



2011 Annual Winter Meeting Was A Success

Wow what a meeting! We had over 300 people at peak attendance for the week and a record breaking 16 CEU for CPRM credits at the annual meeting. The Horse Auction raised \$775 which goes to our general fund for operating costs, the Crazy Auction raised \$220 which goes towards financial assistance for the High School Youth Forum and there was an item at the Crazy Auction in the amount of \$175 that was specific for WYRED.

It was a great experience planning the annual meeting and I am looking forward to serving/representing you all as the new president of our chapter.

*If you are a CPRM and attended the meeting but did not get an email from Vicky with the CEU form please let me know and I will get it to you.

Ben Bonella, 2012 Wyoming SRM President

Robert Sprentall, WY SRM Section's Secretary/Treasurer, Announces Retirement

After 34 years with the Forest Service Robert Sprentall has decided to do something different like ski, golf, bike and just travel. He and his wife, Gail, are relocating to western Colorado at the end of December. Marji Patz has agreed to take over as Secretary/Treas. for the Section. Mr. Sprentall served in this capacity since 2005 and before that he was the Sec. /Treas. for the Nebraska Section for about 8 years. Even though he is going to Colorado he is still going to be a member of SRM and affiliated with the Colorado Section. It is his intent to stay active in SRM and hope to see folks at International meetings and who knows, maybe even make it to a Wyoming Section annual meeting.

Mr. Sprentall enjoyed serving the Section for the past 6 years and he knows that with the Leadership in place it will continue to be a great Section. He wants to say thank you to all of our sponsors, our presenters, all those who helped organize the meeting all of you for attending it would not have been possible without all of you!

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WINNERS OF THE 2011 ANNUAL MEETING AWARDS



Plant Identification- Bailey Terry, UW



SRM Scholarship-Tyrell Perry, UW



Extemporaneous Speech-Tate Smith, UW



URME-Sage Askins, UW



Trail Boss Award-Robert Sprentall



Sustained Lifetime Achievement Award- Charlie Fifield

Meet Your Newly Elected 2012 Officers

Michelle Buzalsky, President-Elect

I am a Range Technician on the Shoshone National Forest where I have been the last 11 years. Before that I was a Seasonal Range Tech on the Rio Grande National Forest in South-Central Colorado. My biggest achievement so far is building and maintaining a monitoring program on the Wind River and Washakie Ranger Districts and having a 70+ percent permittee participation in the process. I have been on the Range School teaching cadre since its beginning in 2003. My main contribution is teaching the Rangeland Monitoring sections of the schools but have filled in and taught the Riparian and watershed portion of 501. I am also on the Wyoming Riparian Services team where I help teach the riparian vegetation portion of PFC classes. I am also chairman of the Red Canyon CRM and have been on the CRM since 2001. I also participate in the Dubois-Crowheart Weed Management Area and helped to form and am the current chairman of the Popo Agie Weed Management Area. I worked as a Student Trainee then Range Specialist for the NRCS while I was in college in various parts of Colorado. I attended Colorado State University where I received a B.S. in Range Ecology with a Minor in Wildlife. I grew up on ranches in Northeastern Oregon and South-Central Colorado. I love the outdoors. My hobbies are Horseback riding, Snowmobiling, photography, hunting, fishing, and camping.



Northwest Council Representative Ray Gullion

I am currently the Rangeland Management Specialist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service in the Big Horn Basin of Northwestern Wyoming. I have been a member of the Society for Range Management since 1987. I became an SRM member when I joined the Range Club while attending the University of Wyoming. I was the Outstanding Range Club Member in 1988. I was the Southeast Councilman for SRM from 1993 to 1998. I took over the position for another member in the middle of his term and was elected to two more terms. I have been actively involved in WyRED since 1991 coaching Range Teams in Cheyenne, Worland and Ten Sleep, Wyoming. I was also the Chairman of the High School Youth Forum competition for several years. I believe our youth is very important to our organization. I also believe our technology transfer and education should start at an early age.

Trail Boss Cowboy Cookbook

There is still time to submit your Range recipes, stories, and photos to srmcookbook@yahoo.com For details, click on the icon!





*Southeast Council Representative
Rachel McGhee*

Hello everyone, my name is Rachel McGee. I began my range career in 2001 with the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Service doing vegetation monitoring for the Forest Service and the BLM. This experience with the Extension Service led me to seek out a master's degree. In 2006 I graduated with my Master of Science in Range Management from the University of Arizona. In 2007 I began to work for the State Land Department in Arizona where I managed over 1 million acres of rangeland in south and central Arizona. I participated in a large scale watershed restoration project, along with numerous Coordinated Resource Management Plans. I cooperated with the NRCS on numerous occasions for both project work and vegetation monitoring. In 2009 I began working for the Forest Service in Douglas Wyoming. I manage one of three grazing associations on the Thunder Basin National Grassland along with permit administration on mountain allotments. I have actively participated in the development of a Candidate Conservation Agreement for Sage Grouse along with the Grouse Management

Rachel's biography continued on the next page

University of Wyoming

The Department of Renewable Resources has had a busy fall...classes, lots of meetings, and activities galore. We have somewhere around 120 undergraduates and 50 graduate students this fall. We're hoping to bring a large contingent to Lander. We've increased the number of sections of some of our required classes to accommodate all of the students. The weather has cooperated and classes have been able to get out on many field trips this fall.

The faculty is currently managing over \$9 million in grants that support research and graduate students. The department was one of six programs at the university to be involved in a graduate student recruiting effort. Our goal is to attract the best and brightest students to UW. If you know of any outstanding students looking to get a graduate degree, now is a great time to apply for next year.

Rachel Mealor was presented with the Friend of Agriculture Award by the Wyoming Department of Agriculture during the Wyoming State Fair. Congratulations, Rachel!

Some of our students were at the AgriFutures conference in Laramie put on by the Wyoming Department of Agriculture and several other co-sponsors. NRCS was able to provide scholarships to many UW students to attend. Watch for it next year about this same time.

We have great students here. If any SRM member has ideas on things they can get involved in, if you have summer or permanent jobs, or if you have ideas on how to support them in college, we'd love to hear from you. Contact John Tanaka at jtanka@uwyo.edu or 307-766-5130.

Join us on Facebook –

<http://www.facebook.com/UWRenewableResources>.



Strategy for the Douglas Ranger District. I am currently working on the development of over 90 allotment management plans. I have been an active participant in SRM throughout the years. I was a member of the Range Club at the University of Arizona, and a regular member in the Arizona Section upon graduation. I have been very active since moving to Wyoming, serving on the Information and Education Committee and I am the current President of the Young Professionals Conclave. I look forward to the opportunity to represent the South East Corner of Wyoming.

2011 Excellence In Grazing Awarded to Tom Lohse, Lohse Ranch in Buffalo, Wyoming

Submitted by Phil Gonzales



Tom Lohse, rancher, livestock producer, and wildlife manager, operates southeast of Buffalo, on the Falxa unit. Tom Lohse is married to Nikki and they have one daughter, Catie. Tom operates ~40,000 acres of rangeland in the Powder River Breaks. This unit transects the Powder River on the east end encompassing riparian habitat along the Powder River, as well as an open expansive landscape on the west end of the unit. His ranching operation is intermingled with private, State and BLM lands. Tom is truly a manager of the land for his livestock, which is reflected in his livestock and in the optimal natural resources

visible through his grass management and livestock management.

A few years ago Tom entered into the first agreements developed with the Lake DeSmet Conservation District, NRCS and BLM to implement grazing strategies with outreaching benefits for sage grouse. Tom convinced the NRCS and their contractors that conservative stocking rates combined with movement and low stress management would be the key to seeing improved range health that would provide a win-win situation for his livestock and for wildlife, specifically sage grouse. To help in implementing his grazing strategy Tom split pastures, going from 12 to 15. This allows Tom to use a rest rotation grazing program for his winter pastures. He uses the Grazing Response Index (GRI) as his monitoring tool, which includes gauging, timing (time of year for allowing re-growth of grazed plants), frequency (not staying too long in pastures where there will be continued grazing of grazed plants) and duration (length of rest given before returning into grazed pastures).

Tom developed additional water and replaced stock tanks for an increase in water storage necessary to implement his grazing plan. He installed escape ramps in all of his watering tanks. Tom has worked with numerous resource managers in habitat restoration for sage grouse. Tom was one of the first producers to use an

aerator in the restoration of habitats for wildlife. When he became concerned that there was too much attention and activity for the sage grouse, he trained to implement official protocols in counting sage grouse attendance on leks and has been a spokesperson in how producers can manage for sage grouse while being proactive to sensitive species. Tom partnered with Lake DeSmet Conservation District and the NRCS Plant Materials Program to incorporate plant material stock to increase diversity of shrubs and forbs on grass dominated pastures.

Tom cooperated with agency staff, the North East Wyoming Sage Grouse work group and others to host trainings in rangeland monitoring, seasonal uses of sage brush habitats by sage grouse, along with grazing management and habitat restoration programs. Tom has also worked with Doctor Roy Roath, numerous times, on GRI and his ranch unit results. He has attended various trainings held on grazing management and strategies, including a workshop presented by Doctor Fred Provenza. Tom has also been a supporter and guest speaker on the importance of managing for multiple species.

Tom has a conservative stocking rate and has moved his calving dates to the first few days of April. He sells his calves off the cows no later than the mid part of September. This allows many business strategies; less feed in the winter (only

supplements feeds when needed), reduced labor costs, cattle are handled with low stress techniques, which make working cattle less stressful for the stock and his crew, his cows' body condition score recovers more quickly as he weans early to allow his cows to recover. His profits have increased due to fewer inputs, and buyers look for his calves because of their excellent performance.

The land speaks for itself. Since Tom has implemented his grazing strategy we have seen an increase of bunch grasses, significant understory and grass vegetative cover in bare areas. There has been a major increase in plant diversity on the ranching unit, specifically in forbs and shrubs.

We truly believe that Tom Loshe, Loshe Ranch, is deserving of the Wyoming Excellence in Grazing Award. Area Range Specialist for NRCS, Ryan Murray, LDCD, and me completed a tour of this operation on 26 August, 2011. BLM just completed standards and guides for this operation also.

Please check out the great photos of the Lohse Ranch on our website, www.rangelands.org/wyoming.



The newly updated Wyoming Section Web Site is now available for all your Wyoming SRM Section needs! Please visit us at www.rangelands.org/wyoming for the latest and greatest section news and information.

Also, please check the website for more photos from the 2011 Annual Meeting!

