interview process, a conference call may be arranged in lieu of a personal interview.

The Nominating Committee will consider the following criteria in selecting candidates from the nominee pool:

1. leadership skills and ability;
2. active and engaged participation in SRM (committee, section, parent society level);
3. diversity of experiences, geography, gender, ethnicity, professional affiliation, age, and areas of expertise.

Each nomination shall be submitted as a separate packet to the Chair of the Nominating Committee. Nomination packages should be submitted via Email with the above information as attachment(s) in MSWord or WordPerfect. Nomination packets may also be submitted by mail.

Submit Nominations by Friday, December 5, 2008, to:

Barry Irving (Chair)
Department of Agricultural, Food, and Nutritional Science
University of Alberta
Edmonton, AB T6G 2P5
Canada
Phone: 780-492-9738
Email: birving@ualberta.ca

Successful candidates will be informed at the Annual Meeting and announced during the Annual Meeting Membership meeting.

~~~~~  
Employment Opportunities

#### Okanogan Conservation District

The Okanogan Conservation District is seeking a highly motivated individual to fill a newly created Range Management Specialist position. This position will work closely with our federal partners, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to assist our mutual cooperators in the development and implementation of conservation plans. The position is grant funded, full time, and year round. Incumbents are required to have a bachelor's degree in range or livestock management or closely related field or a high school diploma or equivalent and five years experience in range or livestock management. Experience may be substituted year for year for education. Must have or obtain and maintain a WA State Driver's License. The position is opened until filled. The

first cut-off for review is 4:00 PM, June 30, 2008. The pay schedule for this position will generally be between \$16 and \$21 per hour depending upon qualifications. The full job announcement and position description can be found at:

<http://www.scc.wa.gov/index.php/Jobs/Range-Management-Specialist-Okanogan-Conservation-District.html>

For further information, call (509) 422-0855 ext. 5.

#### Coronado National Forest

The Coronado National Forest is advertising for a GS-0454-9/11 Rangeland Management Specialist to be located at the Douglas Ranger District in Douglas, Arizona.

The range and watershed program manager is a full staff position responsible for planning, budgeting, supervision and administration of the range and watershed program to the District Ranger. The range duties will include the traditional duties associated with the management of cattle allotments, including permit administration, billing, annual reporting, permit re-issuance, allotment inspections and allotment management planning. The incumbent will direct the continuation of range monitoring on key areas throughout the 53 grazing allotments as well as construction and maintenance of range improvements such as fences, cattle guards, and water developments. This position will also manage a noxious weed program, 12 saddle and pack horses plus facilities and tack, threatened and endangered species habitat and range NEPA and range analysis.

This is a very unique opportunity in the range management world - cooperative, progressive permittees, current NEPA on all allotments by Sept 2008, tremendous biodiversity. Truly a once in a career job! Really - the predecessor retired after coming to the district nearly 20 years ago.

This job is being flown using an open continuous roster on USAJOBS (<http://www.usajobs.opm.gov>), listed under the following announcements

ADS08-FSJOBS(RngMgt)-0058G (Merit)

ADS08-FSJOBS(RngMgt)-0058DP (Demo)

Applicants need to identify Douglas, AZ as a work location in order to be considered. Applications need to be submitted no later than July 20, 2008.

Questions? Contact District Ranger Bill Edwards at (520) 364-6800 or [waedwards@fs.fed.us](mailto:waedwards@fs.fed.us)

~~~~~  
"It's All About Range - We Support SRM!"

W. Alan Schroeder, Lawyer
SCHROEDER & LEXAMIZ LAW OFFICES, LLP
447 West Myrtle
P.O. Box 267
Boise, ID 83701
(208) 384-1627 Ext. 2
(208) 384-1833 - FAX
alan@schroederlezamiz.com

AGPROfessionals, LLC
Complete Land and Resource Solutions
Environmental Consulting, CAFO Permits, EPA Compliance, Agronomy, Land
Use & Planning, Relocation
4350 Highway 66
Longmont, CO 80504
970-535-9318
www.agpros.com

~~~~~  
Smokey Bear Balloon Ride in Albuquerque

Plan to take a ride with Smokey and 200 other balloons! SRM 2009, Albuquerque, NM at the Friends and Lovers Balloon Rally. A ride in the Smokey hot air balloon will be in the silent auction. One winner will be chosen (possibly 2 passengers, depending on weight). Launch date will be February 14 or 15, 2009. Smokey Bear Balloon, Inc. is a non-profit corporation of volunteers dedicated to working with resource agencies to prevent unwanted wildfires. Friends of the Smokey Bear Balloon, Inc. is generously providing this flight to SRM.

~~~~~  
Continuing Education Pre-Approved Courses

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

Date; Location; Title; Credit

Jul 24-26; Maycroft, AB; IM Section Summer Meeting & Tour; 6

<http://www.srm-ims.org/media/calender.html>

Jul 26-30; Tucson, AZ; SWCS 2008 Annual Conference; 16 max

http://www.swcs.org/en/conferences/2008_annual_conference/preliminary_program/

Aug 3-8; Milwaukee, WI; 93rd ESA Annual Meeting; CEUs TBD

<http://www.esa.org/milwaukee/>

Aug 7-8; Hayden, CO; 2008 High Altitude Revegetation Summer Field Tour; 5

<http://www.highaltitudereveg.org/>

Aug 11-15; Kingsville, TX; King Ranch Inst for Ranch; 16

Mgmt System Approach for Ntrl Resource Problem Solving

<http://krirm.tamuk.edu/lectureships.html>

Sept 4-5; Alder, MT; 2008 Governors Range Tour; 3

<http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/cardd/camps/range%20tour/default.asp>

Sept 10-12; Shepherdstown, WV; GPS Introduction for Natural Resources Field Personnel; 16

<http://training.fws.gov/branchsites/CLM/Courses/tec7132.html>

Oct 7-10; Columbia, SC; 6th Eastern Native Grass Symposium; 16 - tentative

http://people.clemson.edu/~bstrngr/E_Native_Grass/

Oct 20-22; Oklahoma City, OK; Farming with Grass; 16 (m-3/t-8/w-5

<http://www.swcs.org/index.cfm?nodeID=12758>

If you know of a function that you want to attend but do not see it here, please send the information to:

SRM, ATTN: Vicky Trujillo, 1 0030 W 27th Ave, Wheat Ridge, CO 80215-6601; vtrujillo@rangelands.org, Fax 303-986-3892

~~~~~  
Welcome to Our New Members

New Member; Location; Section; Recruited By:

Scott Paulson; Prescott, AZ; AZ;  
Wade Waltmyer; Englewood, FL; FL;  
Christina Fulkerth; Old, AB; IM;  
Mark Remmert; Midland, MI; NC;  
Charlotte Ward; Outlook, SK; NGP;  
Ralph Pope; Silver City, NM; NM;  
USDI-BLM Wells Field Office; Elko, NV; NV;  
Jon Wilker; Beowave, NV; NV; Ken Conley  
Carol Wong; Kamuela, HI; PNW; Mark Thorne & Loretta Metz  
Kari Veblen; Portland, OR; PNW;  
Kevin Benton; Prineville, OR; PNW;  
Carol VanGrunsven; LaGrande, OR; PNW;  
Johan du Toit; Logan, UT; UT;  
Bob Johnson; Logan, UT; UT; Mort Kothmann

~~~~~  
Activity Calendar

Date; Event; Location

July 24-25; NM Summer Field Tour, Philmont Scout Ranch Tour Information;
Cimarron, NM
July 29; SD Summer Field Tour; Mellette County, SD
Aug 26-29; Mexico Summer Tour; Saltillo, Coahuila
Sept 4; Climate Change in Western Rangelands Workshop; Cheyenne, WY
<http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/News.htm?modecode=54-09-00-00>
Sept. 11-12; NGP Section Meeting; Watford City, ND
Oct; PNW Section Annual Meeting; Williams Lake, B.C
Oct 6-8; SD & NE Joint Sections Annual Meeting, with SDGC & NEGLC;
Valentine, NE - "Alternatives for Sustainable Grasslands"
<http://www.rangelands.org/events.shtml#sectionevents>
Oct 7-10; The 6th Eastern Native Grass Symposium; Columbia, SC
http://clemsun.edu/~bstrngr/E_Native_Grass
Oct 8-10; TX Section Annual Meeting; Nacogdoches, TX
Oct 29-30; Oklahoma Section Annual Meeting; Lawton, OK
Nov 18-20; WY Annual Meeting; Cheyenne, WY
Agenda and Speakers listed in the 2008 Spring Newsletter (page 12)
Nov 6-7; Utah Winter Section Meeting; Utah
Dec 9-10; Wildfires and Invasive Plants in American Deserts; Reno, NV
Feb 8 - 12, 2009; 62nd Annual Meeting; Albuquerque, NM
Feb 7-11, 2010; 63rd Annual Meeting; Denver, CO
2011; 64th Annual Meeting; Billings, MT

~~~~~  
Have some pictures you'd like to share? Send them to us and we'll see  
about using them. Submit articles for the newsletter and include photos!  
~~~~~

Open Spaces: The World's Rangelands

Society for Range Management
10030 West 27th Avenue
Wheat Ridge, CO 80215
Phone: 303-986-3309
Fax: 303-986-3892
E-mail: info@rangelands.org
We're on the Web!

www.rangelands.org

Staff email addresses:

John Tanaka: jtanaka@rangelands.org
Linda Coates-Markle: lcmarkle@rangelands.org
Cindy McArthur: cmcarthur@rangelands.org
Mary Moser: mmoser@rangelands.org
Lesley Radtke: lrادتke@rangelands.org
Vicky Trujillo: vtrujillo@rangelands.org
Paige Gerbitz: pgerbitz@rangelands.org
Carol Worland: info@rangelands.org

Deadline for the August issue is July 15. Send material to Vicky Trujillo at vtrujillo@rangelands.org

~~~~~