

2015 Annual Report

Society for Range Management

Greetings Fellow SRM members,

**Message from SRM 2015 President Jenny Pluhar**

Thank you for making the trip to California for the SRM Sacramento Annual Meeting 2015. We are pleased to report that attendance is just over 1300. A big thank you to the Cal Pac Section for hosting this outstanding event along with a special thank you to each and every attendee that has made the trip to be a part of this year’s annual meeting!

Serving the SRM membership as the President of the Society has been both a humbling and gratifying experience. SRM, like other non-profits, continues to evolve and adapt to a new era here in the 21st century. The commitment and involvement of SRM members volunteering and being active in every facet of the Society is the foundation for success and ensures that SRM’s future is looking great for decades to come.

I am pleased to report that SRM continues to evolve and address multiple facets involved with being a non-profit, but while doing so, continues to build upon successful programs and projects as we look to further the mission of SRM and embrace the future of rangelands and rangelands management with excitement and optimism.

From research and education, publications and outreach, to management and agency leadership, SRM is proud to be at the forefront of all of these initiatives as they relate to range. The number one driver of achieving this success has been YOU, the members. SRM members are the best in the world because your membership is **more** than an annual dues subscription….it’s about being involved at the section and international level, it’s sharing, educating, mentoring, researching and practicing range management each and every day. It’s exciting to serve on a board that oversees the work and efforts of a society that is driven by diverse and dedicated members – which is YOU!

As I outline the work done this year below, I hope it is abundantly clear that the SRM BOD values input and guidance from the membership. Several of our action items would not have occurred if YOU hadn’t brought it up or asked SRM to look into it. It’s on that note that each SRM Director takes a serious assessment of how SRM is functioning and operating. It’s our goal that our predecessors are smiling down on our work and just as important that our successors will benefit from the work carried out and the positive projects currently being put into action.

It’s been my pleasure to serve as your President.

 

2014 SRM President

The Society for Range Management (SRM) is the 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.

**Who We Are**

***Officers & Board of Directors***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| PresidentJennifer J. Pluhar | First Vice PresidentPat Shaver, Ph.D.  |
| Second Vice PresidentDr. Val Anderson | Director 2012-2014Dr. Barry D. Irving |
| Director 2012-2014Dr. Kenneth O. Fulgham | Director 2013-2015Leonard Jolley, Ph.D. |
| Director 2013-2015Paul Loeffler | Director 2014-2016Dr. Clayton B. Marlow |
| Director 2014-2016Joe M. Hicks |  |

***SRM Staff Team***

**Jess Peterson**, Executive Vice President (202) 870-3867

**Vicky Trujillo**, Executive Assistant (303) 986-3309

**Kelly Fogarty**, Washington, DC Liaison & Annual Meeting Coordinator (202) 870-3342

**Christine Triantos**, Director of Finance (303) 318-6656

**Rachel Schwien**, Membership & Meeting Registration Services (785) 865-9215

**Jeremiah Patterson**, Webmaster & Newsletter Editor (303) 986-3309

**Dr. David D. Briske**, Editor, *Rangeland Ecology & Management* (979) 845-5581

**Lori Hidinger**, Editor**,** *Rangelands* (480) 727-8825

***Rangelands***

**Publications**

December 2014 Issue

*Rangelands* is a full-color publication of the Society for Range Management and is published six times per year in February, April, June, August, October, and December. Each peer-reviewed issue of Rangelands features articles on the state of rangeland science, art, management, technology, policy, economics, education, society, and culture; along with book reviews, highlights from the relevant scientific literature, and society news. Additionally, readers may find youth, rancher, and international forums. The journal provides readers relevant information founded in the current rangeland science and management knowledge base in a user friendly, non-technical format. *Rangelands* is intended for a wide-range of individuals including educators, students, rangeland owners and managers, researchers, and policy leaders.

In April, the Association Media & Publishing awarded a Gold EXCEL award for feature article in a journal to Layne Coppocks’s article “Cross-Border Interaction Spurs Innovation and Hope among Pastoral and Agro-Pastoral Women of Ethiopia,” featured in the December 2013 sponsored issue on Women as Change Agents in the World's Rangelands. The judges noted “The article holds the reader’s interest from beginning to end. The author’s original and in-depth research has a significant impact and shows how women may be effective change agents and improve living conditions in regions where hunger, poverty, and drought are common.”

April 2014 Issue

The April 2014 issue included a set of papers from the 17th Wildland Shrub Symposium focused on Humans in Changing Shrubland Ecosystems. The issue was sponsored by the Agricultural Research Service Jornada Experimental Range and New Mexico State University.

The October 2014 issue focused on Managing Diversity on California’s Rangelands and covered topics as diverse as the history of range management in California, the history of University of California rangeland extension, livestock and grazing in California, ecosystem services, and the current drought. This issue was produced in conjunction with the Annual Meeting in Sacramento.

Rangelands articles are being picked up in the popular press and by social media. Most recently, the article on “Wyoming’s Aging Agricultural Landscape” from the December 2014 issue was covered on the front page of the *Western Livestock Journal*, along with notable coverage in *Cattle Business Weekly, Beef Magazine* and *Agri-Pulse.*

***Rangeland Ecology and Management***

**Publications**

*Rangeland Ecology & Management* (REM) publishes all topics—including ecology, management, socioeconomic, and policy—pertaining to global rangelands. The journal's mission is to inform academics, ecosystem managers, and policy makers of science-based information to promote sound rangeland stewardship. Author submissions are published in five manuscript categories: original research papers, high-profile forum topics, concept syntheses, and research and technical notes.

REM March 2014 Issue

REM was pleased to partner with the SageSTEP program to publish its collection of open access papers that outlined results from the past years of research. It included 11 papers that addressed many aspects of the initial study objectives. SageSTEP is as a long-term study. This special issue reports only short-term results (2-3 years post-treatment). In 2018 the project will provide a 10 year overview of measuring plots and continued studies.

The Allen Press publications contract expired in 2014. A publications task force was named to issue a request for proposal to seek bids from Allen Press along with additional options for publishers. After an intense review process, a new publisher was selected. SRM signed a five year publications contract with Elsevier. Elsevier has several exciting promotional outreach plans that will hopefully expand the journals’ exposure and reach on both the national and international level.

***Stewardship***

*Stewardship* features practical, easy to read information about what is happening in rangelands across the country. No scientific citations are necessary for this newsletter. This publication is intended to share with producer, conservation and commodity groups, or anyone else with an interest in the stewardship of rangelands. The SRM staff is always looking for contributors and articles for submission. Email evp@rangelands.org or call (303) 986-3309 to make submissions or learn more.

***Membership***

**Membership, Outreach & Communications**

2014 membership numbers floated between 2500 and 2900. It was with this in mind that President Pluhar convened a “Membership Action Forum” that took place in Denver during November. President Pluhar and Membership Committee Chair Sandy Wyman co-chaired the meeting. Also participating in this meeting were 1st VP Pat Shaver, Director Leonard Jolley, Advisory Council Chair Jeff Goodwin, Advisory Council Vice Chair Lisa VanAmburg along with SRM staff Jess Peterson, Kelly Fogarty and Vicky Trujillo. The initial goal of this meeting resulted with a focus on reaching graduating seniors and graduate students along with agency personnel. There were several other action items discussed, but these two were voted as the priority. The ideas, objectives and action items garnered from this forum should yield results for the next 2-3 years.

President Pluhar also named a Membership Services and Meeting Registration Task Force chaired by Director Ken Fulgham. This Task Force is evaluating what is needed to process, manage and improve the SRM database, membership services and annual meeting registration.

***International Range Congress***

SRM signed an MOU with International Rangelands Congress in early 2014. The International Affairs Committee has a plan for recruiting members to receive one year memberships with the funds donated by members specifically for this purpose. A symposia is taking place in Sacramento this week and an additional symposia is also planned for the SRM Corpus Annual Meeting 2016.

***Social Media***

SRM continues to build its presence online while spreading the word on the importance of the stewardship of rangelands. SRM uses social media to interact with members, organizations, agencies, and individuals via accounts on Facebook (Society for Range Management), Twitter (@rangelands), and LinkedIn (Society for Range Management). In 2014, SRM President Jenny Pluhar implemented a new campaign to highlight the positive activity taking place on rangelands and SRM members involved in these activities. If you would like to get involved with this effort, simply reference #respectontherange in your tweet along with your positive range story. Check out SRM’s twitter page and search #respectontherange to view the stories posted. You can also check out or tweet for the SRM Sacramento Annual Meeting 2015 with #SRM2015.

***Website***

President Pluhar named a task force to evaluate options for the SRM website chaired by Director Leonard Jolley. The SRM Outreach, Communications and Website Committee worked with the SRM staff to develop an RFP that will be sent to vendors interested in producing bids to redesign the SRM website. The Task Force will review and evaluate proposals along with making a recommendation to the SRM BOD for action. The RFP will be issued in early spring 2015.

***Agency Trainings & Agreements***

**Trainings, Agreements & Partnerships - Upcoming Annual Meetings**

SRM continues to work with all agencies regarding potential projects and work that may be done to best bring SRM’s science to the forefront on a number of issues.

SRM continues to hold agreements with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), US Forest Service (USFS), and Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The agreements are focused on bringing needed science, trainings, and continuing educational opportunities to each agency’s respective employees. SRM expanded on each of these agreements this year and created a solid framework upon which SRM can build. SRM hopes to broaden the scope of work done by the Environmental Site Description (ESD) workshops to other areas, including restoration, rehabilitation, fire, energy, and climate. Over the course of the year, SRM worked to create new agreements and scopes of work on these issues and will continue to partner with other natural resource organizations to propel each of these subjects. Climate change, the economic analysis behind soil health, and sage grouse issues are those items that were built last year into new agreements and partnerships. SRM will continue to act on these agreements and partnerships in the coming year.

SRM conducted several meetings with USDA officials in order to discuss a Native American Rangeland Management Capacity Building collaborative project. This was prompted by reduced attendance from tribal communities during recent annual meetings. SRM is looking to bring workshops and materials directly to these regions in order to reach a wider audience. SRM looks to work with USDA to create a model that will bring needed workshops to these specific regions.

