

Rangeland News
April 2010, Volume 63, Number 4

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

Board of Directors Monthly Meeting Notice
Monthly Conference Call

The Board's monthly conference call has been changed to the 2nd Monday of each month at 11:00 am MDT. The April BOD call will be April 12, 2010. The May BOD call will be May 10, 2010.

Your 2010 Board of Directors:

President: Jeff Mosley, MT; 1st Vice President: Jack Alexander, MT; 2nd Vice President: Gary Frasier
Directors: Richard Orr, NV; Jenny Pluhar, TX; Charles Hart, TX; Sandy Wyman, OR; Stephanie Larson-Praplan, CA; Keith Klement, OK

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Whackjobs Making the World a Better Place -Jack Alexander III, SRM First Vice President

Does SRM really matter? Would it matter if SRM no longer existed?
These questions embarrassed me when I didn't have a response ready at hand. This got me to thinking. Now, thinking AND driving make a dangerous combination for those on the other end of my phone.

Fortunately, SRM is full of people who know that SRM matters, and they were willing to educate me on how and why. Now I have an answer ready.

People don't go into range management because it is the highest and best use of their time financially. They do it because it is the best and highest use of their time in their heart. It is a profession that fills people's passion faster than it fills their pocketbook. SRM is full of people feeding on and sharing that passion. An outsider listening in on the discussions at an SRM meeting must think "what a bunch of whackjobs." (I was told by a very well informed young 4-H range scientist that "whackjob" is a good thing to say about someone -it shows they are weird in a good way!)

What makes us sound like whackjobs is the passion behind the discussions of eclectic topics; conversations such as those about the importance of which subspecies has the longer ligule and why that matters? Or perhaps someone is talking excitedly about which management action has reduced bare ground from 23% to 13%, while another interrupts to reflect on the importance of reduced bare ground on wind erosion, to which someone else expounds on how that matters across thousands/millions of acres. All the while several heated debates overlap each other about how many pastures you need in a rotation to really save the whole world. (Douglas Adams claims the answer to life, the universe, and everything is 42, but Briske et al. dispute that is the right number of pastures.)

The great thing about SRM is that it provides a place for a passionate person to come together with others that share that passion. In sharing the passion about rangelands, we also share information, science, encouragement, and jobs. Over half of the members of SRM attend the annual meeting in any given year. This is a phenomenal rate of participation for any professional organization. People attend because they care about rangelands and SRM. They attend because they get value for their time and money; they can learn, teach, share fellowship, and make a difference. SRM meetings work because people care and go to great effort to make sure they work. A lot of science, many ideas, and a few important questions leave town after the meeting and rumble around in a lot of heads until we put together a little more of the art and science that make rangelands better.

One of the things that makes SRM special is that anyone can step up and help or lead. A college student can be a full voting member of a committee and sit next to her heroes as a peer. Many of our successful programs were started and run by young members. These members led a project long before other professional organizations would allow them to be full members.

At the other end of their careers, many members continue their devotion to rangelands and SRM long after their last paycheck clears. Why do they do so? Because they care about making things better and helping others continue the good fight. It is a special profession and SRM is a special group.

So now I can answer truthfully and quickly. Yes, SRM matters. Yes, SRM makes the world a better place - by making rangelands better. I believe fully that making rangelands better makes the world a better place. I also believe that range management and range science make rangelands better. SRM makes range management and range science better. Therefore, SRM and SRM members make the world a better place. SRM provides a forum for science, a sounding board for technicians, a review

panel for new ideas, and a place to work together so that what we do as a whole is greater than the sum of what we do individually.

If you want to get a lot OUT of SRM, share some of your passion WITH SRM. We not only allow everyone to have a role in making rangelands better, we encourage everyone to do so, regardless of age or professional status. Let the other whackjobs of the world know about SRM. We need them and they need us. With more of us in SRM, we can do more to make the rangelands and the world a better place.

If SRM has not done its part to show you what a special group we are, I ask you to do 2 things. First, think about what you can do for SRM - you truly do get out of SRM what you put into SRM. Second, call or email me or another board member and tell them what you think we are doing wrong. Almost every month we hear from someone who does this. Every one of those comments gets attention from the board. I would like to report that they all get fixed, but we are not that good. But everyone gets attention and an attempt at a fix.

A final request - over 100 people started on great rangeland careers with jobs they got through the career fair (Thanks to Linda and everyone who helped make that a booming success). For those of you who got a job at an SRM meeting or through an SRM connection, first send a thank you note to those who helped make that happen. Second, considering putting away a few dollars from each paycheck and becoming a lifetime member. Show some commitment to the organization that showed commitment to you by hosting dozens of employers and facilitating hundreds of interviews. When unemployment is shockingly high throughout the country, SRM is putting more people than ever into great jobs.

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2011 Honor Awards Nomination Deadline

The Awards Committee will be accepting nominations until April 30, 2010 for Society for Range Management Honor Awards to be presented at the 2011 Annual Meeting.

For information and instruction on the nominations process, please visit the website, <http://www.rangelands.org/awards/>.

If you prefer a hard copy of the instructions and format for nominations, please contact:

Vicky Trujillo at [vtrujillo@rangelands.org](mailto:vtrujillo@rangelands.org),  
Phone 303-986-3309 or Fax 303-986-3892.

If you have specific questions regarding the nomination process, please contact the Awards Committee Chair:

William Fox at [w-fox@tamu.edu](mailto:w-fox@tamu.edu).

The Submission Process Has Changed!  
Send your nomination via email to [vtrujillo@rangelands.org](mailto:vtrujillo@rangelands.org)

If you are not able to send an electronic nomination, please send a hard copy to:

Awards Nominations  
Society for Range Management  
10030 W 27th Ave  
Wheat Ridge, CO 80215-6604  
Please be sure you are submitting for the appropriate category.  
Deadline: April 30, 2010

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Society for Range Management Certified Range Management Consultant -
Dennis Phillippi Chair CRMC & SRM Past President
Background & History

The Certified Range Management Consultant (CRMC) committee was formed in the late 1970's. The primary purpose was to provide a means for professionals (agency and retirees) to be recognized in their field of expertise in a manner that demonstrated knowledge and experience beyond that expected of a range specialist working for government agencies. During that time the basic requirements for the range conservationist service was determined by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), Washington D.C. Many of us believed that the additional level of expertise would be necessary after leaving government service. The thinking was that the primary type of work would be with the private sector, organizations, State & Local governments and too some degree, with Federal Agencies. That projection turned out to be correct. Since its inception approximately 65 SRM members have qualified as a SRM CRMC. Currently there are forty two CRMC's active in various projects throughout the U.S., Canada, Mexico and Internationally.

Current Qualification Standards

Although the qualification standards and procedures can be found on the SRM web page, currently the basic qualifications are as follows:

Academically - PHD only, or an MS degree and 5 years of qualified technical experience, or a BS degree plus 10 years of qualified technical experience. The technical experience must be documented with references. Published technical articles and reports are important but not required. The committee is composed of nine members, all of which are CRMC's. Seven of the nine must support the application to become qualified. Since 2002, those wishing to become a Certified Range Management Professional Consultant are required to first become a Certified Professional in Range Management (CPRM).

Future Direction

It is SRM's desire to fully support the CRMC committee in their endeavors to improve upon the existing program and to enlighten the membership on the value of the CRMC committee and their purpose. If you are interested in becoming a CRMC or desire more information, I can be contacted at 406 587-7792 or you can contact the following CRMC committee members: Tom Bedell (OR), Paul Tueller (NV), Rex Cleary(NV), Joe Schuster (TX), Dee Galt (NM), Jack Cutshall (LA), Chuck Perry (WA), Rod Baumberger (SD) or Vicky Trujillo, Denver SRM office.

During the next few months, active CRMC's will provide articles in Rangeland News reflecting their experiences as Certified Range Management Consultants.

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#### Capital Update - Jess Peterson

Greetings from Washington, DC! The headline news remains the same as the House of Representatives prepares for a vote on the Senate Healthcare bill. Nonstop debate regarding legislative procedure continues and hopefully by summer we can change the news cycle.

However, I have some good news to report that was probably not discussed on Fox or CNN! Like I always say, "Don't depend on the nightly news for all your information." It's good to stay informed, don't get me wrong, but reports like this make me glad that SRM has a newsletter that goes out all over the nation that reports the good and positive breaking news. And on that note I would like to call your attention to the March 5, 2010 announcement by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service which declared that the "greater sage-grouse warrants the protection of the Endangered Species Act but that listing the species at this time is precluded by the

need to address higher priority species first." This means that federal officials are recognizing the positive role of grazing management and conservation efforts and implementing the processes that allow this successful partnership to continue. There are several SRM members that are far better versed in what this decision means, but I just wanted to call your attention to a rare good news piece here in Washington!

On March 15, 2010 U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack spoke to the National Farmers Union about another high profile issue, climate change legislation. According to his press statement Secretary Vilsack referenced a memo looking at assumptions in the FASOM model (developed by researchers at Texas A & M University). The Environmental Protection Agency utilized this model to study the impacts of climate legislation. A copy of this memo can be found at:

[http://www.usda.gov/documents/Dr.\\_Glauber\\_memo\\_to\\_Sec\\_Vilsack.pdf](http://www.usda.gov/documents/Dr._Glauber_memo_to_Sec_Vilsack.pdf).

With regards to the legislative front, Representatives Cynthia Lummis (R-WY), Stephanie Herseth Sandlin (D-SD), and Rob Bishop (R-UT) introduced H.R. 4717 the "Open EAJA Act of 2010." The bill now has 15 cosponsors. Companion legislation in the Senate is expected to be introduced shortly. The bill language states that it "directs the Attorney General to issue an annual online report to Congress and the public on the amount of attorney fees and other expenses awarded during the preceding fiscal year pursuant to the law commonly known as the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA)." The bill also "directs the Comptroller General to commence an audit of the Equal Access to Justice Act for 1995 through the end of the calendar year in which this Act is enacted, and report to Congress on the audit results." SRM does not have policy on this bill, but we will keep you posted on the bill's status.

On behalf of the SRM staff I would like to congratulate the new Executive Director of Public Lands (PLC), Dustin Van Liew. Dustin has been with PLC since 2008 and brings a good insight of public lands and inside the beltway experience. I consider Dustin a personal friend and look forward to continually working with him in his new capacity. For those of you not familiar with PLC it has represented livestock ranchers who use public lands since 1968, preserving the natural resources and unique heritage of the West. PLC works to maintain a stable business environment in which livestock producers can conserve the West and feed the nation and world.

In closing I want to thank everyone for participating on the March 11th SRM Action Update Call. Don't forget you and SRM minded friends are all invited to participate on this call. Next call is scheduled for April 8, 2010 at 11:00 am MDT

Simply call 1-517-417-5000, when prompted enter 012010 followed by the # sign. (Note: the time, phone number, and code will be the same for each monthly call held on the 2nd Thursday of each month)

Thanks again to each of you that are Capital Update subscribers. Please note that if you are not yet a subscriber, and would like to get on this update list, send an email with the word "Subscribe" in the subject line to [capitalupdate@rangelands.org](mailto:capitalupdate@rangelands.org).

Best Regards,  
Jess Peterson  
President  
Western Skies Strategies  
2414 I Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20037

202-870-3867 (o)  
202-330-5184 (f)  
www.westernskiesstrategies.com

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The New Department of Interior Website - submitted by Linda Coates-Markle, BLM Liaison

The Department of Interior has a new and improved website, www.DOI.gov. The new DOI.gov is better organized and has a cleaner look as well as an increased focus on openness with the American public.

As you explore the new site, you will find that it better reflects the priorities and mission of the Department. The website will help Americans connect with their resources, culture, and heritage, while better communicating the way in which Interior's 70,000 employees are working on their behalf.

On your next visit to the website, you will notice that the navigation has improved. For example, the menu on the homepage maintains a multitude of information in just one or two clicks. Each page has controls for adjusting text size as well as streaming videos, providing for closed captions and transcripts for audio segments. Also, the increased display resolution and size of the site will provide us with more room for pictures, text, video, and future interactive elements.

Visit our site today at www.doi.gov.

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REID Announces \$16 Million in New Funds to Help Bolster Sage Grouse

Washington, DC - Nevada Senator Harry Reid today announced that the Department of Agriculture will provide \$16 million to farmers and ranchers in Nevada and other states for projects this year that will help improve sage grouse habitat and bolster sage grouse populations. The funds will be made available through the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, both administered by the Department of Agriculture. Last week, Reid wrote a letter to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack requesting that new monies be made available for sage grouse work in an effort to protect key Nevada industries, including renewable energy development, ranching and mining.

The Department of Interior announced on Friday that the sage grouse is "warranted but precluded" from listing under the Endangered Species Act, meaning other species are currently a higher priority for being listed. A "warranted but precluded" determination does not mean that the sage grouse will necessarily end up as a listed species under the Endangered Species Act. The Fish and Wildlife Service must complete a fresh review of the sage grouse each year. If habitat conditions and population numbers rebound sufficiently in the time since the last review, it is possible for the species to return to normal status.

The new funding made available by the Department of Agriculture will provide grants to Nevada's farmers and ranchers on a voluntary basis. That money will be used for projects like new fencing for grazing rotation, reflectors that keep the sage grouse from flying into fences, and predator control. Nevada producers must apply to receive the funding. Work completed through these programs will help improve sage grouse habitat and protect existing leks.

"This funding will go a long way towards voluntary programs that can help us keep the sage grouse off of the endangered species list," Reid said.

"Protecting this bird species is the right thing to do. By working together we can improve sage grouse numbers while also protecting Nevada's renewable energy and electricity transmission projects, as well as grazing, ranching, and mining in rural areas of our state. I look forward to working with stakeholders throughout Nevada to meet this challenge head-on."

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Lost Resource - Don Smith

SRM Member Don Smith (born September 5, 1928, Manhattan, KS) has passed away. Don was a huge part of the Headquarters office and so much more than a volunteer and member of SRM. He was a great friend. He was one of the two members who have given so much of their personal time helping us to keep the Headquarters office in shape and running smoothly. We here at the office are very sad for this loss.

Don was a Life Member of SRM, joining in 1956. He served as Chair of the Election Committee for many years, coordinating the ballot count every Fall. He received the Distinguished Service Award in February 2007 for his dedication and contributions to the Society. He came frequently to the office with Thane Johnson to work on the building and do any upkeep or projects that we needed done.

He also came regularly just to visit, which we all looked forward to. Don was always very upbeat and positive. He would check in on each of us to see how we were doing and visit for a couple of minutes. He always had a smile on his face and usually a funny story to share. He LOVED playing with the office dogs as each of us would bring ours from time to time, though Mary's rat terrier Baxter was his favorite. Don's presence at the office will be missed.

Below is his obituary which can be found at <http://www.allremembrances.com/obit.aspx?obitID=1352>. There is a place to leave condolences for his family.

Donald Gene Smith, 81, of Arvada, CO died unexpectedly at his home on March 21, 2010. He was preceded in death by his wife Alice. He is survived by three children; Mike Smith (Birmingham, AL), Jennifer Knowlton (Centennial, CO), Amy Smith (Austin, TX) and six grandchildren (Tommy and Jake Knowlton, Mac, Sam, Emma and Ally Smith).

He served in WWII in the army as a paratrooper stationed in Japan. After the war, he moved to Colorado from Kansas where he fell in love with Colorado. He graduated from Colorado State University and worked at the Colorado Division of Wildlife as a biologist for 40 years before retiring. In retirement, he stayed active in his church and volunteered as a tutor at Allendale Elementary. He also volunteered for the SRM (Society of Range Management) and loved to talk about the people at the Division of Wildlife many of whom he stayed in close contact with.

There was nothing more he enjoyed then spending time with his family and friends. He rarely missed one of his grandson's baseball, football or basketball games. He was there for his grandson's at school parties, graduations and every holiday. Often seen with a camera around his neck, he loved to take photos of his family. Even though he was along in years, there was never an adventure he would say no to. At 78, he was snowmobiling over the Continental Divide and taking his family dog sledding. He loved Colorado; hunting, fishing, skiing and horseback riding. He enjoyed taking his kids and grandkids to all corners of the state showing them the beauty of Colorado and reminiscing about the good times with his friends and colleagues. An avid Bronco and Rockies fan,

he looked forward to spending the day with his family and friends at Invesco and Coors Field or just rooting for his team at home. Every year he looked forward to the annual picnic with his longtime friends and loved seeing all their kids and grandkids growing up. He told stories of his life with a smile and great laughter. Always possessing a great sense of humor, he loved practical jokes and was often heard telling some pretty funny jokes himself.

Generosity and selflessness described him well. He spent a lot of time helping people any way he could and never had a bad word to say about anybody. He never met a stranger. The Hospice of Saint John was his favorite charity where he regularly gave after his wife died. He was often seen at the hospice delivering flowers to the patients.

We thank him for being such a great example of selfless giving and kindness. He was terrific father. He was a loving and doting Grandpa and he was a great friend. He will be sorely missed by many and cherished forever in our hearts.

A viewing, service and reception celebrating his life was held at King of Glory Lutheran Church, Arvada, CO on Thursday, April 1, 2010. Military honors were held at Fort Logan National Cemetery following the reception lunch. In lieu of flowers, a donation in his name to the Hospice of Saint John (1320 Everett Court Lakewood, CO 80215) would be greatly appreciated.

The Donald G. Smith Family

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Bureau of Land Management (BLM), WO-220 Agency On-the-Spot Hiring Program, February 7-11, 2010 - Facilitator: Linda Coates-Markle, WO-220 BLM/SRM Liaison

BLM, WO-220 Division of Rangeland Resources held its fourth annual Agency On-the-Spot Hiring program in conjunction with the joint SRM/WSSA Annual Meeting and Trade Show in Denver, Co., February 7-11, 2010. A new approach was tried this year using USAJOBS.gov as a vehicle to announce the vacancies and receive applications in advance of the program. As a result, the response was phenomenal with over 1800 applications received, including several highly skilled veterans and minority candidates. An additional forty applications were received during the Rangeland JOBFair on Feb 7th. Ultimately 120 candidates were selected for interviews either by phone or on-site.

At the conclusion of the program Federal Career Intern Program (FCIP) vacancies successfully filled included six Rangeland Management Specialist (RMS-454 series), one Wildlife Biologist (486 series) position, three Natural Resource Specialist (401 series) positions and one Botanist (430 series) position. This was also the second year that a Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) vacancy was offered and successfully filled. An impressive "leftover" roster of 88 candidates (that were interviewed but not selected for positions) has been shared with BLM offices all over the western states. We are hopeful that several more of these candidates will be picked up for entry-level positions in the near future.

BLM considers this hiring program to be highly successful and is very appreciative of all the support and assistance received during this effort. Special thanks go to HR Specialist Sheila Casey from BLM-NOC, Denver CO and her HR Assistant, Erika Brau. Sheila developed the USAJOBS platform and streamlined the process while both she and Erika successfully dealt with a substantial workload as a result of this

approach. At the conclusion of the program, the hiring officials were very supportive of this new approach.

BLM also greatly appreciates our partners in this program including the SRM webmaster (Ann Tanaka), USFS program co-chairs (Amanda Cameron and Clarke McClung), the SRM JOBFAIR committee, the Career Development Workshop coordinators and speakers, the BLM interview panel and associated field offices and the SRM annual meeting planning committee. This program would not happen without the tremendous help from all of these groups and individuals.

Look for this program to happen again next year at the SRM Annual Meetings in Billings, MT. We are hoping to expand opportunities with the addition of more federal agencies participating in the On-the-Spot Program. Keep checking the SRM website for developing details.

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SRM Action Update Call

When: April 8, 2010

Time: 11:00AM MST

Dial: 1-517-417-5000

When Prompted Enter: 012010 followed by the # sign

(Special Note: The SRM Action Update Call will be held the 2nd Thursday of every month at the same time with the same number and prompt.)

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Public Land Council News Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Bethany Shively, 202-347-0228 or bshively@beef.org

Public Lands Council Announces New Executive Director

WASHINGTON (March 15, 2010) - Dustin Van Liew has been named as the new Executive Director of the Public Lands Council (PLC), and Director of Federal Lands for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA). Van Liew has been with PLC as a lobbyist since January, 2008, most recently serving in the role of interim director.

"Dustin brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the table, and-most importantly-a passion for this great industry and the people who work in it," said Skye Krebs, PLC president. "He has been an invaluable asset to the association over the past two years, and I'm excited to have him on board in this new leadership role."

In his new position, Van Liew will seek to grow the presence of PLC both in the West and in Washington, DC to ensure a profitable business environment for America's ranchers.

Van Liew comes from Woodland, Calif., where he is the seventh generation to work in livestock and production agriculture. He attended Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo where he received a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Business with a policy concentration. While at Cal Poly he was a member of the livestock judging team, competing in contests across the nation. After finishing at Cal Poly, Van Liew moved to College Station, Texas to attend Texas A&M University where he received a Masters degree in Agricultural Economics. His thesis focused on the economics of range management.

"PLC and NCBA have been strong allies over the years, and I'm looking forward to having Dustin at the helm as we continue to build upon this important partnership," said Colin Woodall, NCBA vice president of government affairs.

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The Public Lands Council (PLC) has represented livestock ranchers who use public lands since 1968, preserving the natural resources and unique heritage of the West. Public land ranchers own nearly 120 million acres of the most productive private land and manage vast areas of public land, accounting for critical wildlife habitat and the nation's natural resources. PLC works to maintain a stable business environment in which livestock producers can conserve the West and feed the nation and world.

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Calling All Cooks - Now Accepting Recipes, Stories, and Photos

Do you have a family or ranch recipe that has been around for generations? Does it have a great story or background to go with it? Or maybe you have a great range story, ranch story or an awesome range photo that you would like to share. We are looking for you. The Information and Education Committee is collecting recipes, stories and photos for the next edition of the Trail Boss Cowboy Cookbook.

Submit Recipes, Range Stories and Range Photos to:
srmcookbook@yahoo.com

Please Include Your Name, Ranch Name, SRM Section and City, State with each submission. Please Include Your Name, Ranch Name, SRM Section and City, State with each submission. All recipes must be original recipes (never published). If it is a published recipe it must be changed by 10%, such as changing an ingredient or amount, adding an ingredient, changing cooking temperature or time.

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Membership Task Force - Membership Matters - Notes from the Membership Task Force

Wally Butler, Co-chair SRM Membership Task Force

The Membership Task Force (MTF) meeting held in Denver was my first face to face meeting with this group as the new co-chair. I might say that it was an interesting experience in that we've all gathered some great ideas; so many ideas in fact, that it's a bit of a challenge to put them all in a deliverable and measurable form. Some progress was made in that regard, i.e. we recognized that SRM membership is out of balance and that retention is a problem.

First, we need to retain our current members by providing adequate benefit for their member dollars. Second, we need to determine why some members have not renewed and take steps to correct those problems to the best of our ability and then ASK for their renewal.

Finally, we need to work hard to regain the balance that is much needed in our membership make-up. By that I mean that we need our membership roster to include about one-third each of agency, academia, and practitioner members. The third category is sadly lacking—the three legged stool is about to tip over! We need to fix it and soon.

If we retain current members and balance the stool, we will substantially grow our membership and the result will be a financially stable organization. The task force discussed ideas but we would like very much to hear ideas from each of you. Give either Jim Thorpe or me a call. My number is 208-484-9802. Have a great spring!

To contact the Membership Task Force:

mementaskforce@rangelands.org

Jim Thorpe, Co-Chair    Wally Butler, Co-Chair

575-868-4686            208-484-9802

jimthorpe@wildblue.net    wbutler@idahofb.org

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April Rangeland Photo Quiz

Question: Remember that old range proverb, "Never throw anything away - it might come in handy someday?" So what is this and what's it doing in the water tank? (Submitted by Julie Elliot, Wray CO)

Send your own range riddles to Vicky (vtrujillo@rangelands.org), subject line RANGE PHOTO QUIZ.

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March Rangeland Photo Quiz

Everything OK with this critter?

Some aspects of rangelands don't always agree with their most ubiquitous residents. Being able to recognize and respond to "something doesn't look right" situations in range critters is a critical skill for successful managers, who obviously need to husband livestock at least as well as they do land. This picture is from mid-October, east central New Mexico. What's up Doc?

Answer: Thanks to the many submitting answers for the March photo quiz of the poor woolly bovine off her feed (and soon completely off her feet - as in pointed straight up in the air!). Jim Pfister from the Logan ARS Poison Plant Lab suspected plant poisoning right away; Lee Knox from Texas thinks it could'a been loco. The culprit will never be known, but we suspect she was seduced by the beguiling jimson weed (that's Datura stramonium for all you lovers of latin!). With her goes \$800 off the ranch balance sheet!

Thanks to all who submitted answers. Everyone else, please send in more submissions that will intrigue, perplex, and ultimately inform us all. Do you have a quizzical range photo that might puzzle the pros? Please send with captions c/o vtrujillo@rangelands.org.

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16th Wildland Shrub Symposium

<http://wss2010.usu.edu>

Threats to Shrubland Ecosystem Integrity

May 18-20, 2010 Utah State University Logan, Utah, USA

Online Registration is Open

* Abstract Deadline March 31, 2010

* Papers on Climate Change, Wildlife, Energy Extraction, Invasive Species, Restoration, Wildfire, Recreation, Livestock Grazing, Social and Economic Aspects, and Shrub Biology are encouraged

* Program will include Plenary and Concurrent Sessions, a Poster Session, and Field Tours

Session Topics

The Wildland Shrub Symposium Series are developed by the Shrub Research Consortium (SRC), which was formed in 1983 and now has 27 institutional members. Contributed oral and poster presentations on all aspects of shrublands are encouraged. Symposium proceedings will be published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station; all presenters are strongly encouraged to prepare a manuscript for the proceedings. Manuscripts will be due in December 2010.

The meeting agenda is available at: <http://wss2010.usu.edu/agenda.cfm>.

Contact Organizers: Tom Monaco (tom.monaco@ars.usda.gov) and Eugene Schupp (Eugene.schupp@usu.edu)

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2010 Range Camp - 26th Annual Range and Natural Resources Camp  
June 20-25, 2010  
Elkus Youth Ranch - Half Moon Bay, CA  
Presented by: California-Pacific Section of the Society for Range  
Management

Where students 15-18 years old can discover the science and management of  
our natural resources from experienced professionals and university  
faculty.

Sessions and Activities include:

- ? Riparian Habitats
- ? Rangeland Ecology
- ? Wildlife Management
- ? Soils
- ? Forestry
- ? Plant ID
- ? Beach BBQ
- ? Recreation
- ? Private & Public Lands
- ? Watershed Hydrology
- ? GPS / GIS Technology Applications
- ? Evening Campfires
- ? Tour of Working Ranch
- ? Team Project Planning Competition

Cost: \$400

Applications can be downloaded from the CALPAC website:

<http://www.rangelands.org/casrm/HTML/rangecamps.html>

"Top Camper" Contest: Plant ID test, subject matter exam & peer/staff  
evaluation - Top three placing students given opportunity to represent  
California-Pacific Section, SRM at the Society for Range Management's  
High School Youth Forum, in Billings, MT \* (Feb. 2011; all expenses paid  
for top two students) and belt buckles. All campers receive t-shirts and  
camp completion certificates.

\*Must be a current high school student in Feb '11

\*\*At this time, all sessions and activities are conducted in English\*\*

Sponsored By:

California-Pacific Section of the Society for Range  
Management (SRM)

U.C. Cooperative Extension

California Association of Resource Conservation  
Districts (CARCD)

Host District - San Mateo County RCD

East Bay Municipal Utility District

U.S. Navy - Natural Resources Program

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

For more information, including help finding financial assistance,  
contact:

Mary Kimball, Northern California..... (530) 795-1520  
<mailto:mary@landbasedlearning.org>

Cece Dahlstrom, Southern California ..... (619) 532-2269  
<mailto:carol.dahlstrom@navy.mil>

Theresa Becchetti, Central California..... (209) 525-6800  
tabecchetti@ucdavis.edu

\*\*\*\* APPLICATIONS DUE APRIL 25, 2010 \*\*\*\*

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Plant Sciences Department, UC Davis
ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT OF GRAZING
An Online Course

The California Rangeland Research and Information Center (CRRIC) at University of California at Davis has developed an online course entitled "The Ecology and Management of Grazing." University of California and Oregon State University Cooperative Extension have received a grant from USDA Western SARE that reduces the registration cost of this online course by half for agency staff in California and Oregon.

Decreasing university faculty and increasing travel costs have reduced the continuing education short course offerings traditionally offered by University of California and Oregon State University rangeland management programs. With this online course remaining faculty expertise has been used more efficiently and there are no travel costs associated with sending agency staff to traditional short courses.

This online course is organized in four modules that can be taken separately or in sequential order. The modules are 1) Introduction to Ecology and Grazing, 2) Foraging Behavior and Livestock Distribution, 3) Forage Quality and Grazing Animal Nutrition, and 4) Ranching and Grazing Systems. Each module is introduced by a documentary quality high definition video followed by a series of narrated PowerPoint presentations. There are reading assignments and practical exercises. Each module is self-paced and will take 10 to 20 hours to complete. Outlines for each module can be accessed via the online course registration page:

http://californiarangeland.ucdavis.edu/Grazing%20Management/online_course.htm

Normal course registration fees are \$200 per module or \$600 for all four modules. With the grant from Western SARE this online course is available to agency staff at \$100 per module or \$300 for all four modules. Registration fees can be further reduced for agency groups of more than 10 people. Contact Mel George (mrgeorge@ucdavis.edu, phone 530-752-1720) for group discounts. Each module is approved by the Society for Range Management for 16 CEUs.

Modules 1 and 2 are available now. Modules 3 and 4 will be available on February 1, 2010.

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Grazing Influence, Objective Development, and Management in Wyoming's Greater Sage Grouse Habitat—Online

The long awaited peer reviewed document: Grazing Influence, Objective Development, and Management in Wyoming's Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat (Cagney et al. 2010: University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service, 57pages full color) is available at <http://www.uwyo.edu/cessupport/agpubs/pubs.asp>. To access enter bulletin number B-1203.

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2010 DOI Conference on the Environment
Portland, Oregon - Hilton Portland & Executive Tower - April 26 - 30,
2010

Sponsored by the Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance and hosted
by the National Park Service

The U.S. Department of the Interior invites you to attend the 2010
DOI Conference on the Environment. Scheduled April 26 - 30, 2010, in
Portland, Oregon, the conference provides a forum for Interior staff,
stakeholders from other agencies, and government, commercial, and non-
profit exhibitors to meet and exchange information on a wide variety of
environmental and natural resource topics and issues. The 2010 Conference
on the Environment will address important environmental issues,
including:

??Climate Change and Greenhouse Gases ??Sustainable Practices at
DOI Facilities

??Environmental Collaboration, Partnering and Outreach ??Resource
Conservation and Management

??Environmental Remediation and Current Technologies

Attendees will be able to identify opportunities for sharing
resources to solve environmental problems and receive training in various
environmental subject areas. Concurrent sessions will be held including
training sessions, educational field trips, exhibits, papers, panels and
poster presentations. This conference will provide you with a wealth of
knowledge that you won't find anywhere else.

Mark your calendars and do not miss this important Department-wide
event!

The Department of the Interior has invited Secretary Ken Salazar as
the keynote speaker. The conference will emphasize the Secretary's high-
priority performance goals for change across the Department in:

??Fostering a greater sense of stewardship in our youth for natural
and cultural resources;

??Enabling the capacity to increase water conservation among our
customers in the West;

??Increasing the potential for production and transmission of
renewable energy resources on DOI managed lands;

??Establishing a working multi-bureau approach for mitigating
climate change on our lands;

??Empowering Native communities; and

??Protecting our treasured landscapes and the great outdoors.

Who Should Attend?

Department of the Interior staff involved with the following:

??Environmental Management ??Facility Management

??Energy Management ??Transportation Management

??Natural Resource Conservation and Management ??Environmental
Planning (NEPA)

??Hazardous Waste Clean-Ups ??Emergency

Who Should Exhibit? Go to

<https://www.regonline.com/custImages/271565/Exhibitor%20Categories%201.04.09.pdf> to review exhibitor categories.

More information can be found at the conference website:

<http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?eventid=782504>

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64th Annual Meeting of the SRM  
Billings Montana - February 6-10, 2011  
"Transcending Borders - Landscapes and Legends"

Call for Symposia

The deadline to submit symposia, workshops and forums for the 2011 Annual Meeting is fast-approaching!

Deadline for title and detailed description of program: May 1, 2010

The Program Committee will be accepting titles and a detailed description of the symposia, workshop or forum until May 1, 2010 to be presented at the 2011 Annual Meeting in Billings.

Information and instruction for submitting symposia and workshops can be found at the meeting website, <http://www.rangelands.org/billings2011/>;

Click on Call for Workshop Symposia/Workshops.

If you are not able to send an electronic call for symposia, please send a hard copy to:

Bret Olson  
Professor of Range Ecology  
Interim Department Head  
114 Linfield Hall, MSU-Bozeman  
Bozeman, MT 59717

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Great Basin/Mojave Desert Climate Change Workshop

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Geological Survey, the National Park Service, and the Environmental Protection Agency, in collaboration with several other agencies and organizations, are sponsoring a workshop focusing on natural resource research, adaptation, and mitigation needs related to climate change in the Great Basin and Mojave Desert. The workshop, will be held April 20-22, 2010 at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, and will examine how climate change is affecting natural resources in deserts of the western U.S., as well as the land, water, and species management and research needs that are essential to address in the coming decade.

Workshop objectives include:

??Increase understanding of climate change processes and their effects on the physical systems and biota of the Great Basin and Mojave Desert

??Provide the "best available" scientific information for adapting to change

??Examine research and management needs

??Evaluate management constraints and determine potential solutions

??Develop effective research and management collaborations for addressing climate change into the future

The workshop offers a valuable opportunity for scientists and natural resource managers to gather for a discussion of their information needs and opportunities. The poster session will be a highlight of the workshop. Please consider presenting your research results and project information in this forum.

CALL FOR POSTER ABSTRACTS:

<http://www.wr.usgs.gov/workshops/poster.html>

For more information, please visit <http://www.wr.usgs.gov/workshops/>

REGISTER AT: <http://www.wr.usgs.gov/workshops/registration.html>

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Interpreting and Measuring Indicators of Rangeland Health  
May 4-7 2010: Phoenix AZ      June 22-25 2010: Casper WY

What - Participants in this 3.5 day course will learn how to apply the "Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health" qualitative evaluation protocol and learn how to quantify selected indicators.

Why - The protocol is widely applied by individuals and agencies to provide early warning of potential degradation, opportunities for recovery and to help design monitoring programs. The quantitative indicators can also be used as baseline for monitoring.

Who - Individuals with little or no experience with the protocols. Individuals who would like to improve their ability to consistently apply the protocols.

Anyone who is interested in learning how to objectively evaluate rangelands.

Schedule - Each day's activities assume knowledge of the previous day. Consequently, participants are asked to commit to being present throughout the course.

??Tuesday and Wednesday 8-5: Classroom/field instruction and exercises including ecological site ID and quantitative methods

??Thursday 8-5: Field application of the IIRH protocol

??Friday 8-12: Interpretation and application at the landscape scale.

Instructors - Fee Busby (USU) ~ Jeff Herrick (ARS) ~ Mike Pellant (BLM) ~ David Pyke (USGS) ~ Pat Shaver and Jeff Printz (NRCS)

Cost - This course is being held tuition free for the purpose of encouraging the use of this Rangeland Health Assessment tool by BLM and other federal and state agencies. Participants are responsible for their own travel expenses, including transportation to the classroom, meals and lodging. We will carpool to field sites.

Manuals, training videos and additional materials - [http://usda-ars.nmsu.edu/Monit\\_Assess/monitoring\\_main.php](http://usda-ars.nmsu.edu/Monit_Assess/monitoring_main.php)

Registration and Logistics

Locations: Phoenix, AZ-May 4 (8AM) - May 7 (11AM)

Casper, WY-June 22 (8AM) - June 25 (11AM)

Sponsor: BLM National Training Center

Registration: Note: the BLM will soon be upgrading the registration software (at some undetermined date) and once upgraded, the following directions might not apply exactly as written. If you have trouble registering contact Course Coordinator, Don Washco at 602-906-5535 or Mark Harner, at 602-906-5553.

BLM or other DOI employees:

Open DOI at <https://doilearn.doi.gov/> Enter user name and password and log on.

Select course catalog on blue menu bar. Select catalog.

Type 1730-37 in search box and select search

Click the title of the class Interpreting and Measuring Indicators of Rangeland Health

Select Phoenix AZ or Casper WY session. Select Apply.

NON DOI/Private Sector:

Go to the DOI Learn website:

<http://doilearn.doi.gov/coursecatalog/index.cfm>

Type 1730-37 in search box and select search

Click the title of the class Interpreting and Measuring Indicators of Rangeland Health  
Select Phoenix AZ or Casper WY session. Select Apply. Fill in the required fields. For payment information, select Not Required and select GO. Select Submit Order at the bottom of the form.

Class Approval: There are various class registration statuses used by DOI LEARN. They are:

- Registered: You have been accepted for the class.
- Closed Roster List: The Course Leader or Administrator has not yet determined who will be accepted for the class (this will be your status when you register for the class).
- Waitlist: The class is full and you have been placed on a waitlist. You will be notified if a space opens up on the roster.
- Preference will be given to federal employee participation if classes are full.

Hotels: Hotel information will be sent to all approved class attendees

Contact: Don Washco; Email-Don\_Washco@blm.gov; Phone-602-906-5535

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Welcome to Our New Members (March)

Name - City, State - Section
Tyler Archibald - Fort Collins, CO - CO
Jeremiah C. Armstrong - Cedar City, UT - UT
James R. Bone - Valdosta, GA - FL, TX
Brock Bowles - Fort Collins, CO - CO
Rick Danvir - Woodruff, UT - UT
Ethan Ditmanson - Haltom City, TX - TX
Alan D. Dodd - Calgary, AB - IM
Jessica M. French - Bozeman, MT - IM
Frank A. Hayes - Duncan, AZ - AZ, NM
Drew Hendricks - Midland, TX - TX
James L. Hoge - Olathe, KS - KS
Colin S. McKim - Santa Margarita, CA - CA
Kristi McKinnon - Elko, NV - NV
Don Palmer - Hugo, CO - CO
Dan Patten - Shoshone, ID - ID
Amy Porter - Pecos, TX - TX
Anastasia Rabin - Tucson, AZ - AZ
Sarah Rose Ravenelle - Carson City, NV - NV
Edward B. Schoppe - Ephraim, UT - UT
Louis E. Swanson - Fort Collins, CO - CO
Rachel Waldrop - College Station, TX - TX

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Upcoming Functions & 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 |
|-------|---------------|---------------------------------------------|--------|
| Apr 6 | Kanab, UT     | 32nd Annual AZ/UT Range Livestock Workshops | 6      |
|       |               | Vicki Coombs, vacoombs@cals.arizona.edu     |        |
| Apr 7 | Hurricane, UT | 32nd Annual AZ/UT Range Livestock Workshops | 6      |

Vicki Coombs, vacoombs@cals.arizona.edu

Apr 8 Atkins Ranch, AZ Strip BLM 32nd Annual AZ/UT Range Livestock  
Workshops FIELD TOUR TBD  
Vicki Coombs, vacoombs@cals.arizona.edu

Apr 13 Buffalo, WY Animal Behavior Workshop 8  
nikki-lohse@wy.nacdnet.net

Apr 15 Watsonville, CA CCRC Spring Mtg: Managing Relationships of  
6  
Earths Communities with Soil Sun & Water  
[http://www.elkhornsloughctp.org/reference/subissue\\_detail.php?SUBISSUE\\_ID=27](http://www.elkhornsloughctp.org/reference/subissue_detail.php?SUBISSUE_ID=27)

Apr 16 Winters, CA 3rd Annual Field Day at Hedgerow Farms 3  
[http://www.cnga.org/workshop\\_signup.html#work2](http://www.cnga.org/workshop_signup.html#work2)

Apr 20-22 Las Vegas, NV Natural Resource Needs Related to Climate  
Change in the 16  
Great Basin & Mojave Desert: Research Adaptation Mitigation  
<http://www.wr.usgs.gov/workshops/>

Apr 27 Petaluma, CA Grazing Livestock and Water Quality: Options  
and Solutions 5  
for California Rangelands  
<http://groups.ucanr.org/GIM/files/76991.pdf>

Apr 27 Casper, WY WY Rangeland Management 101 School 6  
<http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/UWAG/>

May 5-6 Deep Springs, CA CalPac Section 2010 Spring Meeting d1 - 6 /  
d2 TBD  
<http://casrm.rangelands.org/>

May 5-6 Lone Wolf, OK National Grasslands Managers Meeting 11  
ttl (d1-6/d2-2/d3-3)

Jun 2-3 Burwell, NE NE Sandhills Grazing Systems & Grassland 3  
ttl (d1 -1 / d2 - 2)  
Bird Diversity Tour  
<http://www.nebraskagrazinglands.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=flTQVbFdU6k%3D&tabid=36>

Jun 16-18 Kelowna, BC PNW Summer Meeting and Tour TBD  
<http://pnw.rangelands.org/>

Jun 21-25 Chadron, NE 2010 NE Range Shortcourse 16 ttl (see eval)  
<http://cariregistration.unl.edu/CourseStatus.awp?~10NRSCCD0621>

Aug 10-11 Kearney, NE 2010 NE Grazing Conference 8 (d1-3 / d2 - 5)  
<http://www.grassland.unl.edu/grazeconf.htm>

Oct 6-8 Tulelake, CA CalPac/PNW Sections Joint Annual Fall  
Meeting TBD  
<http://pnw.rangelands.org/>

Oct 12-14 Halsey, NE NE Section Fall Annual Meeting  
 TBD  
<http://www.ianr.unl.edu/srm/index.html>

Oct 13-15 Odessa, TX TX Section Annual Fall Meeting TBD  
<http://www.rangelands.org/texas/>

Feb 6-10, 2011 Billings, MT 64th Annual Meeting of the SRM 16  
 max  
<http://www.rangelands.org/billings2011/>

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, 10030 W 27th Ave, Wheat Ridge, CO 80215-6601;  
[vtrujillo@rangelands.org](mailto:vtrujillo@rangelands.org), Fax 303-986-3892

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 63rd Annual Meeting of the SRM and the 50th Annual Meeting of the WSSA
 "Working Landscapes - Providing for the Future"

Abstracts Online at:
<https://srm.conference-services.net/programme.asp?conferenceID=1756&language=en-uk>

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 SRM PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE ON CD?ROM  
 \$7 each or \$5 each if you order three or more titles  
 Facilities for Watering Livestock & Wildlife  
 Facilities for Handling, Sheltering & Trailing Livestock  
 Glossary of Terms Used in Range Management  
 Rangeland Entomology  
 Rangeland Hydrology  
 Fences

If you are interested, please email your order request to Mary Moser at  
[mmoser@rangelands.org](mailto:mmoser@rangelands.org) with credit card information, or order by fax to  
 (303) 986?3892.  
 You may also pay with a check by sending your order to 10030 W. 27th  
 Avenue, Wheat Ridge, CO, 80215.

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 PAYMENT WITH FOREIGN CURRENCY
 Because of the high fees charged to convert foreign currency payments,
 SRM can only accept payments made in US funds.
 If you are a member outside of the US, please make your payments either
 by:
 Money Order (US funds only) ? a check drawn on a US account (US funds
 only) ? or a credit card.
 We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. If you have any
 questions please call Caitlin Harris, 303?986?3309 or email
caitlin@rangelands.org.

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 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!

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 Open Spaces: The World's Rangelands
 Society for Range Management
 10030 West 27th Avenue

Wheat Ridge, CO 80215

Phone: 303?986?3309

Fax: 303?986?3892

E?mail: info@rangelands.org

We're on the Web: www.rangelands.org