



# New Mexico Section Newsletter

## Society for Range Management

SPRING 2010

### Del Escriorio Del Presidente



Thank you for taking a minute to browse through this newsletter! There are a number of really exciting initiatives brewing in the NM SRM community and although you will get to hear from each of the protagonists in this and future newsletters, I thought I would try to hit the highlights and spark your interest to read on and become involved with the NMSRM!

**2010 Winter Meeting:** An exceptional group of NM educators spoke at this year's winter meeting and offered specific suggestions about ways to become involved with NM K-12 educators (you can see speaker presentations at <http://nmsrm.nmsu.edu/2010-winter-meeting.html>). As a result, a K-12 Task Force was formed (see below) to follow up on recommendations received and ensure that at least one new tangible initiative is put in place this year. We had an extraordinary group of Section award winners this year that included *John Romero* and *Wilbur Louis* (Range Manager of the Year), *Acoma Livestock Growers*, *La Ventana Grazing Group* (Excellence in

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### Changing Careers (Retirement)

"It has been five years since I have changed careers." I have learned to say that, in place of saying I have retired. Seems as though when I say I have retired, folks have the impression that I have given up interest in anything worldly related to the work environment. They seem to think I am playing with the grandkid, or playing golf, or traveling, and if not doing those things, sitting on the couch. I probably foster that myself in saying what I am doing in my new career, because I do have more time to play with the grandkid, or play golf, or travel.

These past five years have become a time of transition. No longer do I carry the hat of an agency person, with the rules and policies that go with being that person. I now have the independence to think of our world in my terms only and not have to color it with agency policy.

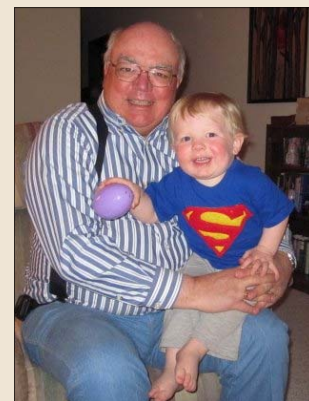
I have lost some of the reoccurring contacts with others involved in resource management that comes with the being that agency person. That has been a major loss. So many dedicated folks across the country in our resource agencies working to conserve our country's natural resources that have been my friends.

So in my "new career" I have continued and developed some new habits. I continue to participate in the professional societies: Society for Range Management, and Soil and Water Conservation Society. I have been a volunteer. And now have embarked on work with a non profit and a government entity in coordinating range and woodland improvements. I am back to the earlier days of my prior career, when doing field work was where the action was at.

All is now carried out on my schedule and, yes, there is plenty of time to play with the grandkid, play golf and travel.

As a member of the New Mexico Section of SRM, I hope to continue to contribute in a number of ways. As with other SRM folks who have "changed careers," I can provide the history of the section and my prior agency work. But more importantly, I can now provide for some challenges that I may have been hesitant to provide when being that agency person. I now have lost the colored glasses of the agency and can be more independent.

Ken Leiting, Resource Conservationist  
For The Land, LLC  
(Changed careers from USDA-NRCS 2005)



### SAVE THE DATE

**2010 Summer Tour August 6th UU Bar Ranch**



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Range Management), *Bill Zeedyk* (Rangeland innovator of the Year), *Tom Bartlett* and *Bob Alexander* (Distinguished Service), *Doug Cram* and *Summer Eaton* (President's Award), *Nathan Clements* and *Shelby Walker* (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in HSYF) and *Nick Padilla* (Range Club President). Please continue to submit award nominations to help us recognize the best rangeland managers in New Mexico.

#### **2010 Summer Tour and 2011 Winter Meeting:**

Jim Thorpe, NMSRM president elect, is working hard planning these events. You will be hearing from Jim fairly soon regarding dates, location, and agendas for these meetings. Please stay tuned, check the section's website often (<http://nmsrm.nmsu.edu>) and do not hesitate to contact Jim ([jimthorpe@wildblue.net](mailto:jimthorpe@wildblue.net)) with any ideas or suggestions.

#### **Board of Directors Meetings:**

Thanks to NMSU's College of Agriculture and to Sonja Jo Serna we are now able to conduct BOD meetings on CEN-TRA, an internet based software that allows members in remote areas to participate in BOD meetings. This fantastic tool allows us to record and store all sessions so members can now log on and listen to entire BOD meeting discussions over the internet. If you are interested in participating in future BOD

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## Native Range Report

In 2009 the New Mexico Section invited John Romero and Wilbur Louis to make a presentation on the Sedillo Cattle Association's Rangeland operation at the Producer's Forum and Society's Annual Meeting in Albuquerque. This started a chain of events between the Sedillo Association and the New Mexico Section.

News of the relationship spread rapidly (Thanks to Jim Thorpe) with the Wall Street Journal covering the SRM's tour of the Sedillo Range Management Unit. The Society's Board of Directors heard of the relationship and the activities in New Mexico. Recognizing that there are millions of acres of rangelands on Indian Reservations and that SRM is a limited player, it recognized an opportunity and perhaps a need for more SRM participation with Native American rangeland interests. Thus, it launched a new effort called "Native Range."

The idea was to set up a working group of interested individuals to look into the situation and help determine if there is a desire for more SRM participation on rangelands used by Native Americans and if the Society has a desire to further participate on the Native Range. Of course the information flow would be a two way street with knowledge and experience flowing both ways.

A brief coordination meeting was held in Denver prior to the annual meeting. Individuals who had indicated an interest were invited. It was decided to pursue the following three objectives over the next year:

- 1) Test the water to see if a Native Range Seminar could be held at the Billings Meeting in 2011. Include a tour of one of the nearby Indian Reservations.
- 2) Look into a program that would link Indian Schools to a University with a Range Management Program. Additionally, see if graduates could then go onto an intern job with land management agencies.
- 3) Look into activities and relationships that could be developed on Native Range at the Section level. Due to the level of activity in New Mexico and the number of Native American Section Members in New Mexico, Bob Alexander was asked to facilitate discussions with Native Americans and the Section.

Everyone is welcome to participate in "Native Range." If you are interested, contact Bob at (505) 470-5637 or [bob1alexander@msn.com](mailto:bob1alexander@msn.com).



*Bob Alexander is a past president of the NMSRM section, and is currently a Range Management Specialist with the Pueblo of Laguna Environmental & Natural Resources Department.*



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 meetings or would like to listen to recordings of past BOD meetings please contact me ([acibils@nmsu.edu](mailto:acibils@nmsu.edu)) and we'll get you set up to go. Also, Doug Cram and Summer Eaton are constantly making sure that information regarding dates, times, and agendas of BOD meetings are available to all on the section's website. So please check the section's webpage often!

**New K-12 Outreach Effort:** A newly formed K-12 task force led by Dr. Laurie Abbott is moving forward by leaps and bounds in developing a strategy to collaborate with K-12 New Mexico educators. The long term goal of this effort is to become involved in promoting rangeland literacy of New Mexico kids and is aimed at helping educate the future decision makers of New Mexico about the importance of rangelands. I think we have the best possible group of people to kick off this ambitious project. David Graham, Alicia Gallegos, Doug Cram, Summer Eaton, Bob Ehrhart, Barbara Witmore, Nick Ashcroft, Tom Dean, Nick Padilla, and John Tunberg have agreed to be a part of this vibrant team. Stay tuned for news from Laurie and members of this group in future newsletters. Please contact Laurie ([labbott@nmsu.edu](mailto:labbott@nmsu.edu)) if you'd like to participate!

**Membership Survey:** We are extremely fortunate to have Dr. Lee Hamilton, a rural sociologist at NMSU, join the Section's membership committee to work

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**NMSU Range Club News**



NMSU Range Club News and Updates  
 By Nick Padilla, President 2008-2009

Hello All!

In January, the New Mexico Section graciously supported the Range Club by providing funds for the members to attend the national meeting in Denver, Colorado. The funds were used to help pay for registration and lodging. The club was also fortunate to receive funds for the trip from the Las Cruces Elks Lodge. In return, the club helped at the First Responders dinner in February by serving food, bussing tables, and helping with cleanup. We would like to thank Dr. Derek and Cindy Bailey for helping us secure service funding.

While in Denver, the Range Club students competed in the undergraduate range management exam (URME), display contest, plant ID, and in the range cup. Club members also attended technical sessions, talked with other student chapters, networked with professionals, and participated in on-the-spot hiring with the federal management agencies. Overall, the experience was educational and rewarding for club members. We are already looking forward to next year's meeting in Montana.

The spring semester is half over and the students are finishing midterms. The Range Club has been busy this semester, but operations continue to run smoothly. Again, we would like to thank the entire NM Section for their support. We greatly appreciate it.

**2009 Recipient of the Range Manager of the Year Award**

Submitted by Bob Alexander

The Society for Range Management was deeply saddened by the news that Wilbur Louis Jr. passed away January 27<sup>th</sup>. Wilbur was Range Specialist for the Bureau of Indian Affairs Laguna Agency and a member of the Pueblo of Laguna's Sedillo Cattle Association.

Wilbur practiced consultation, coordination and cooperation as standard operating procedures. Wilbur brought the wisdom from many years of resource management practice and observation when he joined you at the table or in the field. Wilbur was a key participant for the highly successful New Mexico Section's 2009 Summer Tour of the Sedillo Cattle Association. Wilbur's contribution to natural resource management was recognized by the Society for Range Management New Mexico Section when he received the Range Man of the Year Award. He will be missed.



Wilbur Louis Jr. on the rangeland that he loved



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 with Jason Martin and the BOD in designing a questionnaire that will be sent out to you later this year. We want to receive your input regarding what you would like to see the NM Section do. Lee's leading role in this initiative will ensure that we receive feedback from you all, without taking up too much of your time and to avoid repeated blanket emails. Please expect to hear from us some time in the late spring or early summer. Thank you in advance for your participation!

**Retiree Task Force:** Dr. Red Baker, NMSRM past president, had the excellent idea of tapping into some of our most valuable human resources in the rangeland community in New Mexico and recruited Bob Alexander and Dan Merkel to provide leadership in forming a new task force composed of some of our most knowledgeable members. We clearly want to keep our retired range professionals involved with the section and know that Bob and Dan are the perfect people to facilitate this process. If you would like to join this group and/or provide ideas and suggestions, please contact Bob Alexander ([balexander@lagunatribe.org](mailto:balexander@lagunatribe.org)) or Dan Merkel (505-798-0771).

**Section Finances:** Dr. Tom Bartlett is doing an extraordinary job leading an initiative that began in 2009 and that seeks to improve our section's fiscal management. Tom, Michael Casados, Jim Thorpe, Red Baker, and I are currently working on developing a

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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](mailto:srmcookbook@yahoo.com)

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.)

**Featured Recipe Of The Month:**

From: Trail Boss's Cowboy Cookbook, 1985

Shelly (Jackson) Van Haur, Van Haur Polled Herfords

Montana Beef Pasties (Butte Pasties)



- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1 double recipe for pie dough                  | 1 c.                    |
| leftover gravy                                 |                         |
| 1 lb. diced, cooked roast beef (3-4 c.)        | 1 tsp. salt             |
| ½ lb. diced, cooked (boiled or baked) potatoes | ¼ tsp. pepper           |
| 1 lge. Onion, diced                            | ½ tsp. dried garlic     |
| 3 diced carrots                                | 2 tbsps. parsley flakes |

Mix all ingredients in a large bowl except pie dough. Roll pie dough into 1/8 " thick, 8" round circles. Place ¾ or 1 c. of meat mixture on half of dough circle, bring other half over and seal edges. Put small slit in top of each pastie. Cook at 400° for 1 hour. Serve with gravy or catsup.

**Background:** The old Welch miners were known for their lunch of pasties they took down in the mines of Butte, Montana. Later these pasties took on a variety of different ingredients and styles according to the nationality of the miner's wife who made them, and later the ranch wives.

### New Mexico Section SRM Summer Tour

Save the Date! NM Section tour August 6, 2010 at the Express UU Bar ranch see (<http://www.expressuubar.com/>) in the rolling foothills of the northeast plains .

Board of Directors will meet the afternoon of August 5th.

There will be an evening program in Cimarron August 5th - details to follow! Plan to stay over and explore through the weekend!





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set of criteria that, if approved by the BOD, will provide guidance in current and future budgetary and financial decisions.

**Section Newsletter:** I'd like to recognize Dr. Sam Smallidge and Summer Eaton for their hard work behind the scenes to make sure that this newsletter reaches your inbox. Beginning with this issue, you will see short articles by section officers, who will be contributing news and perspectives about their corner of the state in each issue. If you'd like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact Sam ([ssmallid@ad.nmsu.edu](mailto:ssmallid@ad.nmsu.edu)) or Summer ([sallison@nmsu.edu](mailto:sallison@nmsu.edu)).

In closing, I'd like to recognize all of our tenacious section officers that so generously donate time and energy to forwarding the mission of the SRM in New Mexico. I'd like to encourage all members to stay involved with the SRM and to become actively engaged in the NM Section initiatives. We are constantly looking for new ideas and willing volunteers, so feel free to contact me at any time. Have a great spring and we hope to see you all at our Annual Tour this summer!

## New Mexico Section SRM Board of Directors Meeting Calendar for 2010

### Dates:

1. January 8 (past)
2. March 5
3. May 7
4. June 18
5. August 6th- Summer tour
6. September 3
7. November 5
8. January 2011 winter Meeting (date and location TBA)

### Time:

All meetings will begin **at noon** (unless otherwise indicated) to hopefully allow more folk to access the BOD meetings remotely during lunch break. We will try to keep them short, not more than an hour or so.

### Locations:

We will stay with the multi-site format and will set up Centra or Skype internet access to allow everyone to log in from homes or offices. Detailed instructions on how to do this will be sent out well in advance and will be posted on the section's website. If our K-12 task force (who, by the way, are doing a fantastic job of following up on our winter meeting discussions) requests that any given BOD meeting be held at a specific location to join them in a K-12 related activity, we will then announce this well in advance and will again provide Skype or Centra capabilities for those who are unable to travel.

### Who should attend:

Although only elected officers are able to vote on section business matters, we'd really value (and really need) as many members to "come" (or log in) to our BOD meetings. Our discussions would greatly benefit from everyone's input. So although we'll be sending out friendly reminders prior to each meeting, and will be posting this document on the section website, please go ahead and mark your calendars anyway!

### Questions or Suggestions:

If you have any questions or suggestions please feel free to contact Andrés Cibils ([acibils@nmsu.edu](mailto:acibils@nmsu.edu) or 575-646-4342) Doug Cram ([dcram@nmsu.edu](mailto:dcram@nmsu.edu)) or Summer Eaton ([sallison@nmsu.edu](mailto:sallison@nmsu.edu)).

Check Out the NM SRM Website for More Information

<http://nmsrm.nmsu.edu/>



## Why join the Society for Range Management?

Hello my name is Michael Casados and I'm currently a member of the New Mexico Section. My memberships begin with the society back in 1986 and have been a member for 24 years. While in Idaho back in the mid-1980's I was actively involved in our Southern Chapter of the Idaho Section when there were chapters in various sections. I remember being very active in our chapter and becoming involved with some great people.

My most rewarding activity which we did in our chapter was having a food booth at the local Lincoln County Fair in Shoshone, Idaho. We had a great group of members who were so dedicated in our chapter and always looking for ways to raise money in order to do great things. We had this food booth three years in a row and the chapter members which I had the privilege of working with were just an amazing group of dedicated folks. We were able to raise \$10,000 through our efforts and donated the money to the University of Idaho to establish of an endowment fund. I realized back then that in order to make things happen you must set your mind to involve yourself 100 percent and become active whether it is in a chapter, section or at the national level of SRM. I've made a point in my 24 years of being a member to get involved and stay active. I have taken those opportunities as a member to attend many National, International and Section meetings throughout the USA. Being an active SRMer has allowed me to visit and learn of many places, meet great people from all walks of life and things which I would have never done otherwise. Every year the national meeting is held in a different location and it amazes me at the caliber of presentations, exhibits, entertainment, opportunities to see various ranches, businesses, places of interest, people and places in America. Our national meetings are usually those places where you see old friends and make new ones.

Having the opportunity to serve as the "Awards Chairperson, Board of Directors, 2009 Planning Committee for the Albuquerque National meeting and currently your Secretary/Treasurer has allowed me to meet and work closely with so many great people within the state of New Mexico. Our Section winter meetings are always great to attend whether they are held in Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and/or Las Cruces. We learn from each other and the technology transfer and wealth of information we gain we're able take back to our homes and places of work to use and incorporate in some way. We have had some great speakers and presentations at our meetings. Every year the New Mexico Section has a great summer tour at various locations throughout the state. We get to see our Forests and Rangelands of New Mexico, see great working ranches and/or grazing associations. We get to meet those folks who have a great passion and love for their working ranches and/or businesses associated with rangelands. We get to see unique and historic places located in our state. The New Mexico Section has always been good about recognizing those folks who have done great things directly or indirectly in the realm of rangeland management. Our membership consists of producers, educators, researchers, technical expertise, agencies, students, university faculty, ranchers, farmers, and many more.

My association with the Society for Range Management has been one of most rewarding aspects of my life and career and I like to take this opportunity to extend an invitation to those of you who are not a member to join, get involved and stay active and you'll have the best of time of life doing and being part of SRM and you'll meet some great folks along the way. This is why you should join SRM; you won't regret it.

Thank you,  
Michael L. Casados



*Michael Casados is the secretary/treasurer of the NM SRM Section and is a Range Specialist with the US Forest Service in Questa, NM..*



## Upcoming Events

### 16th Wildland Shrub Symposium

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

Register <http://wss2010.usu.edu>

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Contact the Editor at ssmallid@nmsu.edu or 575.646.5944. To ensure I receive your contribution please type **NM-SRM** in the subject heading of each Email. Thank you, Sam.