



President's Message

Bruce Hanson

The Plan

During a recent visit with a friend, he said he would like to see a range plan. He never had one developed for his ranch. I've known him for several years and was surprised. His ranch is in a county I normally don't work in, but I know he had received technical help on his seedings, water developments, fencing and winter feeding operation. He even had maps and aerial photos to locate these improvements and show how many acres were in each grazing unit. I know he has a financial plan when he talks to his banker about buying livestock, seed, chemicals, or equipment to show how his loan will be paid off. I know he has an allotment management plan that shows how many AUMs he could run, how many months his permit was for, and what piece of the range the cattle were going to start grazing in each spring. But he had never had a range specialist work with him on his private land, and the manager of the public land never involved him with all the background information about the

allotment. Everyone that helped this rancher had looked at a particular problem, skipped over some of the basic planning information and only provided him the solution.

This rancher was hungry for more information. He wanted help with basic inventories and analysis of his soils, vegetation, topography, climate, wildlife, range health, watershed health, what's there, how much, why some of the interactions were taking place, what direction things were moving, what potential each site has. He wanted to know what nature was trying to tell him and develop a range management plan, starting with some basic data.

Recent articles in Rangelands and Member Resource News talk about SRM being relevant to our new and ever changing society, their needs and expectations for rangeland. I think being relevant also means more effective communication with the practitioners that have the tools to change the landscape. If

you're working with ranchers who are eager to learn, give them as much as they can digest. They will be more satisfied and better able to make decisions, watch the effects, monitor and adjust for change.

We naturally become more efficient with tasks we are familiar with, saving time and getting more work done. But if we fail to pass along some basic range ecology, we are only creating someone else's destiny to do things over again. Do more range planning, try new things, document them, but don't keep it to yourself! Like my friend that will now get some help on his range plan, there are other folks we work with that are eager to learn some of the basics, not just the alternative selected to solve a problem. When they are more informed we also have more voices to spread the word about range ecology and management to a neighbor, hiker, hunter, camper, off-road vehicle enthusiast or anyone that stops long enough to talk.

Bruce

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Annual Meeting and Symposium

Jan. 6 & 7

See Pages 6 & 7 for details



• New Idaho Section SRM Members

Welcome!			
Charles D. Finley	Student	Idaho State University	Pocatello
Jed Gregory	Student	Idaho State University	Pocatello
Jill Norton	Student	Idaho State University	Pocatello
Luke M. Sander	Student	Idaho State University	Pocatello
Thomas K. Windholz	Regular	Idaho State University	Pocatello
Tess Wipfli	Student	University of Idaho	Wellington, NV

• Silent Auction

Here it is again! The World Famous: Idaho Section SRM Silent Auction

The annual silent auction will be held in conjunction with the Idaho Section Annual Meeting on January 6, 2005 at the Holiday Inn in Pocatello. Proceeds from the auction benefit the Brian Miller Scholarship fund at the University of Idaho. You can help by donating (or getting others to donate) items for the auction and/or by bidding on items at the auction. Items auctioned in the past include: books, fishing fly sets, guided fishing trips, artwork, and ski passes. If you would like to donate an item to the auction please contact Meribeth Lomkin at (208) 325-7803 or mlomkin@idl.state.id.us, or bring your item to the Section meeting in Pocatello on January 6. Thanks!

• 2004 ISU Geo-spatial and Range Sciences Conference

On October 4th and 5th, 2004, Idaho State University's Geographic Information Systems Training and Research Center hosted the annual Geo-spatial and Range Sciences Conference. The conference began with a field trip to the Sage Junction area to view BLM range allotments and range recovery following the Menan fires of 2002. In the afternoon, attendees visited Camas National Wildlife Refuge. The field trip was lead by Keith T. Weber (ISU), Allan Savory (Center for Holistic Management), Mike Stoddard (BLM), and Rob Larrañaga (USFWS). The second day of the conference offered participants a variety of speakers and topics ranging from strategic grazing, to geotechnical tools to identify weeds and model rangelands, and the use of Holistic management to tackle today's problems.

Over 80 participants attended the conference and, according to Keith T. Weber (ISU's GIS Director) "feedback was very positive". "During this year's conference, one thing became abundantly clear." Weber continued. "That is, each person's vision of what constitutes 'healthy rangelands' varies tremendously. This vision --or definition-- of rangeland health then drives management as an 'objectives-based decision framework'. To truly improve rangelands of the world, we will need to better understand range systems and their potential, and think more holistically when implementing our stewardship practices."

The conference was sponsored by NASA with the support of Senator Larry Craig and the rest of the Idaho Congressional delegation.

Idaho Section Election Information and Candidates

CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT:

Paul Butler :

My bio is simple and brief! I was born in Ely, Nevada which everyone knows seems to be at the very heart of rangeland unrest. As the son of a range conservationist, I have lived in the Intermountain Region all my life where I have grown up in rural and agricultural communities. I graduated from Carbon High School in Price, Utah in 1975 followed with graduation from Utah State University in Range Livestock Management in 1979. I attended my first SRM Annual Meeting in Casper, Wyoming in 1979 with my father and have been an active member since then.

From college, I cowboied for a time, seeking even more education from the producers' side of the line. However, I soon gravitated to the U.S. Forest Service in order to make ends meet. I am now in my 24th year of Forest Service employment having worked on various forests as a Supervisory Range Conservationist including the Boise, Sawtooth, Bridger-Teton, Caribou-Targhee, as well as a short stint with the BLM in Utah and Wyoming.

When Kim asked me to run for President-Elect, I thought for some time about how I could make a difference. What changes I could help to set in motion. I finally concluded that if I were to be elected I would attack what I feel is a real problem in the Society for Range Management: our membership. As everyone is aware, our membership is down, especially within our federal land management agencies. When the Chief of the Forest Service resigned over a disagreement with the SRM, many feds followed suit. We have never regained numbers since that time.

We need a strong push to encourage federal land managers to again become involved with the SRM. Why? Because we manage more rangelands in the West than anyone! Federal land managers should be considered the backbone of implementing sound range practices that have been developed with our colleagues in academia. Together with the agricultural community, I feel we can develop better partnerships and move towards rangelands that have long term sustainability.

Fred Pierson:

Education: B.S., Range Management, Humboldt State University, 1983; M.S., Range Science, Washington State University, 1985; Ph.D., Soil Physics, Washington State University, 1988.

Occupation: Research Hydrologist, USDA/ARS Northwest Watershed Research Center, Boise, ID, 1991-Present. Post-Doctoral Research Associate, USDA/ARS Northwest Watershed Research Center, Boise, ID, 1989-1991. Graduate Research Assistant, Washington State University, Pullman, WA, 1984-1988. Range Aid, El Dorado National Forest, Placerville, CA, 1982-1983.

SRM Activities: Member since 1983. Member of the Professional Affairs Committee and Watershed/Riparian Committee. Councilman for the Western Chapter of the Idaho Section of SRM (1994-1995). Co-Chair of Local Arrangements Committee for the National SRM meeting held in Boise, 2000. President of the Humboldt State University Student Chapter of SRM (1983).

The Society for Range Management is unique among professional societies. SRM provides a forum for exchange between scientists, federal land managers, producers and many others interested in land management and natural resource values. The diversity of membership in SRM provides many interesting and educational experiences not found in other professional societies. I am excited about the opportunity to once again contribute to the Idaho Section of SRM. I will do my best to maintain its diverse membership and the tradition of exchange of information, ideas, and values.

CANDIDATES FOR DIRECTOR WESTERN CHAPTER:

Tracy Behrens:

Education: B.S. in Range Management, University of Idaho, 1979.

Occupation: State Range Program Manager, Idaho Dept. of Lands, 1992-present; Range Management Specialist, Idaho Dept. of Lands, 1979-1992.

I have been a member of SRM since 1985 and have decided it is time to get more involved in the Idaho Section.

Idaho Section Election Information and Candidates

Maura Laverty:

Education: B.S. Range Management Washington State University 1987, BLM Training Center - Rangeland Continuing Education courses

Occupation: 1999-present: Supervisory Rangeland Management Specialist on Payette National Forest in Idaho, 1992-1999: Range Conservationist on Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre & Gunnison N.F. in Colorado, 1989-1992: Range Conservationist on Wallowa-Whitman N.F. in Oregon, 1987-1989: Range Technician on Wallowa-Whitman N.F. in Oregon

I have been an active member of the SRM since 1987, currently belonging to the Idaho and Pacific Northwest sections. I have been a member of the SRM Information & Education committee since 2001, assuming assignments such as the Trail Boss Member News contact from April 2001 through March 2003. I am currently serving as the Chair of the Information & Education Committee, after the merge with the Technology & Development Committee. I am interested in serving as the Western Chapter Director of the Idaho Section to become more involved with the local members and develop more activity in this area, as an avenue for me to become more active in the Idaho Section. I believe in the Vision and Mission of SRM, especially continuing education. I would be honored to serve as the Western Chapter Director of the Idaho Section

CANDIDATES FOR DIRECTOR NORTHERN CHAPTER:

J.D. Wulfhorst:

Occupation: Rural Sociologist on faculty at the University of Idaho campus in Moscow.

Education: B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies in 1990 from Appalachian State University, M.A. in Sociology at the University of Kentucky in 1992, Ph.D. in Rural Sociology with an interdisciplinary certificate in Environmental Policy from Utah State University in 1997.

After serving as a Community Development Specialist on the high plains of Eastern Colorado for a year, J.D. moved with his family to northern Idaho to begin his current position in the Department of Agricultural Economics & Rural Sociology. He also directs the Social Science Research Unit (SSRU) at UI, and teaches a course titled Law, Ethics, & the Environment and a web-based course on Western Water Resources & Environmental Equity.

J.D. helped complete a socio-economic assessment in Owyhee County recently with Idaho Section member Neil Rimbey. J.D. has also attended the 2003 SRM meeting in Salt Lake City, the 2003 annual Idaho Section meeting, the 2004 summer tour, and worked cooperatively with faculty and students in the UI Dept. of Rangeland Ecology and Management. He has a long-term interest in working collaboratively on rangeland issues.

Sydney Yuncevich:

Occupation: NRCS Range Conservationist - one year, BLM Range Conservationist - ten years, Range Consultant for Idaho County Soil and Water Conservation District – two years.

Education: MS Agriculture with Range emphasis from Cal State Chico, BS Natural Resource Management with wildlife emphasis from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

I would like to serve as a director to help facilitate the exchange of information that would promote the good management of rangelands.



Idaho Section Society for Range Management 2005 Election Ballot

Please select one person per office.

President Elect 2005/President 2006

- Paul Butler Fred Pierson

2005-2006 Northern Director

- JD Wulfhorst Sydney Yuncevich

2005-2006 Western Director

- Tracy Behrens Maura Laverty

Please mail your ballot to Brad Williams, Idaho Section SRM Secretary, 653 Hwy. 93 N, Carmen, ID 83462.

Ballots will be counted December 10, 2004 by the Idaho Section Secretary.

● Idaho Section Annual Meeting — January 6-7, 2005

Aspen communities and conifer encroachment in rangelands.....

A Symposium sponsored by:

The Idaho Section Society for Range Management *and*

The Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission

Thursday, January 6, 2005

Holiday Inn Pocatello

Pocatello, Idaho

A day-long symposium will be offered addressing the issue of conifer encroachment into historic shrub and aspen communities and how these subtle changes have affected wildlife habitat, livestock grazing, and watershed values. Researchers, specialists, and managers with extensive experience have been invited to share their knowledge in the management of these valuable resources.

The Symposium will be followed by an evening Banquet.

The Idaho SRM Business meeting will be Friday morning, January 7, 9-12 am.

Thursday, January 6: Aspen communities and conifer encroachment in rangelands

- 8:30 Welcome & Opening Remarks –
- 8:45 Dale Bartos- Research Lead, USDA Rocky Mnt. Research Station
- 9:30 Mark Orme- Forest Biologist, Targhee NF
- 10:15 Break
- 10:30 Fred Pearson- Research Hydrologist, USDA ARS
- 11:15 Steve Jirik- Fuels Specialists, BLM
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Open Session
- 1:15 Steve Kilpatrick, Habitat Biologist, Wyoming Game and Fish
- 2:00 John Bates- Spring vs. Fall Treatments
- 3:00 Break
- 3:15 Marty Vavre– Interrelationship of ungulates with vegetation management
- 4:00 “Melding Politics and Science for Effective Management”
Panel Discussion- FS, BLM, IDL
Glen Secrist, Boise District Manager, BLM
Ruth Monahan, Forest Supervisor, Sawtooth NF
Tracy Behrens, Range Program Manager, Idaho Dept. of Lands
- 5:30 Social Hour and Silent Auction for U of I Range Scholarship Fund
- 6:30 Banquet, Awards,
Keynote Speaker: Dr. John Tanaka - Board of Directors, SRM

For additional information contact:

Ken Crane [332-8566 or kcrane@agri.state.id.us] or

Gretchen Hyde [398-7002 or irrc@bigskytel.com]

● Friday, January 7, 9-12 am: Idaho Section SRM Business Meeting

Hotel Information

Idaho Section Annual Meeting — January 6-7, 2005

Holiday Inn Pocatello

1399 Bench Road

Pocatello, ID 83201 (located east of I-15, exit at Pocatello Creek Road)

- A block of rooms has been reserved with a special room rate of \$65.
- To reserve rooms, call (208) 237-1400. Ask for the Idaho SRM or IRRC rate.
- Rooms must be reserved before December 22, 2004 for the group rate.
- Present ID at check-in to receive government rate.



Registration Form

Idaho Section Annual Meeting — January 6-7, 2005

SRM/IRRC Aspen and Conifers in Rangelands Symposium - REGISTRATION

Thursday, January 6, 2005 -- Pocatello, Idaho

Name: _____

Symposium registration

includes coffee breaks and lunch.

Address: _____

Phone No.: _____

E-mail: _____

Day-long Symposium: \$50 _____ (Includes Mexican Buffet Lunch)

Symposium plus Banquet \$70 _____ Circle: Beef or Chicken

(add \$10 if after Dec. 22)

Make checks payable to Idaho Section SRM.

Send registration to:

Neil Rimbey, University of Idaho, 16952 S. 10th Ave., Caldwell, ID 83607

Next Newsletter Deadline is
February 11, 2005



Send your articles and pictures (.jpg format) to:
Juley Hankins
juley_hankins@blm.gov
or Roger Blew
rblew@stoller.com

**SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT
IDAHO SECTION OFFICERS**

Officers

President, Bruce Hanson 476-5313
Pres. Elect, Ken Crane 332-8566
Past President, Kim Ragotzkie 525-7290
Secretary, Brad Williams 756-2749
Treasurer, Neil Rimbey 459-6365

Chapter Officers

Northern Director, Wally Butler 289-5561
Southern Director, Bob Josaitis 934-8481
Western Director, Meribeth Lomkin 634-7125
Lyman Richwine Director: Shannon Williams 756-3020
UI Range Club Pres. Thad Berrett 885-6536

Newsletters on the Web
[www.stoller-eser.com](http://www.stoller-eser.com/idahosrm/)
[/idahosrm/](http://idahosrm/)

There are lots of opportunities for you to become involved in the section activities. Give Bruce Hanson, Ken Crane, Kim Ragotzkie, a Director, or a committee chair a call and find out how you can get involved.

**Idaho Section
Society for Range Management
P. O. Box 8101
Boise, Idaho 83707**