



*Society for Range Management – North Central Section*  
*Northern Reflections*  
*April 2011*

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***President's Message:***

These are strange times we are living in: record deficits, high anxiety, heightened political instability in the Middle East, and manmade and natural disasters popping up across the globe. I am not one for doomsday predictions, or offering religious explanations. We live in a world that is more aware, more connected. The information comes exceedingly fast to our television and over loads our computers in the form of emails and electronic files, yet I cannot say that our society is any more productive (or intelligent). We are just more informed, maybe too much. It is easy to get lost in this information, sometimes (more than I would like to admit) to the point of feeling overwhelmed. While this new information age (and technologies) has tremendous benefits, we sometimes need to consciously remind ourselves what is important, what is realistic. All of us lead busy lives fulfilling our commitment to our careers and the life we lead outside of the work environment. Each of us decided to become a member of SRM for various reasons, and hopefully one of those reasons includes the value and importance of belonging to a professional organization.

In the newsletter from last fall, I gave an update on some important issues happening in the section. Becoming a non-profit is still an important issue. I was able to briefly sit in at the Advisory Council Meeting in Billings, MT this past February. Once I receive the meeting minutes I will forward them out to our members, because this should contain the reasons why all sections within the society need their own non-profit registration. I will attempt to work with John Zinn and NHQ to move the North Central Section ahead on this issue. We are facing some tough decisions (please refer to the teleconference notes). I keep saying that our section is extremely spread out, and progress can be exceedingly slow. Please be patient as we navigate this issue. With all of the information you have received today, I hope this was worth your reading.

## **North Central Section Teleconference Minutes (March 1, 2011):**

Members present: Mark Hayek, Matt Bunger, Roger Staff, John Zinn, and Patti Novak-Echenique

Mark Hayek called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Secretary's report from last meeting was emailed to all members for review.

### ***Presidents Report:***

David Renton, member from Michigan has passed and Mark will send a note to Mrs. Renton.

Section currently has 39 members, all of whom work for NRCS.

New ESD specialists working for NRCS are new potential members.

Mark received shipment of belt buckles from Patti.

SRM Annual Meeting: Jim Truax of Central Section received award.

***Financial Report:*** Richard Hungerford sent out Treasurer's report as follows:

Bal. 12/31	\$8990.28
Interest	.76
<u>Received from National SRM</u>	<u>90.00</u>
<b>New Balance</b>	<b>\$9081.04</b>

### ***Non-Profit Status:***

It would be easier for the North Central Section to achieve non-profit status if we were able to drop the Canadian Provinces that have been assigned to us. We currently don't have any Canadian members and dealing with Canadian non-profit laws will add another layer of complexity we don't need. Mark will find out from National office if this is possible.

Patti will ask the past treasurer of the Nevada Section if they are a non-profit and if so will get a copy of their bylaws and Articles of Incorporation.

Mark will call the Northern Great Plains section to see what they have done.

John will call Denisha at the National Office to see if another section has an attorney who has worked with them on attaining nonprofit status.

Mark will send out past bylaws for examination by membership. He suggests that all offices be extended to a 4-year term instead of current one year term. He may use survey monkey to do this.

Mark and others are planning a regional grazing conference for wildlife managers in MN, ND, and SD in late July or early August of 2012. Meeting would be held at the Magic Casino in Hankinson ND. Has support from DNR, USFWS. This would be a good event for SRM to support financially.

Question from Jeff Duchene: What have section funds been used for? Answer: booths at conferences and other educational events.

Mark states that he will organize another meeting in the next few months to continue on attaining non-profit status.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Zinn

Secretary



Figure 1 . NORTH CENTRAL SECTION BOOTH - From left to right: Brian Pilsbury, John Zinn, and Mark Hayek. Minnesota and Wisconsin Invasive Species Conference. November 2010, St.Paul, MN

**Membership Information:** As of February 2011, the North Central section has 38 active members and 5 expired members.

**Lost Resources – Long time member Dr. Donald Renton from Michigan and Florida passed away December 12, 2010. From Mrs. Barbara Renton: “Thank you for your continued work with the SRM. I know Don appreciated it”.**

**Treasury Report** – current report not available

**New Documentary:** 'Green Fire - Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time' a new Aldo Leopold documentary weaves his life story with his contemporary influence. The film is a 72-minute biography plus it explores Leopold's modern-day legacy. Available for purchase in late April, 2011 and will air in spring 2012 on Wisconsin Public Television.

### Upcoming Events:

**Apr. 8-9:** Healthy Soils, Healthy Livestock: Grazing Workshop, Poteau, OK.  
<http://www.kerrcenter.com/pressrelease/02-09-11.html/>

**Apr. 8-10:** Minnesota Buffalo Association Conference, Hinckley, MN. <http://mnbison.org/events/>

**Apr. 13-14:** Kentucky Grazing School, Princeton, KY. <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/>

**Apr. 21-23:** Mob Grazing Conference, Mill Spring, MO. <http://www.holisticmanagement.org/>

**May 22-25:** Alltech's 27<sup>th</sup> International Animal Health and Nutrition Industry Symposium, Lexington, KY, <http://www.alltech.com/>

**Jun. 12-15:** *American Forage & Grassland Council Annual Conference, French Lick, IN.*  
<http://www.afgc.org>

**Jul. 17-20:** Soil & Water Conservation Society, 66<sup>th</sup> International Annual Conference, Washington, D.C. <http://www.swcs.org/>



### **Editors Note:**

The first day of spring arrived on a blustery cold day. We've had over 12 feet of snow fall in the Sierra's in the past week. The snowpack is over 150% of normal with over 60 feet of snow at the highest elevations. Since Nevada is the driest state in the nation, our snowpack is vital for irrigation on farm and ranchlands. Have a great green spring!

### **News-worthy items for the Newsletter:**

The North Central Section is made up of several states - Region 1: Minnesota, Wisconsin, Ontario, Quebec. Region 2: Illinois, Iowa. Region 3: Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania. Currently, our membership includes people from all section states. We also have members from Kansas, Nebraska, Nevada, Pennsylvania, California, Utah and Nevada. If you have any information you would like to see in the next newsletter contact me via email ([pnovech@gmail.com](mailto:pnovech@gmail.com)) or by phone (775) 577-9625 (Or I may contact you!). Thanks!

