

Rangeland News

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Society for Range Management
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Board of Directors Summer Meeting Notice June 11-14, 2008 - Wheat Ridge, CO

The Board will hold its summer meeting at the SRM headquarters. The first 2 days will be to interview candidates for the Executive Vice President position followed by the regular Board meeting.

Director's View – Jenny Pluhar

Remember the old bumper stickers (I'm showing my age here) "RANGELANDS: meat, water, life?" One of the Sections sold them and I sported one on a pickup in the early 80's, with pride, I might add. I guess that simple saying has fallen out of favor these days, at least the "meat" part of the sentiment. I for one, think it is still mighty true. But times change, as do the many reasons we value rangelands. Perhaps a more current rendition of that bumper sticker would be "RANGELANDS: energy, meat, water and life!"

As the giant wind turbines rise out of the rangelands from the Texas Gulf Coast to the windy Panhandle, and the biodiesel plants dot the landscape creating fuel from switchgrass among other plant materials, we are forced to see our rangeland resource through yet another set of rose colored glasses. My rose colored glasses are coated in dust at the moment, dust from the massive construction effort of yet another "wind farm," this one south of Kingsville, Texas. I was practicing my particular specialty of rangeland management, wetland science, squarely in the midst of one of the most ambitious wind farm developments in the United States. My efforts this day are to guide the development of yet another form of energy, a natural gas well and pipeline.

The whole thing got me to thinking about Joel Brown's thoughts from the November issue of *Rangeland News* on environmental justice. He challenged us to "make environmental justice an important part of how each of us practices our version of rangeland management every day." Never one to back down from a challenge, Joel's musings have (for lack of a better verb) haunted me at times as I roam the range.

Are the developments of "wind farms" something the electricity dependent populace will endear as features on the range? Is this a tangible way to share the "wealth" of rangelands with the masses thereby assuring that more people benefit from large tracts of rangelands formerly benefiting only landowners and elite hunters? Even though the health of the rangeland or even the ecological site description of the site "growing" the turbines is not a part of the equation at all. Could these turbines become symbolic of rangeland in the same way an "old fashioned" windmill has been for generations? Or would the public be better served by leaving this vast country open and relatively untouched by development? Will these giant turbines represent the loss of yet more habitat, more open space, all in the name of alternative energy?

I believe that we, both as an organization and as individuals, will be asked to further justify rangeland management and the associated societal benefits with far more frequency than in the past. Sometimes that can be tough. Explaining to 'city folk' that the per acre payment received for not grazing some of the Texas Panhandle lands following the wildfires of 2006 as a valid expense that does indeed benefit society as a whole can be challenging. Certainly the wind turbines and biodiesel plants are subsidized as well, but the public seems to buy into the idea of alternative energy sources as a good spend of their tax dollars. I do have to wonder what the energy hungry populace would think of the many miles of roads, truckloads in the hundreds of thousands of road materials, building supplies, etc. that are necessary to build a giant wind farm.

I don't pretend to have the answers; however I do know that each of us will be called up with increasing frequency to justify our actions as a profession. Let's think about how our profession benefits all members of our community, not just the ranchers, hunters, recreationalists, etc. Maybe that old bumper sticker is not so out of style after all!

John Tanaka - Interim EVP

There are lots of things going on in the Society. Take a look and send me any comments. I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

Rangelands

The *Rangelands* Steering Committee is being formed. Their tasks are to implement the motions made by the Board, to recommend a new editor-in-chief, and continue to oversee the improvement of the journal. In the last *Rangeland News*, I reported that the Board voted to go to four full-color issues per year starting in 2009. The Board is very interested in finding ways to maintain six full-color issues and keep within the established budget. This will be addressed at the summer Board meeting.

On a more exciting note, did you read the special issue on the King Ranch Institute? By the time you get this newsletter, you may be reading the special issue on climate change and rangelands. More special issues are planned on assessment and monitoring (the RAM Committee), invasive species, and others. That is the future direction of *Rangelands*, articles that will interpret science for managers and show their application. Of course, the ART of rangeland management will not be forgotten and we hope practitioners will continue to submit articles. We will try to pair them with the special issues. Our goal is to find sponsors for each issue so we don't have to seek page charges. If you are interested, get in touch with the Steering Committee.

Board Meeting

The Board of Directors will be interviewing 4 candidates for the Executive Vice President position on June 10 and 11 in Wheat Ridge. The Search Committee has presented an excellent slate of candidates for the position. However, we do have to be clear that the position is open until filled so if you do know of others that would make an excellent EVP, please ask them to keep the position in mind.

The Board of Directors summer meeting is on June 12 and 13 at the SRM Headquarters office in Wheat Ridge. The meeting is open to all members. While I am still working on the agenda, the topics to be covered include the EVP position, the FY09 budget, *Rangelands*, selection of locations for our 2011 and 2012 annual meetings, and ????

Annual Meetings

On the annual meetings, we are looking for locations that will fit our size of meetings, our need for many meeting rooms, reasonably priced hotel room rates and convention center rates, and that serves our members. We know this is backwards from the way we've "always" done it – finding locations first and then volunteers second – but that is the reality of the world we live in these days. For 2012 we looked at bids from Oklahoma City, Spokane, Salt Lake City, Boise, Tucson, Phoenix, Sacramento, and even talked to convention folks in Hawaii. Boise declined to bid, Tucson is building and might be an option in 2014 or later, Phoenix,

Sacramento, and Hawaii are out of our price range (unless we want \$200-400 per night room rates and \$300-400 registration fees). Oklahoma City and Spokane came in about even with Salt Lake City at higher rates. We are working with the Advisory Council's annual meeting committee to work through this process.

I want to be real clear on room rates and registration fees. Our recent model of "not paying for convention facilities" is paid for by higher hotel room rates. The other models are lower hotel room rates and higher registration fees or some mix of the two. I think in the future if we want to keep registration fees lower, we have to have some mix of the two and really take a look at all the extra things we throw in to the annual meeting experience. Do you need another bag, pin, pens, and water in every meeting room? Do we need 6, 8, 10, 12 concurrent sessions every day? How much can we reasonably expect to get in sponsorships to help reduce the registration fee? How much risk should SRM take in putting on these meetings?

DC Trip

Allen Rasmussen, Don Kirby, and I traveled to Washington, DC on May 19-21. We were joined by our Forest Service liaison, Cindy McArthur. The main purpose for going back at this time was that the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation was holding their spring meeting focused on the topic of how societies could become involved in the transition of administrations coming this fall. We also had many meetings. Don Kirby will highlight the trip next month. The main topics we covered with different people are shown in the briefing papers elsewhere in this newsletter. Feel free to use them as you visit with other members and potential members.

Office Update

Remington "Remy" Harris entered the world about 2 weeks early. So if you've called or emailed Caitlin, she has resigned her position with SRM and is home raising her son. We are in the process of combining Caitlin's old position with another vacant position into two part-time office positions. If you would like to send a note to Caitlin, you can do so through Vicky at vt rujillo@rangelands.org or send it to her at the office address.

One of the part-time positions has been filled by Carol Worland, Office Assistant. She will generally be working in the afternoons and is likely to be the one you will talk to first if you call the office. Please welcome her to our family.

The other part-time position has been filled by Paige Gerbitz, Program Assistant for Membership and Meetings. She will be helping Lesley with membership records and will eventually take over doing the layout for the newsletter.

I have asked Vicky Trujillo to become my Executive Assistant. I really need someone in the office that can help me keep track of myself and my calendar. Vicky will have some of her current duties reassigned as she takes on this challenging task.

We haven't had too many comments on the new newsletter. I hope that it is meeting your needs. You'll notice the font size is a little bigger in this issue. That comes about from a comment made by a member. Unless I hear from you, we can't work to make the newsletter useful and usable to you. Please let us know what you think.

Website

The conversion to our new server for the office and moving the website to an off-site hosting service is pretty much complete. We're still finding a few bugs, but most have been addressed. It was more difficult and time consuming than we anticipated and I want to thank everyone for their patience. If you find any issues, please let us know.

I have set up new website space for the Texas, PNW, Wyoming, and Northern Great Plains Sections. We are also providing space for meetings, projects, and other activities. Contact me and we can set you up.

As part of this package, we will be using a shopping cart to register for small meetings and to sell some products. We will also be able to offer a bulk emailing service to our sections and committees to email their newsletters or send out their own RangeFlashes. The first try at this was the Wildlife Habitat Committees request for sage grouse information. This is through a program called DadaMail that times the emails so your servers won't tag it as spam. We will not allow this to be used except for official SRM business. Email addresses will be updated monthly using whatever you have given us in your membership profile. Log-on and update your profile if you want to be sure to get all of the latest SRM information.

We can also offer you a "rangemail.org" email address that can be forwarded to any other email address (or picked up using a webmail or email client). If you would like one, I will set one up for a minimum donation of \$10 to the endowment fund. You can pick any name, can have it as long as you remain a member, and can change it to another name at any time. I know you can get as many free email accounts than you can possibly use, but this is the only place to get one that will support the future of the Society and show your pride in "range."

Watch for other changes. We'll be setting up a RangeBlog in the near future. If anyone wants to be a moderator of the blog, let me know. There is also the opportunity to set up bulletin boards, social networking, and who knows what else.

Upcoming meetings

CPED American Deserts

The Center for Professional Education and Development (CPED) is off and running. The Board of Directors voted to move forward with the proposal put forward on "Wildfires and Invasive Species in the American Deserts." It will likely be held in early December in Reno, NV. The initial workshop will be focused on what is known about these issues in the Great Basin, Sonoran, Chihuahuan, and Mojave Deserts. Several other organizations have already signed on as co-sponsors and partners.

The intention of the Board is to work with our members and sections to develop smaller, desert specific workshops that can be used at our Section meetings. These would be ready-made indoor and outdoor training sessions based on the commonalities in the four deserts but focused on your desert.

CPED Climate Change

While it was not intended to be part of CPED, I agreed to co-sponsor a one-day workshop on Climate Change on Western Rangelands with the Agricultural Research Service, University of Wyoming, and Colorado State University. This workshop will focus on what we know about climate change followed by a field trip to view the ARS climate change research being conducted at the High Plains Grasslands Research Center. This will be held at the Little America Hotel in Cheyenne, WY on September 4, 2008.

Annual Meeting

Make sure you have February 8-12, 2009 marked on your calendar. Come to Albuquerque to our 62nd annual meeting. Symposia are being selected now and the call for submitted papers and posters is underway. Share your knowledge and learn from others. Reconnect with old friends and make new ones. We look forward to seeing you there!

Wildfires and Invasive Species in American Deserts

One project selected for 2008 to be conducted under the SRM Management's Center for Professional Education and Development Program is a symposium/workshop on:

"WILDFIRES AND INVASIVE SPECIES IN AMERICAN DESERTS"

Wildfires and related impacts, including invasive species, are causing huge ecological problems in all four of North America's large deserts including the Great Basin (and Colorado Plateau), the Mojave, the Sonoran and the Chihuahuan Deserts. The purpose of the American Deserts symposium is to link scientists and managers from all US deserts to explore opportunities to address wildfires and associated invasive species in a broad forum. The intent is to draw upon symposium participants to devise strategies and identify gaps in knowledge to reduce the loss of desert ecosystems to wildfires and their impacts. This symposium is also being viewed as an opportunity to capture the attention of the public and political leaders regarding the threat to all US desert.

This effort is largely one month old and we already have identified over 40 individuals/organizations interested in being involved in program development and/or implementation and have received offers of over \$43,000 in sponsorship. We are currently planning for a four-day symposium/workshop in Reno, Nevada, December 8th through 12th, 2008.

The major topics to be addressed during this proposed symposium would include:

- 1) Historical fire regimes, desert ecology, current management and landscape-level implications.
- 2) Wildfire (and related impacts) status and predicted trends (includes climate change).
- 3) Wildfire suppression and presuppression strategies.
- 4) Control techniques for key invasive species including but not limited to biological (livestock and natural enemies), mechanical, chemical, and mechanical treatments.
- 5) Contemporary post-fire restoration practices and effectiveness in the short/long terms.
- 6) Social and economic impacts on and from ecological and fire regime changes.
- 7) Case studies in adaptive management of fire-prone landscapes specific to the American Deserts.

Target Audience

The symposium will target managers, scientists, academia, the public as well as politicians and policy makers and would provide overviews of the ecology and issues facing the Deserts including socio-economic and political discussions. The workshop following the symposium would include a selected group of managers, scientists, public interest groups, etc. that would address specific issues or questions and develop strategies to resolve these issues.

SRM Parent Society/Section/Committee Sponsorship

This proposal was approved by the SRM Board of Directors on May 1, 2008. Organizers of this effort agree that this symposium/workshop will represent the goals and objectives of the CPED (see website <http://www.rangelands.org/cped.shtml>). Under this umbrella, the parent society will assist organizers with selecting and contracting venues, registration, advertising, and budgeting related to the event.

The Rangeland Assessment and Monitoring Committee (RAM) has indicated support for this effort. Several members of this committee are already actively involved in planning efforts. Organizers also are seeking additional SRM support from various SRM sections that would have specific interest in the management of desert systems.

Partnerships

There is a wide and diverse audience interested in this effort. Partnerships, including sponsors and supporters, have come from a wide range of government agencies, academia, scientific organizations, user groups, private industry, and NGO's.

Outcomes and Products

A symposium proceedings will be produced that will synthesize the state of our knowledge on managing and restoring American Deserts degraded by wildfires and their impacts. A special issue of SRM's Rangeland Ecology and Management journal is being considered for publication of the proceedings, presentations, and proposed implementation strategies.

The workshops would be structured to develop implementation strategies that would be distributed to policy makers and managers. Further development of regional level field-based workshops, that would further explore these desert-specific implementation strategies, is also under consideration.

Steering Committee

A Steering Committee (Program and Planning components) meeting is scheduled for June 5th, 2008 at the **Siena Hotel Spa Casino**, 1 South Lake Street, Reno, NV 89501 (<http://www.sienareno.com>). Currently 13 individuals representing 8 organizations and/or agencies will be attending. There are still opportunities for planning committee involvement, sponsorship and other support. If you are interested in more information please contact the BLM/SRM Liaison, Linda Coates-Markle at lmarkle@blm.gov.

SRM Briefing Paper for Washington, DC Trip, May 2008

The Society for Range Management is the professional organization for those interested in the science and management of our world's rangelands. Our **VISION** is to have a well-trained and highly motivated group of professionals and rangeland users working with productive, sustainable rangeland ecosystems. Our **MISSION** is to promote the professional development and continuing education of members and the public and the stewardship of rangeland resources. To achieve that vision and mission, some of the activities we are pursuing include:

1. **Global Climate Change** – SRM is concerned with how a changing climate will affect rangelands and their many uses and products, and how proper rangeland management can help mitigate those effects. We will be sponsoring workshops, symposia, and field training opportunities. We encourage agencies to become involved in interdisciplinary and multi-organization research and education related to climate change effects.
2. **Cooperative Conservation Opportunities** – SRM is interested in partnering with public agencies and private organizations to further the conservation of our nation's natural resources. We believe that by working together with other organizations and federal, state, and local agencies we can achieve more than by working alone. We are interested in identifying and pursuing those opportunities.
3. **Center for Professional Education and Development** – SRM has begun the Center for Professional Education and Development to conduct local, field-based training sessions on a variety of topics. The pilot project for this was "Ecological Site Descriptions: Understanding and Improving Applications for Wildlife Habitat Management in Sagebrush Ecosystems" co-sponsored by SRM, Western Governors Association, Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and The Wildlife Society. We are currently planning "Wildfires and Invasive Species in the American Deserts" with several government agencies and other organizations. Each of these larger workshops will be scaled down to local activities to reduce travel costs and training time.
4. **Certified Professional in Rangeland Management** – SRM certifies professionals to ensure that they meet minimum educational requirements and have shown through experience that they can apply that education. We also require continuing education to maintain certification. We are keenly interested in seeing that anyone working on rangelands or advising those who own or manage rangelands is certified.
5. **Membership in Professional Societies** – SRM believes that federal employees should be members and active participants in professional societies. We believe that the continuing education, networking, and ability to freely discuss issues within the confines of the profession are of incalculable value. Serving in leadership roles in those societies will be beneficial both to the society and to the agencies.
6. **Ecological Site Descriptions and Soil Surveys** – SRM fully supports the cooperation among federal agencies and their adoption of ESD's for use on rangelands. We believe that ESD's will become an effective management tool but that broad education is needed. Soil surveys are the basic building block and must be completed nationwide.
7. **Interagency Rangeland Inventory** – SRM fully supports a national inventory of rangeland resources. We are very interested in the Oregon Pilot Project as an initial step in such an inventory.

8. **Agency Liaison** – SRM has federal agency liaison positions with the Bureau of Land Management and the USDA Forest Service. We are interested in pursuing other such relationships as we believe that these positions further the missions of all organizations and the profession as a whole, as well as building stronger relationships. Each liaison position is designed to meet the needs of the employing agency and SRM.

SRM Research Initiative, May 2008

Rangeland Research Needs Society for Range Management

Almost 50% of the land area of the United States is classified as rangelands. For many years, research investments to improve our understanding and management of these lands have been limited because of the perceived value. Yet these lands provide significant environmental and agricultural services to people though climate change amelioration, clean water, wildlife habitat, recreational use, livestock grazing, and many others when they are managed properly. Because of numerous changes in the disturbances currently associated with these lands it is critical that new knowledge and technologies are developed to manage our nation's rangelands.

Rangelands offer a tremendous asset to sequester carbon helping ameliorate climate change, to provide biodiversity to improve ecosystem resiliency to disturbances from fire, drought and invasive species, and clean water needed to maintain our ecosystems and for the expanding needs of our growing populations. But to manage these lands for current and future ecosystem services we must understand them and develop technologies to manage them. Otherwise we run the risk of losing this national treasure. We must invest in research on rangelands.

Within the broad framework provided through climate change, biodiversity, rangeland health, and clean water, research should be directed towards the understanding of:

- v The magnitude of carbon sequestration on rangelands.
- v Watershed management dealing with the multiple uses found on rangelands.
- v The resilience of rangelands to natural and anthropogenic disturbances.
- v The baseline resources on rangelands including soils and ecological site descriptions.
- v Impacts of both plant and animal invasive species on rangelands.
- v Management of livestock, recreation, and other human uses and practices to facilitate those uses of rangelands.
- v How each of these affects social and economic conditions of rangeland associated communities.

All of these would require the development of monitoring methods that provide the needed information to adapt management to constantly changing natural and human disturbances.

Request: The Society for Range Management requests an additional \$10 million/year be focused on research for these critical issues on rangelands.

The *Society for Range Management* is a professional society dedicated to supporting persons who work with rangelands and have a commitment to their sustainable use. Rangelands comprise almost one-half of all the lands in the world. They are extremely important to society for the goods and services they produce and for the ecological services they provide. SRM is dedicated to the conservation and sustainable management of rangelands for the benefit of current societies and for future generations.

"It's All About Range – We Support SRM!"

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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.

Merging Trails: Culture, Science, and Innovation

62nd Annual Meeting of the Society for Range Management
February 8-12, 2009 in Albuquerque, New Mexico
<http://www.srmmeetings.org>

Call For Papers

The submission deadline for abstracts for the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Society for Range Management is September 1, 2008.

The theme for meeting is ***Merging Trails: Culture, Science and Innovation*** with scientific and technical programs to enhance our understanding of rangeland ecosystems and contribute to discussions of resource management in the 21st Century.

Find Instructions for submission of both proposals and abstracts for contributed presentations and posters, and submit your abstract and associated information online at <http://www.srmmeetings.org/papers.php>.

Abstracts are required for contributed oral presentations, posters, and approved symposia presentations. They may be submitted for approved forum, workshops, or specialized sessions at the author's discretion. Abstracts should be no longer than 250 words and should include a statement of objectives, a brief description of methods, a concise presentation of the actual results, and a summary statement or conclusions. Authors are solely responsible for all editing of abstracts.

Abstracts and titles are due September 1, 2008. Authors will be notified of acceptance or rejection by November 1, 2008.

For additional information or questions, please contact Kris Havstad (khavstad@nmsu.edu), Kirk McDaniel (kmcdanie@nmsu.edu), or Allen Torell (atorell@nmsu.edu).

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You may also pay with a check by sending your order to 10030 W. 27th Avenue, Wheat Ridge, CO, 80215.

National Get Outdoors Day

Top 10 Reasons for National Get Outdoors Day

- 10) A smaller and smaller portion of the nation is deriving physical, mental and spiritual benefits from time on their lands, and use is especially low for America's poor, our urban dwellers, and minority Americans.
- 9) Today's American kids are less connected to the outdoors than any previous generation. 6.5 hours a day spent watching screens. Six times more likely to play a computer game than ride a bike. Four times more likely to be obese than previous generation. And now facing shorter lives – a decline of 2-5 years in average length of life from parents' life expectation.
- 8) America's youth tell us that we are not reaching them with invitations to be active outdoors because we are not using the communications channels they utilize most: social networking sites including YouTube and MySpace and text messaging and photo-sharing from phone to phone. They tell us they are interested in the outdoors but need "triggers," and National Get Outdoors Day intends to be a trigger.
- 7) Americans are overwhelmed with information over the Internet. Information on what to do and where to do it is available – but we need to help Americans find it!
- 6) Americans who volunteer are also likely to be healthier. There are abundant opportunities to get healthy by volunteering on public lands.
- 5) America's public lands and water agencies and the recreation community need to work as a team to compete for the hearts and minds of 21st Century Americans. We aren't talking about choices between biking and fishing for most Americans, but between malls and home-based technologies and the outdoors.
- 4) The future of America's public lands will be determined by the extent to which Americans care about the Great Outdoors -- and if fewer people directly benefit from time outdoors, the prognosis is not good.
- 3) Americans have a growing problem that can be addressed with more physical activity – an increase in the percentage of Americans who are overweight and obese. This trend carries with it big costs – in dollars and quality of life. Some \$160 billion in direct public spending. 7 in 10 deaths now attributable to largely preventable chronic illnesses – and 3 out of every 4 dollars in our healthcare spending is similarly directed at largely preventable chronic illnesses.
- 2) Combating stress: **About to Burst: Handling Stress and Ending Violence** by Rebecca Radcliffe. *Teenagers live in a world that is more stressed than ever before. They get overloaded with pressure at school, conflicts at home, relationship problems, and career choices. Many have to deal with divorce, moves, financial struggles, jobs, and blended families. When stress builds up, teens cope however they can. They may drink, drive aggressively, get high, overeat, go shopping, spend hours on the computer or playing video games, or take out their frustration on others. This is why we see increased bullying, isolation, depression, obesity, eating disorders, inappropriate sexual activity, violent outbursts, cutting, intolerance and hate crimes, suicide, and many other destructive choices. Kids need new and better choices. They need help unwinding and handling pressure in positive ways. Recreation is a powerful antidote to stress.*
- 1) American families, American communities and the nation need the connectivity and unity that results from family and friends enjoying time in the outdoors.

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Climate Change

The American Agricultural Economics Association (soon to be the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association) publishes *Choices* magazine. A recent issue contains several articles on climate change and economics. You can download the whole issue at www.choicesmagazine.org/2008-1/2008-1.pdf.

Challenging Cheatgrass

The Rocky Mountain Research Station recently published an update on their research activities related to cheatgrass control and native plant restoration. It summarizes a lot of research and includes a Great Basin fire history from 1990-2007. <http://www.fs.fed.us/rmrs/docs/rmrs-science/cheatgrass-challenge-2008-04.pdf>

Dig It! The Secrets of Soil

Opening July 19, 2008, *Dig It! The Secrets of Soil* will explore the amazing and living world of soils—hidden under our feet but teeming with life. There are more creatures in a shovel full of soil than human beings on the planet. *Dig It!* is a new look at this complex ecosystem that sustains every form of terrestrial life, even our own. This landmark exhibit shows how all human activities and communities are built on and rely upon soils. It will change the way people think about the world underfoot. *Dig It! The Secrets of Soil* will be on exhibit through January 6, 2010 at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. There will also be a traveling display.

The Buzz about Washington D.C.

National Pollinator Week June 22-28, 2008

By **Cynthia McArthur**, Forest Service Liaison to the Society for Range Management and **Larry Stritch**, USDA Forest Service National Botanist

On wonderful occasions, critical issues come to the forefront of our government leaders. Such was the case when the United States Senate unanimously approved a resolution to "recognize the vital role of pollinators to ecosystem health and agriculture and the value of ongoing public-private partnership efforts to increase awareness and support for protecting pollinators (S. Res. 580)."

On April 14, 2008, Secretary of Agriculture Edward T. Schaefer signed an official USDA Proclamation establishing the week of June 22 – 28, 2008 as **National Pollinator Week**. In his proclamation, Secretary Schaefer emphasizes the important role of pollinators. He states: "I call upon the people of the United States to join me in celebrating the vital significance of pollinators to agriculture and to public lands as well as the Department's conservation assistance to farmers and ranchers and its management of ecosystems providing valuable pollinator habitats throughout the Nation."

Pollinators are responsible for assisting over 80% of the world's flowering plants. Without them, humans and wildlife wouldn't have much to eat or look at! Animals that assist plants in their reproduction as pollinators include species of bats, butterflies, moths, flies, birds, beetles, ants, and bees (<http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/animals.shtml>).

Tips for rangeland managers:

- v Include forbs and other flowering plants native to your area in your planting and re-seeding mixes. By improving plant species diversity, pollinator food sources will be more obtainable throughout the entire season.
- v Identify impacts to pollinators following large scale disturbances such as wildfires. Studies have shown pollinators may need to be reintroduced as part of landscape stabilization and restoration efforts.
- v Where possible, convert administrative sites into pollinator gardens. In addition to ecological benefits, these gardens provide wonderful opportunities to share nature with children. For examples please visit: <http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/gardening.shtml>
- v Never underestimate the impacts of invasive species. Monocultures of cheatgrass and medusahead rye provide few options for pollinators.
- v If you are chemically treating noxious weeds, carefully follow application instructions. Nighttime herbicide applications can be less lethal to most pollinators than daytime applications.

For more information about pollinators, please visit:

North American Pollinator Protection Campaign

<http://www.nappc.org>

The Pollinator Partnership

<http://www.pollinator.org>

U.S. Forest Service

<http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/gardening.shtml>

Climate Change in Western Rangelands

A Workshop and Field Day for Discussing its Relevance to Ranchers, Public Land Managers, and Society
September 4, 2008 in Cheyenne, Wyoming

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 followed by a field tour of an on-going climate change experiment at the High Plains Grasslands Research Station. Registration for this event is \$20 which includes lunch, breaks, and transportation. Registration for ranchers is provided by the Redd Foundation through the Society for Range Management. The Redd Foundation grant is to encourage rancher membership in SRM. You may register on-line at www.rangelands.org/zencart or by calling SRM at (303) 986-3309.

Employment

Granite Seed

Granite Seed Company currently has a position open for a seed and erosion control salesperson and consultant.

Granite Seed Company specializes in supplying seed, erosion control products, and environmental consulting to the land reclamation/restoration, turf and pasture industry. Our clientele is primarily located in the Western United States and includes professionals in federal and state agencies, private industry, private and public landlords and others who engage in land management, reclamation, restoration, pasture and turf. Our offices are located along the Wasatch Front Mountains in Lehi, Utah, which is situated on the outskirts of Salt Lake City.

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

The position is based in Lehi, Utah. The compensation package includes salary, plus generous benefits, which include paid holidays, paid vacation days, company paid health insurance for the employee and his/her family, company funded retirement plan plus the opportunity to work with a fun group of people in an exciting industry. Please send your resume and/or contact:

William Agnew
Granite Seed Company
1697 West 2100 North
Lehi, UT 84043
Telephone: (801) 768-4422
Fax: (801) 768-3967
Email: bill@graniteseed.com

University of Idaho

Custer County Extension Educator: Animal Science – Livestock Production – Natural Resources

Located in Custer County (Challis) Idaho, the position will provide leadership and education to livestock producers, technical specialists, local officials and the general public on issues related to livestock systems management and agriculture and natural resources. Candidates should have an understanding of livestock production and natural resources. Master's degree in animal science related to livestock production, range science, agriculture and natural resources, or a closely related field, required at time of employment. Complete the application on-line at www.hr.uidaho.edu, Applicant Tracking System, Current Job Openings, or Applicant LOGIN. For additional information call the University of Idaho at 208-736-3603. Closing date July 1, 2008 or until a sufficient number of suitable candidates has been identified.

The University of Idaho is an AA/EO employer and educational institution.

University of California

University of California Cooperative Extension, Ag & Nat Resources seeks career-track academic - *Ag & Environmental Issues Advisor* (#ACCSO-07-06-R) covering Los Angeles (Headquarters) and High Desert areas in San Bernardino counties. Design, develop, implement and evaluate educational programs for high desert growers and the public on crop production and related environmental issues particularly those related to the ag/urban interface, dust control and waste mgmt. Will provide direct link between UC and community, seeking creative research-based solutions to local ag/env problems, helping local growers stay on the cutting edge of production technologies, and educating urban residents about local agriculture and its value. Minimum of Master's Degree in agricultural field is required. Knowledge of crop production practices, soil science, and pest management essential. Knowledge of emerging environmental issues helpful. Salary in Cooperative Extension Assistant rank, commensurate w/education/relevant experience.

Closing deadline June 13, 2008. Website <http://ccsr.ucdavis.edu/>.

Request application packet by e-mail: ccsracadrecruitment@ucdavis.edu or phone (951) 827-2529.

Agricultural Research Service

Interdisciplinary SUPERVISORY RESEARCH RANGELAND MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST/ SUPERVISORY RESEARCH ANIMAL SCIENTIST (RESEARCH LEADER), GS-14/15; GS-14 \$ 91,781 - \$119,314; GS-15 \$107,962 - \$140,355

The Fort Keogh Livestock & Range Research Laboratory in Miles City, MT is seeking a highly qualified individual with an established record of experience to serve as a Supervisory Research Rangeland Management Specialist, Research Animal Scientist (Research Leader). Salary would be commensurate with experience. Responsibilities include management and oversight of a scientific staff. Current research is being done to develop ecologically and economically sustainable rangeland animal production systems that meet consumer's needs. This position provides leadership for interdisciplinary teams and collaborative partnerships to facilitate research and technology transfer. A degree in a field of science associated with range livestock management and production, and detailed knowledge, understandings, and appreciation of rangeland and systems ecology, animal production systems and related scientific disciplines such as plant and animal biology, ecology, physiology, animal genetics. A Ph.D. is highly desirable. Applicants must have excellent communication and interpersonal skills with a demonstrated ability to guide research programs and provide leadership. This is a permanent, full-time position and applicants must be U.S. citizens. Position offers a full benefit package.

For application information and procedures, you may call Jan Jones (970) 492-7002 or write to:

USDA, ARS, HRD, WOB; 5601 Sunnyside Avenue; Beltsville, MD 20705-5106.

A full copy of the job announcement is available on ARS website <http://www.ars.usda.gov/careers/>

Applications must be postmarked by July 14, 2008. ARS is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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
Jun 6-7	Watrous, NM	Low-Stress Livestock Handling Clinic http://quiviracoalition.org/Workshops_Events/index.html	13 CEUs (f-7/s-6)
Jun 6-8	Dawson Creek, BC	GCC Annual General Meeting & Workshop http://www.bcgrasslands.org/workshop2008.htm	13 (fri-2/sat-8/sun-3)
Jun 9-11	Colorado Springs, CO	CCA CCW & JCCA Annual Convention & Trade Show http://www.coloradocattle.org/	6 ttl (Tues only)
Jun 11-13	Nagadoches, TX	2008 TX SWCS Meeting http://www.tx-swcs.org/	8 (w-2/th-6)
Jun 11-13	Okanogan, WA	PNW Section Summer Meeting & Tour http://pnwsrm.org/pnwmeetings.html	9 (w-2/th-4/f-3)
Jun 12-13	Beaver, UT	UT Section Summer Tour 2008 http://www.rangelands.org/meetings/08_Utah_SummerMtg.pdf	8 (th-7/f-1)
Jun 16-20	Chadron, NE	2008 NE Range Shortcourse http://agronomy.unl.edu/rangeshortcourse/	16 CEUs
Jun 17-19	Bozeman, MT	15th Wildland Shrub Symp – Shrublands: Wildlands & Wildlife Habitats http://eu.montana.edu/shrublands	14 (t-8/w-3/th-3)
Jun 29-Jul 5	Hohhot, China	International IGC-IRC 2008 Congress http://www.igc-irc2008.org/	16 (tentative)
Jul 26-30	Tucson, AZ	SWCS 2008 Annual Conference http://www.swcs.org/en/conferences/2008_annual_conference/preliminary_program/	16 max
Aug 3-8	Milwaukee, WI	93rd ESA Annual Meeting http://www.esa.org/milwaukee/	CEUs TBD
Aug 11-15	Kingsville, TX	King Ranch Institute for Ranch Management Mgmt System Approach for Ntrl Resource Problem Solving http://kirm.tamuk.edu/lectureships.html	16 CEUs
Sept 10-12	Shepherdstown, WV	TEC7132 - GPS Introduction for Natural Resources Field Personnel http://training.fws.gov/branchsites/CLM/Courses/tec7132.html	16 CEUs
Oct 7-10	Columbia, SC	6th Eastern Native Grass Symposium http://people.clemson.edu/~bstrngr/E_Native_Grass/	16 (tentative)
Oct 20-22	Oklahoma City, OK	Farming with Grass http://www.swcs.org/index.cfm?nodeID=12758	16 (m-3/t-8/w-5)

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

<u>New Member</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Recruited By:</u>
Scott Paulsen	Prescott, AZ	AZ	
Mark Swisher	Concord, CA	Cal-Pac	
Walt Marble	Lebanon, NE	CO	Sheila Lamb & Vicky Branch
Wade Waltmyer	Englewood, FL	FL	
Bradley Carlson	North Platte, NE	NE	Kristin Miller
MD Hobbs	Cimarron, NM	NM	
Ralph Pope	Silver City, NM	NM	
USDI-BLM Wells Field Office	Elko, NV	NV	
Mary Beth Smith	Condon, OR	PNW	
Casey Matkke	Rhome, TX	TX	Jodie Stockett
John Taylor	Gatton, Q. Aust.	UN	

Calendar of Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
June 6-7, 2008	NV Section Summer Meeting & Tour http://www.ag.unr.edu/nsrm/	UNR Gund Ranch, Austin NV
June 6-8, 2008	Grassland Conservation Council Workshop Grasslands of the North: Threats and Challenges to Grasslands in the Peace http://www.bcgrasslands.org/workshop2008.htm	Dawson Creek, BC
June 11-12, 2008	PNW Section Summer Meeting http://pnwsrm.org/	Okanogan, WA
June 12-13, 2008	Utah Summer Meeting (Wildfire Rehabilitation	Beaver, UT
June 24-26, 2008	International Mountain Section Summer Meeting	Maycroft, AB
June 25-26, 2008	NPAW 2008-Discovering the Eastern Qu"Appell	Esterhazy, SK
June 29 - July 5, 2008	International IGC-IRC 2008 Congress http://www.rangelandcongress.com/	Hohhot, China
June 27, 2008	TX Hillington Ranch Tour http://www.tssrm.org/	Comfort, TX
July 30-Aug 1, 2008	AZ Section SRM Summer Meeting	Ten X Campground, Tusayan AZ
July 31, 2008	South Dakota Summer Tour	Bristol, South Dakota
Aug 26-29, 2008	Mexico Summer Tour	Saltillo, Coahuila
Sept. 11-12, 2008	NGP Section Meeting	Watford City, ND
Sept. 16-18, 2008	Restoring the West: Frontiers in Aspen Restoration http://www.restoringthewest.org	Logan, UT
October 6-8, 2008	SD & NE Section Annual Mtg, Joint with SDGC & NEGLC Alternatives for Sustainable Grasslands	Valentine, NE
October 8-10, 2008	TX Section Annual Meeting	Nacogdoches, TX
October 29-30, 2008	Oklahoma Section Meeting	Lawton, OK
Nov. 6-7, 2008	Utah Winter Section Meeting	Utah
February 8 - 12, 2009	62 nd Annual Meeting	Albuquerque, NM
February 7-11, 2010	63 rd Annual Meeting	Denver, CO

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!

Sustainable Rangelands, Sustainable Communities

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Deadline for the June issue is June15. Send material to Vicky Trujillo at vtrujillo@rangelands.org