

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.

So What's Up With *Rangelands* Magazine Anyway? Bruce Fox, SRM Director

In case you hadn't noticed, the topic of *Rangelands* has been "on the burner" of the SRM for a number of years, and has intensified more recently. As with any issue, communication is the primary challenge and is difficult enough when the communication is one on one. The challenge only becomes more formidable when attempting to communicate throughout our entire Society. Unfortunately, though not unexpectedly, there has been a fair amount of miscommunication regarding the recent efforts focused on *Rangelands*. As Mark Twain quipped, "Rumors of my demise have been greatly exaggerated!", and so have the rumors of the demise of *Rangelands* been exaggerated and unfortunate. Speaking as a member of the Board of Directors (BOD), the only discussions I have been a party to have involved: 1) improving how *Rangelands* can best serve our membership, and 2) producing *Rangelands* within budget constraints. Based on those discussions, I do not believe anyone on the BOD believes these two goals are mutually exclusive.

Without retracing all the details of discussions and past BOD actions, the most recent events have included a survey of *Rangelands* readers (published in the December 2006 issue), a report to the BOD from the *Rangelands* Task Force (January 2008), and the *Rangelands* Steering Committee Response to the *Rangelands* Task Force Report (January 29, 2008). Both of the latter reports included recommended actions for consideration by the BOD. While each of these efforts looked at various aspects of *Rangelands*, in my opinion, they can basically be summed up in three categories: 1) what is the purpose or goal of *Rangelands*, 2) how can *Rangelands* best meet its intended purpose, and 3) how can the quality of *Rangelands* be maintained or improved within budgetary constraints.

Recommendations from the above efforts were discussed by the BOD at the Louisville meeting. It was then decided to seek the involvement and feedback of the Advisory Council before acting on those recommendations. The Advisory Council decided to further survey SRM sections and members concerning *Rangelands* and the BOD tabled further action until the results of this Advisory Council survey could be completed and shared with the BOD. Those results were shared with the BOD by representatives of the Advisory Council on April 1st. I could easily devote this entire article to the results of that survey, for the results were extremely helpful in acting on the recommendations before the BOD. But rather than do that, I will just summarize the results of the Advisory Council survey and then discuss the BOD decisions.

Ninety-five percent of respondents said they value *Rangelands*. Fifty-four percent said they would be willing to pay additional dues to maintain the quality and current number of issues, while 60% said the four issues per year was acceptable as long as color was maintained and dues were not raised. Only 46% responded in favor of electronic issues. Fifty-five percent responded that they would accept black and white issues, although many felt color was preferred. Only 23% favored charging authors for submissions, although many said it was acceptable to charge if financial backing was available to the author. Eighty-nine percent of respondents felt the purpose of *Rangelands* was to provide a member service, while purposes of outreach, recruitment, and communication from the Society were identified as 66%, 54%, and 58%, respectively.

The following are a synopsis, in my own words, of the actions taken by the BOD in response to recommendations from the *Rangelands* Task Force and Advisory Council. Exact wording of the decisions can be viewed in the BOD minutes.

- The BOD affirmed that *Rangelands* will be regarded as primarily a member benefit and member retention tool. Other instruments will be utilized for outreach to new members. *Rangelands* should be a practical, technical, but not an experimental publication. It should contain articles and communications that provide practical information about rangeland management that is of interest to current members and reflects current issues and controversies. Editorial comment is also welcomed and should be published as a "Viewpoint."

- The BOD decided to continue providing *Rangelands* in a hard copy format but decided to reduce the number of issues from six per year to a minimum of four per year beginning in 2009, in order to bring costs within budget. While recent publications have averaged 40+ pages per issue, the BOD desires a larger, higher quality publication with an average of 60 pages per issue. In order to maintain a high quality publication, color copies will be continued.

- The BOD concurred with the Advisory Council recommendation to only assess page charges where financial backing is available to the author(s).

- The BOD concurred with the Advisory Council recommendation not to raise dues to cover costs for *Rangelands* until other cost savings measures were implemented. The BOD has not considered a dues increase for *Rangelands*.

These actions are a good start to get *Rangelands* on a solid financial footing and maintain or even improve the quality and content of the publication. Additional changes may be contemplated in the future as we strive to improve the quality of *Rangelands* and attempt to better meet the needs and desires of our membership. I know I can speak for every member of the BOD when I say it is our desire to have complete transparency in our actions on this matter. Thank you for sharing your thoughts through the various efforts I have described. They were extremely helpful to the BOD in making what are hopefully the right decisions for our Society.

Executive Vice President Report John A. Tanaka, Interim EVP

There has been a flurry of activity in the office and the Society this month. I would like to take a little space here to bring members up-to-date on what is going on and why. As you have read in Director Fox's message, there were many changes made by the Board of Directors on *Rangelands*; some immediate and some beginning next year. As you may have read in Rangeland Ecology and Management recently, there was an article published by Briske et al. that has stirred up interest among our members. Allow me to address both.

The Board of Directors has been wrestling with *Rangelands* for at least the past 11 years in terms of quality and cost. There have been continuing motions that reaffirm that *Rangelands* is an important member service provided by your dues. That is NOT part of recent discussions. The Board has allocated \$15.50 of your dues to pay for *Rangelands* each year (that figures to be 19% to 62% of your dues; depending if you are a regular or student member). One problem is that it has been costing more than that. In 2006, *Rangelands* lost \$32,387.07 on top of the \$51,846.84 in member contributions. In 2007, it lost \$22,977.49 on top of the \$53,556.97 in member contributions. The finances are a little more complicated since there are additional revenue sources beyond member contributions, but the bottom line is that we lose money on *Rangelands* over and above what is paid out of your dues. That is one issue the Board is trying to address. Can we keep

producing *Rangelands* and stay within the budgeted amount? Could we use those funds to implement other programs or provide other member services, or is putting more of your dues in this one program their highest and best use?

The second issue dealing with *Rangelands* is the quality of the journal and its articles. When we contracted with Allen Press to publish and market the journal, we implicitly entered into the agreement to produce journals that they could market. Certainly having articles that potential subscribers want to buy is one part of that. On the other side is producing journals that serve our members needs. Quality articles are the key to serving both groups. The Board directed the editor last July to implement a peer review process to ensure that articles were based on sound science, that opinions and viewpoints were identified as such, and to ensure readability. The concept is not to turn *Rangelands* into *Rangeland Ecology and Management-LITE*, but rather to ensure that the articles provide good, science-based, technical management information to our members.

Now all of this is linked together. Publishing SRM news costs us a lot. Taking the total expense of *Rangelands* and dividing by the number of pages reveals that it costs close to \$400/page to produce the magazine. We charge \$80 to \$100 dollars a page IF an author is willing and able to pay page charges while some of the other costs are covered by other income sources. We do not require payment to publish in *Rangelands*. We are seeking ways to get sponsorship to cover page charges and to seek additional revenue sources (e.g., advertising) to cover other costs. Both of these require that the articles that are being published are relevant and something that sponsors want to sponsor. I truly believe you will be pleased with the results.

The issues raised have also caused the Board to make other hard choices as outlined in Bruce Fox's article. Basically we will be moving to a minimum of 4 full color issues next year. I hope we can move back to 6 regular issues in the near future as changes are put into place and successes realized.

The Board of Directors also felt that a change in the Editor-in-Chief was required at this point in time. Every member (past and present) owes Gary Frasier a huge debt of gratitude for his dedication and service to the Society. I will not go into detail here, but I know the Board made this difficult decision after many hours of discussion. In the end, it was decided that the need to move in a new direction required a change in editors. The *Rangelands* Steering Committee has been asked by the Board to immediately begin the process of hiring a new Editor-in-Chief.

A Safe Haven?

Some of you may recall me writing about that concept over the years while I was on the Board. It is not my idea, I stole it (er, borrowed) from many others I've visited with over the years. I firmly believe that the Society for Range Management should be such a place for the exchange of ideas and the examination of scientific and management principles without fear of personal attacks or threats of mass resignations. Several recent activities have tested this concept beginning with an article in *Rangelands* on sage grouse, an issue paper on sage grouse, responses about sage grouse, and most recently an article in *Rangeland Ecology and Management* (Briske, D.D., J.D. Derner, J.R. Brown, S.D. Fuhlendorf, W.R. Teague, K.M. Havstad, R.L. Gillen, A.J. Ash, and W.D. Willms. 2008. Rotational grazing on rangelands: reconciliation of perception and experimental evidence. *Rangeland Ecology and Management* 61(1):3-17). This article has raised lots of concern among our members for a variety of reasons. My intent here is not to enter into the debate on the article, or any of the others, but to address how I believe a profession and a professional society ought to respond.

In discussions with the editors, journal steering committee chairs, board members, and others, I have decided that letters to the editor are not generally appropriate in our journals. We will publish appropriate letters in this newsletter. Let me explain. The Board decided that responses to articles in *REM* are appropriate if they are science-based and documented. In essence, if you have a problem with an article's assumptions, methods, or conclusions it is incumbent upon you to raise those issues and defend your position with a discussion of why there are problems along with supporting data or citations. Did the authors misinterpret data, leave out important research, interpret beyond the limits of the data, or make conclusions not supported by the data? The response should be written as a viewpoint and allow the authors to respond to the views expressed. THAT is how science moves forward.

So what is appropriate for each venue? Letters that are generally for or against an article based on beliefs may be put in the newsletter. Letters that follow the viewpoint-response model described above may be put in the journal in which the original article was published. It is not appropriate to respond in one journal to an article written in the other journal (or elsewhere). I will work with the Editor-in-Chief and Steering Committee Chairs for the journal in question in deciding where and if a particular letter will be published. My intent is not to stifle discussion or censor views expressed by our members. My standard will be whether it is appropriately and well written, addresses issues of concern, and adds to the discussion. With the safe haven (as with freedom) comes responsibility.

Other News

The office has had an electrical check-up and all of the 30-year-old light fixtures have been given their pension and retired. Wiring is being updated and outlets checked following shooting flames from one that decided it had had enough of just sitting around all day. There are a few other small maintenance issues we have, but all-in-all the office is ready for the new EVP.

The EVP Search Committee is helping out with that last one. By the time you get this, they will have given their report to the Board of Directors who will decide (or have decided) whom to bring to Wheat Ridge to interview. Those interviews will happen (I have my fingers crossed) in conjunction with the Summer Board of Directors meeting from June 9-13. Exact dates of when different things are happening have not been set, but they will happen that week.

The March financials have come in and show that our investments are holding even. I hope my personal investments are doing as well given the turbulence in the market. The Budget Committee will be meeting on May 1 to continue discussions on next fiscal year's budget. If any committees have budget requests that were not submitted in Louisville, get them to your Board representative NOW.

The first call for CPED proposals closed and they are being evaluated. The initial screening committee will select a few proposals and ask for full proposals this month. We hope to have programs out on the ground this summer and fall. Watch for a training and educational opportunity near you!

When Opportunity Comes Knocking

**By Linda Coates-Markle
SRM-BLM Liaison**

As told by Gary Wood, BLM Retiree and Nathan Combs, Rangeland Management Specialist, RPFO, NM

On-the-Spot

Success in finding professional opportunities is more often about being in the right place at the right time than judicious planning. Having clearly defined career goals, however, can help you find that right place at the right time. Many career seekers have taken advantage of opportunities presented through membership in professional societies, and have found that these associations can often make a real difference. Ask Gary Wood and Nathan Combs for example.

Gary Wood traveled to Reno, Nevada to attend the Agency On-the-Spot Hiring program at the Society for Range Management (SRM) Annual Meeting in 2007. Gary, a Lead Rangeland Management Specialist, was a last minute replacement for the hiring official representing the BLM Rio Puerco Field Office (RPFO) in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Admittedly, Gary was apprehensive about the program, concerned that there would not be adequate time to review applications or even a large enough applicant pool to represent students that might have the right skill mix to work well within a southwestern field office. But he had been active in SRM for almost 30 years, having held a position on the Board, having served as Awards Committee Chairman, and having been president of the North Central Chapter of the NM Section. He believes in the professional opportunities brought about by networking through SRM.

Nathan Combs was six months from finishing his Masters degree in Animal and Range Sciences at New Mexico State University under Dr. Kirk McDaniel. At that time, he was enrolled in the Student Career Employment Program (SCEP) with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and, although very happy with his current career opportunities, was interested in exploring the On-the-Spot Hiring program. For him, it was a gamble. He really didn't consider that he might actually have a chance at any positions but was looking for the experience of going through the process. Throughout his young career Nathan had rarely missed an opportunity to take advantage of SRM offerings, be it a plant team competition or an annual meeting.

As opportunity would have it, Nathan interviewed very well and Gary offered him the Rangeland Management Specialist position for the RPFO. Nathan found himself with a difficult on-the-spot decision to make and he had a hunch that it was going to be a life-changing event. Nathan says he found much support and

encouragement from several individuals who would ultimately be affected by his decision. All of these folks really “only wanted the best for the boy”, and were SRM members who were passionate about sound rangeland management. Ultimately, Nathan’s on-the-spot decision offered more than just a new professional career.

The Brick Wall

Nathan first reported to the RPFO in July of 2007. He found himself in an office with a mix of very experienced folk who were all very willing to help him adjust to his new agency life. After all, Nathan was one of the first new recruits the office had seen in some time. Tightened budgets had whittled a once broad range staff to just a few experienced folk. The office had hit a brick wall with an increasing workload and shrinking staff to handle the responsibilities.

Nathan found himself overwhelmed with not only the office workload but with the responsibility of making decisions that could ultimately impact a permittees earning ability and potentially his quality of life. As a young recruit, fresh out of college, Nathan found himself looking for experienced and reasoned guidance with these on-the-job decisions.

Gary was within six months of retirement. He had worked hard and enjoyed over 36 years in agency life, but it was time to retire and move on with his life. He had been working towards getting his real estate license and wanted to stay active in the community. Of course everybody in the area already knew Gary from years of community service including his work with the Bosque Farms Rodeo Association. And in turn, Gary knew everybody. He was known as a hard guy to say “no” to, and had a real knack for getting things done. But he was ready to retire, and like many other retirees, had several other “real important” things lined up to do.

Doing the Right Thing

As luck would have it, there were mutual friends between Gary and Nathan’s family. Nathan’s grandfather had worked for the Farmers Home Administration, a now defunct agency that dealt with farm/ranchland operation and home loans. So it was a pleasant surprise to Gary that Nathan already had roots in the community. New information like this was making Gary even more convinced that he had made the right hiring decision in Reno.

Gary knew the workload that was facing Nathan. He knew it would be important to introduce him to the players and the intricate politics in public land management. The RPFO deals with upwards of 250 permittees scattered across 230 allotments, not to mention various other complicated issues on grazing and land management. As Gary put it, there would be lots of needed exposure in a very short amount of time.

Gary felt strongly that the BLM had been good to him and that the right thing to do was to help a deserving new employee. He also felt that everyone, including the new employee, the agency, its clients and partners, all deserved as smooth a transition as possible. He also really wanted to prevent Nathan from becoming too overwhelmed. Gary found Nathan to be very proficient in his field and always hard working, attentive and eager to learn. Nathan was the type of employee that BLM needed to hang onto, and Gary knew that he was deserving of a break. And the best break, in Gary’s opinion, was to set Nathan up with an experienced range specialist who would be willing to take the time to show him the ropes. And Gary knew right where to find one!

Coming Full Circle

As a result, Gary and Nathan have developed a great professional relationship. Gary has introduced Nathan to over 100 permittees, shown him the country, and has provided opportunities for Nathan to meet and interact with many different rangeland professionals in the community. Gary has moved on professionally but has signed up as an official BLM volunteer. Things have come full circle as Gary now works for Nathan!

And the mentoring continues. The two still get together for a couple hours every week, and it may be just a phone call, but the connection is there and the result has been a win-win situation. Both feel strongly that mentoring is a very satisfying experience. Gary especially feels that it has been very flattering to be allowed to select and train his own replacement.

As with most great mentoring relationships, there is a personal side. Gary has been able to help Nathan settle into the Albuquerque community both professionally and personally. Apparently Nathan has even been coaxed into helping the Bosque Farms Rodeo Association in some of their community efforts. Not surprising, given that Gary is the current President of that group. And as Gary puts it, it is all about working with people and building trust. No doubt there are some valuable out-of-office networking opportunities that present themselves during those community efforts!

And to close the circle, Gary was even able to convince Nathan to help him with his part on the 2009 Planning Committee for the upcoming SRM annual meeting in Albuquerque. Gary had worked on previous planning committees and knew this opportunity would be good experience for Nathan. Even still, this is quite something for a young man who already has a lot on his plate. But the cycle of professional “taking” and “giving-back” continues. Nathan mentioned that it is through his relationship with SRM that he is able to maintain his professional development now that he is finished with his academic studies. At a tender age, he has already realized the value of professional networking provided by the SRM membership. Come to think of it, Gary probably had a little bit to do with that as well!

Seeking Input and Help

The Information and Education (I&E) Committee is looking for individuals who are willing to get their hands dirty. If you are interested in helping make the SRM and rangeland management information more accessible to its members then consider some of our opportunities: making the SRM web page accessible in languages other than English, establishing and maintaining a partnership with Rangelands West to disperse rangeland literature and knowledge, and digitizing out of print items published by SRM and making them accessible on the Society’s web page. If you are interested in spreading the word about rangelands please contact one of the committee co-chairs and get your name on the list (Karen Launchbaugh at klaunchb@uidaho.edu or Merrita Fraker-Marble at mmarble@montana.edu).

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Ranchers Rein in on the Nation’s Capitol

Summary of the Public Lands Council Spring Conference, March 31-April 3, 2008

Provided by Dustin Van Liew, NCBA

About 250 cattlemen and women from across the United States were in Washington DC for the Public Lands Council (PLC) and National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) Spring Legislative Conference. The conference began with a bipartisan panel of Congressional staff discussing current agriculture issues. Following the panel was Joel Holtrop, Deputy Chief, National Forest System of the U.S. Forest Service. In the afternoon the members met with Stephen Allred, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, US Department of the Interior, and Melissa Simpson, USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment.

On Tuesday, the ranchers heard from Senator John Barrasso (WY), about public lands grazing; Brian Arroyo, Assistant Director for the Endangered Species Program with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, regarding the Endangered Species Act; and Jim Douglas, Director of Fire and Aviation with the Bureau of Land Management. The PLC conference concluded with meetings on the Hill with Congressmen John T. Salazar (CO) and John Mica (FL) to discuss the Clean Water Act bills currently before Congress.

The principal resource issues faced by ranchers across the country and discussed during our conference include: bighorn sheep management, sage grouse listing, and the expansion of federal regulation of wetlands.

On Wednesday, cattlemen were addressed by Douglas Ross, Special Counsel for Agriculture in the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice. Ross explained the proposed acquisitions of Smithfield Beef, National Beef and Five Rivers Ranch Cattle Feeding, LLC by JBS Swift.

Also on Wednesday, the conference regulatory briefing was dedicated to a series of presentations by USDA officials, including an address by Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer. Schafer expressed optimism for enhancing beef exports, highlighting growth opportunities in Russia and re-entry into the South Korean market. "Demand for U.S. agriculture exports has never been higher," Schafer said. "All you need is a fair framework of trade rules and the confidence of buyers overseas."

Cattlemen also participated in face-to-face meetings with officials at several agencies including: Agricultural Marketing Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Foreign Agriculture Service, the Office of U.S. Trade Representative, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Homeland Security, Bureau of Land Management, Food and Drug Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The NCBA Spring Legislative Conference concluded on Thursday, when cattlemen split into state delegations to meet with their members of Congress on Capitol Hill.

"A lot of teamwork goes into these conferences," said Montana rancher Bill Donald, Chairman of the NCBA Policy Division. "There's nothing like a bunch of cowboy hats walking around Washington, DC to get people's attention and to let them know there are real people being impacted by the policies and regulations they are implementing."

Caitlin Harris Leaving SRM

Many of our members know Caitlin Harris. If you have membership issues she may be the one you talked to here in the office. If you joined at a recent SRM Annual Meeting, Caitlin was likely there to help you. If you've received a renewal notice for your membership, she was likely the one that got it out to you and processed it when it came back.

Caitlin is a full-time college student besides working at SRM full-time. She is also a mother-to-be. She has decided that taking care of the baby and being able to finish college would be enough and has decided to resign her position here effective May 9 (or sooner if the baby can't wait). All of us wish her the best on this next chapter in her life.

Thank you for all you've done for SRM and best wishes!

Lost Resource

It is with great sadness that I write to inform you of the passing of my father, Robert W. Harris, who was a charter member of SRM. He passed away on March 25, 2008 in Wilsonville, OR. He is survived by two daughters, Kathleen Stone and Marguerite Fitzpatrick, five grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

When he was a young professional forester and project leader at the Starkey Experimental Forest and Range in NE Oregon, he had a completed regional problem analysis in hand as well as a new, fully funded ten-year study plan to investigate the effects of systems and levels of grazing. He and his colleagues needed a peer network, contacts with users, and an outlet for research results. Mr. Harris felt that SRM provided all of these. Furthermore, he felt that his expectations of SRM had been met, and that the addition of Rangelands was a great boost for disseminating new knowledge.

He was an active member in the SRM: President and Board of Directors of the Pacific NW Section; VP of the National Capitol Section; chairman of many committees in the PNW and National Capitol Section-Parent Society and Portland, OR Chapter; editorial board, Council of Section Presidents.

Mr. Harris' career with the United States Forest Service spanned a period of over 38 years. He retired in Washington D.C. in 1978 as Associate Deputy Chief for Research, USFS. He and his wife then moved to Oregon where he became a member of the Wilsonville City Council and later a member of the Oregon State Board of Forestry as the Wildlife Representative. In addition to being a member of SRM, he was a member of AFA, SAF, Izaak Walton League, and had been a former member of the National Science Foundation, California Condor Advisory Committee, and several other organizations. He was named a "Distinguished Alumni" from the University of Idaho, and he was elected a "Fellow" of the Society of American Foresters.

Mr. Harris was proud to be a member of the Society for Range Management, and he believed that ASRM/SRM provided a network of information on range research as well as an opportunity to share and exchange range research data and results with constituents. He also felt that the Society encouraged communication and brainstorming of ideas among those employees involved in Range Management research.

Members can send correspondence to me, Marguerite H. Fitzpatrick, at:

16798 SE Kingsridge Ct.

Milwaukie, OR 97267

My email address is mhfitzpatrick@comcast.net. I am one of Bob's two daughters.

Sincerely,

Marguerite Harris Fitzpatrick

Letter to the Editor

Editor's Notes

Letters to the Editor do not reflect the opinions or policies of the Society or any of its entities. They are published as a service to our membership and to increase communication and dialogue. As we move to more on-line activities, we will seek to add these kinds of letters to a blog or discussion board.

Letter to Society for Range Management (SRM) Regarding Season-long versus Rotational Grazing

We, and many of our peers, have become increasingly alarmed over the past several years by the increasing trend of public expression by some rangeland researchers and educators that state there is no benefit to rotational grazing programs over season-long grazing. Our concern is based on articles published in *Rangelands*, *Journal of Rangeland Ecology and Management* and presentations made at the annual meeting of SRM over the past several years.

The common themes of these articles and presentations are: 1) Rotational grazing is not superior to continuous grazing on rangelands, and 2) Stocking rate is the only consistent variable necessary to properly manage rangelands. We beg to differ.

At the risk of sounding flippant, our reaction to this trend is that all you have to do is select a light stocking rate and turn the cows loose. If that's the case, why do we need a profession and a society for rangeland management? We want to be clear about this, we are not trying to be flippant nor do we want to get bogged down in a lot of arguments over semantics and definitions. Simply stated, here is our position: any successful grazing program must focus on plant development and recovery and must be tailored to the specific circumstances and environment of the rangeland in question.

In our experience successful grazing programs must include the essence of the following 3 principles of grazing management: 1) Graze plants moderately, 2) Don't graze the same place at the same time, year after year, 3) Periodically allow plants to grow prior to grazing and provide the opportunity for plants to recover from grazing before re-grazing.

If these three principles are incorporated into a grazing program, followed-up with monitoring and adjustments made when needed, you can expect the rangeland to respond with increased species diversity and improved ground cover. It has been recognized since at least the 1960's that season-long or continuous grazing has three inherent disadvantages: 1) Animals tend to concentrate in the same places at the same time year after year, 2) Forage that might otherwise be used is wasted because of poor distribution of livestock and uneven utilization of forage, 3) Even if the whole rangeland on the average is "properly" utilized, the better forage plants where the livestock prefer to graze are likely to be heavily grazed continuously, and may eventually be destroyed. For these reasons you can not meet the basic principles of grazing management with continuous grazing.

However, let's not kid ourselves. Those individuals who have planned and conducted a comprehensive grazing program know that it is a very complex process. In 1960 Dr. L.A. Stoddart identified 14 different factors that need to be considered when designing grazing programs. That number of factors has increased over the years as concepts such as livestock behavior, relative palatability of forage species and drought considerations have been incorporated into our thinking. Those of us that have managed grazing programs understand some factors are often nothing more than subtleties and nuances. These are often difficult to quantify, but acknowledgement of them is essential to success. Trying to develop a "cookbook" or "unified" approach to grazing management is simply not realistic or desirable.

Critics of rotational grazing repeatedly make the point that there is no reliable scientific evidence, based on rigorous study and statistical analysis, to support the contention that rotational grazing is superior to season-long grazing systems. That may very well be, but here is why we remain strong advocates of planned grazing programs that incorporate rotational grazing:

During our lifelong careers as public rangeland managers, we have directly managed millions of acres of rangelands in six different states since the 1960's and 1970's. We are both long-term members of the Society for Range Management and SRM Certified Professionals in Range Management. Our experiences have given us countless opportunities to design, implement and evaluate grazing programs on rangelands that extend from the tall grass prairie to sage brush steppe and on into the alpine zone. Generally speaking, it has been our observation that most of the country we cared for was not particularly overstocked, but it was often very much under-managed. That leads us to conclude that stocking rate is a direct function of intensity of management.

Although our work has never been subjected to "rigorous scientific testing", it has met the approved levels of accuracy called for by the handbooks and guides we were directed to use by our parent agency. Over the last 35 to 40 years, we have measured, recorded and documented condition and trend on literally hundreds of grazing allotments on the National Forests and Grasslands where we were assigned. If nothing else, the photographic evidence that we have collected adequately demonstrates the efficacy of our contention that grazing programs based on plant development and recovery do indeed result in enhanced rangeland health and improved watershed function. We believe we have a reasonably firm understanding of the pros and cons of season-long as well as seasonal and multi-pasture rotational grazing programs. There is a time and a place for season-long grazing, if circumstances warrant, but it is our opinion that those times are few and far between. Also, if we were to reduce the stocking rates to the point where damage did not occur from season-long use, there would be very few viable livestock operations remaining, especially those that depend on public land for a substantial amount of their forage base.

Summary

We are concerned that the proponents of season-long grazing and "light" stocking rates have created a rift in the Society. Many of our field-going acquaintances are quite rightfully upset by what they perceive as having their work undercut by philosophical trend that disputes the validity of improved grazing practices. We believe it is time that the parent society takes a firm position on this subject. We strongly recommend that the Society takes the lead in sponsoring a nationwide initiative to design and conduct a series of studies that does indeed compare the relative value of rotational vs. season-long grazing in a manner that satisfies the statistical needs of the scientific community. The sooner, the better.

If the general membership of the Society for Range Management tends to concur with the premise that low stocking rates with season-long grazing meets the needs of all rangelands perhaps it is time to finally deal with the issue of changing the name of SRM. Our first choice would be the "Society for Simple Stocking Rates – the SSSR."

David Bradford and Floyd Reed

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

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Employment

Outreach Coordinator of Rangeland Ecology and Management

The Rangeland Ecology and Management Department at the University of Idaho invites applications for the position of Rangeland Outreach Coordinator. We seek a creative outreach specialist with extensive communication skills and a strong understanding of rangeland ecosystem management. We seek an individual who can independently research and conduct a variety of projects aimed at increasing the knowledge of rangeland ecology and management for people working in land management or who have an interest in rangelands. The individual sought should have experience synthesizing information on rangeland topics for print media and web pages for a variety of audiences including youth, conservation and environmental organizations, and land management professionals. The selected individual will also work with faculty and students in the department to deliver and participate in workshops and symposia. Applicants must have a Master of Science and B.S. Degree in rangeland ecology, agriculture, natural resources, or closely related field with coursework focusing on rangelands. The selected individual will work under the direction of the Department Chair, on the Moscow campus, in cooperation with the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission. For more information visit, www.uidaho.edu/range, or contact Karen Launchbaugh or Kathy Mallory in the Rangeland Ecology and Management Department (208-885-6536; range@uidaho.edu). Application must be submitted online, <http://www.hr.uidaho.edu/>.

To enrich education through diversity, the University of Idaho is an Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action Employer.

Extension Livestock Environment Specialist

Extension Livestock Environment Specialist, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT. This is a twelve month, tenure track faculty position at the Assistant Professor level in the Department of Animal and Range Sciences at Montana State University – Bozeman. The appointment will be 72% Extension education, 18% research, and 10% outreach/service supported by MSU Extension and the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station. The incumbent will develop Extension education, a research program, and activities that address minimizing environmental impacts of livestock management systems. Position requires an earned Ph.D. degree in Animal Science, Environmental Sciences, Nutrient Management, Natural Resources, Range Science or a related discipline, with training in animal science, and livestock management systems, including environmental impacts. Screening of applications begins July 1, 2008 and will continue until a suitable candidate is found. For complete description and application procedure, see <http://msuextension.org>.

AA/EO/ADA/Veterans preference.

Tapping the Top Kimberly Haile

As "Tapping the Top" enters its 20th year with the SRM, it has had an impact on many students throughout the years. At the Louisville meeting, 75+ students met with 50+ professionals who shared their experiences in the range profession. The students were able to visit with employees from the Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Bureau of Land Management, US Navy, state agencies, conservation organizations, private companies, universities, and

research organizations. By visiting with the employees, the students were able to learn what it is like to work in the different aspects of the range management field. Tapping the Top gives students and professionals the opportunity to visit with each other and share what they have learned in the range management profession. TTT has successfully matched up thousands of students with hundreds of professionals over the past 20 years. Students have received candid input regarding the range profession and professionals have been rejuvenated by the enthusiasm of the students.

As a student, I have found Tapping the Top to be a useful way to learn more about range management careers. It has provided me the opportunity to meet people to work with for graduate school as well as learn about possible careers after graduate school. By attending Tapping the Top people take notice and if you take the first step in meeting people who have careers in range they will take notice in what you do and try to help you reach your goals.

If you are a student or a professional I would encourage you to attend Tapping the Top at the SRM meeting in Albuquerque next February. You might have an impact on someone you meet there.

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
May 1	Coahoma, TX	Range Education Workshop & Tour - Sterling Cattle Co Ranch Charles.Anderson@tx.usda.gov	6 CEUs
(May 1-4)	Santa Rosa, CA	CNGA 2008 Annual Conference http://www.cnga.org/action/conference.php	entire conference max 16 CEUs)
May 1	Santa Rosa, CA	CNGA 2008 Annual Conference - full day workshops http://www.cnga.org/action/conference.php	7 CEUs
May 2	Santa Rosa, CA	CNGA 2008 Annual Conference - tech session http://www.cnga.org/action/conference.php	8 CEUs
May 3	Santa Rosa, CA	CNGA 2008 Annual Conference - half day trips http://www.cnga.org/action/conference.php	1 each
May 3-4	Santa Rosa, CA	CNGA 2008 Annual Conference - 2 day workshop http://www.cnga.org/action/conference.php	9 CEUs
May 4	Santa Rosa, CA	CNGA 2008 Annual Conference extra session Putting the Grass in "Grass-roots" Restoration http://www.cnga.org/action/conference.php	1 CEU
May 16	Blooming Grove, TX	Grazing Mgmt Workshop-77 Ranch jeff.goodwin@tx.usda.gov	2 CEUs
May 19-22	Kingsville, TX	King Ranch Inst for Ranch Mgmt Practical Use of Location-Based Technologies for Ranch Mgrs http://krirm.tamuk.edu/	16 CEUs
Jun 6-7	Watrous, NM	Low-Stress Livestock Handling Clinic http://quiviracoalition.org/Workshops_Events/index.html	13 CEUs (f-7/s-6)
Jun 9-11	Colorado Springs, CO	CCA CCW & JCCA Annual Convention & Trade Show http://www.coloradocattle.org/	6 ttl (Tues only)
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)
Aug 3-8	Milwaukee, WI	93rd ESA Annual Meeting http://www.esa.org/milwaukee/	CEUs TBD
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 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

New Member	Location	Section	Recruited By:
Sharon Grant	Sonora, CA	Cal-Pac	Susan Forbes
Mark Fiege	Fort Collins, CO	CO	Roy Roath & Maria Fernandez-Gimenez
Mandy Scott	Kremmling, CO	CO	
Christine Cloninger	Canon City, CO	CO	Tom Grette
Christine Ford	Deer Lodge, MT	IM	Ben Bobowski
Casey Boyd	Reno, NV	NV	URR Range Club
Samuel Sanders	Reno, NV	NV	Heather Mobley
Jessica Ross Orr	Reno, NV	NV	Rick & Maggie Orr
Lisa DeSandoli	Vancouver, BC	PNW	
Anna-Marie Chamberlain	Ontario, OR	PNW	Mike Borman
Michael Higgins	Corvallis, OR	PNW	
Marcelo Sternbert	Tel Aviv, Israel	UN	

Calendar of Events

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 24-26, 2008	International Mountain Section Summer Meeting	TBD
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 31, 2008	South Dakota Summer Tour	Bristol, South Dakota
Aug 26-29, 2008	Mexico Summer Tour	Saltillo, Coahuila
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
February 8 - 12, 2009	62 nd Annual Meeting	Albuquerque, NM
February 7-11, 2010	63 rd Annual Meeting	Denver, CO

Sustainable Rangelands, Sustainable Communities

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