

## President's Message

*Paul Butler*

*"Confidence comes not from always being right but from not fearing to be wrong."*

Peter T. McIntyre

Well here we are at the end of the 2006 season and as I work through my last President's Address, the thought still occurs to me, "Where is the SRM going"?

Here are some problematic facts describing what I think the Society for Range Management's future hinges on:

1. Membership in the Society is down, because...
2. The number of professional rangeland managers is decreasing west-wide.
3. Universities are cutting back on Staff since there are fewer range students, because...
4. There is an overall de-emphasis on using rangelands in the Western United States to convert forage to energy.
5. Federal Land Management agencies are spending more on computers and computer related funding than on the salaries for rangeland management specialists, because...
6. There is an overall de-emphasis on using rangelands in the Western United States to convert forage to energy.

Is it possible that we are now witnessing a period where livestock grazing on public lands is merely tolerated and will soon be a downsized tool of the past?

Maybe it's inevitable that the SRM will downsize also. It's sad that this will happen since the Society for many years was one of

the largest and most knowledgeable organizations of environmentalists in the world. That's right. Environmentalists. Of course this title is interchangeable with Conservationists. Read Sand County Almanac by Aldo Leopold if you don't understand the concept.

Range managers were the first true environmentalists/conservationists in this country. Don't forget that this can also include many past and present livestock operators. I guess when specialization became the popular thing to do; the downsizing of the Society was bound to happen also.

Range managers in many cases have lost their former identity as well as respect. In federal and state governments, the title of range conservationist was replaced by rangeland management specialist. That was a fatal move if ever there was one. Now only a botanist can write and sign a biological opinion. Can someone tell me why the title Conservationist was so wrong?

I am willing to wager that within the next 25 years, not only will the use of federal and state lands by livestock be downsized to the point of having only specialized allotments of land that may allow brief periods of grazing (riparian areas will be strictly prohibited from use), that rangeland management specialists may be swallowed up by other less invasive titles. How about Computer, pickup truck, and ATV Overseer Specialist?

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**Idaho Section  
Winter Meeting**

**January 17-18**

**Register Today**



# President's Message continued

(Continued from page 1)

Shall we also throw in other duties as assigned such as janitorial work and perhaps winter snow removal? May as well, because funding may only be available in those areas. What could the new moniker of the SRM be? Society for Retired Management?

Where do I come up with such nonsense? Well, history speaks on my behalf. We didn't have computers until the early 80's. Now they pervade any and all aspects of resource management. You don't do anything without a GIS layer. Apparently satellite imagery is more accurate than range analysis vegetative records. Hmmm.

Allotment Management Plans used to be challenging and enjoyable to write. We'd sit down with the permittee and whip one out over the course of a winter and then when it was implemented, it would work! Most rangeland management specialists now write Environmental Impact Statements in order to implement an AMP. Two years of having to sit in a warm office with a microwave oven and an answering machine to screen all your phone calls. Hmmm.

Twenty five years ago a resource planning meeting would include the permittee, Fish and Game Conservation Officer (because they were more knowledgeable than the F&G biologists), forester (because they knew their tree plantations would need to be grazed), and the range conservationist (because we represented range, wildlife, recreation, soils, and knew the land better than anyone).

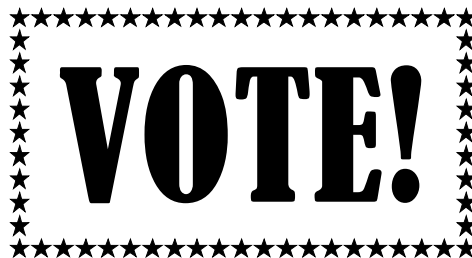
Now resource planning meetings must be scheduled months in advance and be attended by everyone from A to Z including public information specialists, congressional representatives (way above a mere specialist), bunny and tree huggers (the power to veto), GIS specialists, NEPA coordinators (coordinator being a tiny step above a specialist), recreation specialist (ATV use is not creating sediment), etc, etc, a specialist to operate the power-point presentation, and the meeting is run by a facilitator (specialist).

We're our own biggest enemy.

And finally:

*"There are two ways to slide easily through life: to believe everything or to doubt everything. Both ways save us from thinking."* Alfred Korzybski

Butler



Ballot on page 5

# Silent Auction

*Meribeth Lomkin*

**Just when you thought we'd forget!**

**Call for Auction Items:**

**Idaho Section SRM Silent Auction**

The annual silent auction will be held in conjunction with the Idaho Section Annual Meeting on January 17, 2007 at the Holiday Inn Airport in Boise. Although we'll be a bit late for 2006 Christmas presents, just think what an early start you can get on your 2007 Christmas shopping! The only disadvantage is remembering where you stashed that great present when it is time to wrap it and place it under the tree! (Maybe I'm the only one that has those difficulties.)

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 (or hat racks?), and ski passes. If you would like to donate an item to the auction please contact Meribeth Lomkin at (208) 358-1533 or [mlomkin@idl.idaho.gov](mailto:mlomkin@idl.idaho.gov), or bring your item to the Section meeting in Boise on January 17. Thanks!

# Idaho Section Award Nominations Requested

The Idaho Section presents the **Top Hand**, **Outstanding Achievement**, and **Excellence in Range Management** awards each year at the Idaho Section Winter Meeting. The **Top Hand** award is the Section's top honor and is conferred upon an SRM member who has made a commendable contribution towards the advancement of range management in Idaho. The **Outstanding Achievement** award is presented to an individual or group who has made a substantial contribution to range management in Idaho through a noteworthy achievement or outstanding career. The recipient of the Outstanding Achievement award does not have to be a SRM member. The **Excellence in Range Management** award is conferred upon an Idahoan who has displayed excellence in the practice of the art and science of range management.

Please send completed nominations to: Shannon Williams, PO Box 12, Tendoy, Idaho 83468 by December 15, 2005. Idaho award winners will have their applications forwarded to the National Award Committee for national awards recognition.

## AWARD NOMINATION APPLICATION

(Please limit nomination to a maximum of 5 pages)

Nomination of \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_ Award.  
(Complete Name of Nominee) (Specific Award Name)

### 1. Nominee

- A. Date and Place of Birth (optional)
- B. Address
- C. Occupation, Profession, Employer
- D. Phone Number
- E. SRM Member? \_\_\_\_\_ (yes/no), If yes, how long? \_\_\_\_\_ Years.

### 2. Nominator(s)

- A. Name
- B. Address
- C. Phone Number

### 3. Nominee's education, training, and other awards

### 4. Nominee's activities in SRM

### 5. Nominee's professional contributions to range management

### 6. Nominee's activities and/or memberships in other societies and organizations

### 7. Other biographic information related to the nominee

### 8. Justification statement(s) from nominator(s).

For more information, please contact:

Shannon Williams

shannonw@uidaho.edu

756-2824 (w) 756-3020 (h)

# Idaho Section Election Information and Candidates

## CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT:

### Shannon Williams :

Shannon Williams is currently the University of Idaho Extension Educator in Lemhi County, Salmon, Idaho. Her focus areas are competitive agriculture, natural resources, community development and 4-H. Natural resource projects she has worked on include using goats for control on noxious weeds and low moisture block to improve distribution of cattle on public land grazing lands. She is married to Brad Williams and they have 2 children.

### Joe May:

I was born and raised in Colorado. After graduating from high school, I enlisted in the Army and was a crewchief on the UH-60A Blackhawk helicopter. After being honorably discharged, I returned to Colorado and attended Colorado State University. I earned a BS in Range Ecology with a Minor in Soil Resources and Conservation. I was hired by the then USDA, Soil Conservation Service, in New Mexico, immediately upon graduation. I worked as Field Office Rangeland Management Specialist there for 5 years. Later, I transferred to Hawaii, as a Rangeland Management Specialist, where I prepared the first range site descriptions for naturalized rangelands on the Island of Hawaii. Following a time in Hawaii, I then transferred to Wyoming, where I conducted a rangeland survey for NRCS on the Wind River Indian Reservation for 5 years. I again returned to Hawaii, but as the NRCS State Rangeland Management Specialist where I served 6 years. This past April, I accepted the position as NRCS State Rangeland Management Specialist in Boise, Idaho. I now have 20 years of federal service, and have been a member of Society for Range Management since September, 1986. While in Hawaii as NRCS State Rangeland Management Specialist, I worked with the California Section to include Hawaii into a new, revised California-Pacific Section. Before leaving Hawaii, I was elected as member of the Board of Directors for the California-Pacific Section. I am also concurrently a member of Soil and Water Conservation Society and the American Forage and Grassland Council.

## CANDIDATES FOR TREASURER:

### Cindy Salo :

Although I have spent most of my adult life in the West, I grew up in the Midwest and graduated from the University of Minnesota with majors in Animal Science and Agronomy. Three years milking cows and driving tractors gave me a background in agriculture that few city kids have (or want). I soon followed the sun to the University of Arizona for graduate school in soil microbiology, with field work for my Master's thesis in southern Mexico. Working in agricultural research at the U of A, in Tucson, included an interlude as a Peace Corps volunteer in Senegal, West Africa, where I lived in a village and worked with small farmers. I later recycled myself as a Ph.D. student in plant community ecology and investigated red brome, a Mediterranean annual grass that has invaded the deserts of the US Southwest. After finishing my degree I returned to Senegal on a Fulbright fellowship, where I documented the spread of mesquite trees, which had been introduced from Central America for reforestation. The US Geological Survey enticed me back from the Mother Continent with a job as a research ecologist working on rangeland issues in the Sagebrush Sea of the Intermountain West. I am currently based in Boise, ID, the Big Spud.

## CANDIDATES FOR DIRECTOR WESTERN CHAPTER:

### 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.

# Idaho Section 2007 Election Ballot

Please select one person per office.

## President Elect 2007/President 2008

Shannon Williams       Joe May

## Treasurer

Cindy Salo       \_\_\_\_\_

## 2007-2008 Western Director

Maura Laverty       \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your ballot to Brad Williams, Idaho Section SRM Secretary, PO Box 12, Tendoy, Idaho 83468 .

Ballots will be counted December 15, 2006 by the Idaho Section Secretary.



## Name That Idaho Drainage



**Meribeth Lomkin**

The answer to the fall newsletter "Name that Idaho Drainage" contest (above) was: Snake River (Shoshone Falls in the background).

Congratulations to Kevin Wright, for having the first correct answer this time! A box of "Spud" fudge is on its way to Kevin. (We had 3 correct answers on this one. Apparently it was too easy! ☺ Thanks for participating in the contest!)

**Name that Idaho Drainage:**  
**Submit your guess with the name of this Idaho waterway to:**  
**mlomkin@idl.state.id.us**

## Range Club News

**Josh Hyde**

It's been an eventful year for the Range Club. We have 20 members this year and have been working on several projects to help get us to Reno this upcoming February. So far we have sold over 15 FFA range plant study sets, helped maintain goat exclosures around White Bird for Dr. Launchbaugh, and are about to start the second season of tree thinning for a land owner here in Moscow.

It's been a good year so far with many enthusiastic new members to both the Range Club and the Range program up here.

# Idaho Section Annual Meeting — January 17-18, 2007

## Rangeland Rehabilitation – programs and people working towards healthy rangelands

January 17, 2007

Holiday Inn – Boise Airport

A daylong symposium on Wednesday January 17 will offer presentations on research, economics, and collaboration in range rehabilitation. The symposium will close with panel discussion offering lessons learned from recent range rehabilitation projects in Idaho and information on potential funding sources for range projects. The symposium will be followed by an information gathering session for the University of Idaho Department of Rangeland Ecology and Management. The day will end with entertainment and awards at the banquet. The Idaho SRM Business meeting will be held Thursday morning, January 18.

### Tuesday, January 16:

1700-2100: Directors Meeting

### Wednesday, January 17:

0730-0830: Registration

0830-0845: Welcome and Opening Remarks

0845-0930: Mike Pellant – Range Rehabilitation – Past, Present, and Future

0930-1015: Patrick Clark – Post Fire Cattle Grazing Management Strategies on Sagebrush Steppe Rangelands

1015-1030: Break

1030-11-15: Nancy Shaw – Great Basin Native Plant Selection and Seed Increase Project

1115-1200: Cindy Salo – Utilizing Local Knowledge with other kinds of Range Management Data in Rehabilitation Planning

1200-1300: Lunch – Catered Buffet

1300-1345: Jane Mangold – Crested wheatgrass stand diversification/Increasing native diversity

1345-1430: John Tanaka – Economics and Social Aspects

1430-1445: Break

1445-1630: Panel Discussion – Landowners and Agency Representatives Rehabilitation Projects: Lessons Learned/Collaboration/Costs/Potential Funding

1630-1730: Information Gathering Session – “Learning Outcomes” Led by Dr. Karen Launchbaugh, U of I Department of Rangeland Ecology and Management – what kind of knowledge and skills are employers looking for in Range graduates?

1730-1800: Evening Break

1800-1900: Social Hour/Silent Auction

1900-2100: Banquet, Entertainment, and Awards

### Thursday, January 18:

0800-1000: Section Business Meeting. All members welcome to attend.

# Hotel Information

## Idaho Section Annual Meeting — January 17-18, 2007

### Hotel Information:

Holiday Inn – Boise Airport  
3300 Vista Ave  
Boise, ID 83705

- A block of rooms is available at \$79.00 per night .
- Please call the hotel directly at 208-343-4900 to reserve your room and reference the group name **Idaho Section Society for Range Management**.
- Rooms must be reserved before January 2, 2007 for the group rate.



# Registration Form

## Idaho Section Annual Meeting — January 17-18, 2007

### REGISTRATION

SRM Symposium “**Rangeland Rehabilitation – programs and people working towards healthy rangelands.**”

Wednesday, January 17, 2007 -- Boise, Idaho

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Day-long Symposium:                      \$50        \_\_\_\_\_        (Includes Coffee Breaks and Lunch)

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

(add \$10 if after December 15, 2006)

Make checks payable to Idaho Section SRM and send with this form to:

Neil Rimbey

Caldwell R&E Center

1904 E. Chicago, Suite A-B

Caldwell, ID 83605

Arrangements can be made for credit card payment of registration fee. Please contact Neil for details at 208-459-6365.

Next Newsletter Deadline is  
February 15, 2007



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**

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President, Paul Butler 237-5716  
Pres. Elect, Meribeth Lomkin 324-2561  
Past President, Ken Crane 736-2369  
Secretary, Brad Williams 756-2749  
Treasurer, Neil Rimbey 459-6365

Chapter Officers

Northern Director, J.D. Wulfhorst 885-7645  
Southern Director, Kevin Wright 736-3073  
Western Director, Tracy Behrens 334-0278  
Lyman Richwine Director, Don Edgerton 529-1539  
UI Range Club Pres., Ruth Luke 885-6536

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

**There are lots of opportunities for you to become involved in the section's activities. Give Paul Butler, Meribeth Lomkin, 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**