

# IDAHO Section

# Society for Range Management



Fall 2007

Newsletter

Number 4-07



## President's Message

*Meribeth Lomkin*

Fall is here already! Yikes, where did the summer go? It's time for the Idaho Section to celebrate reading the last President's Message from me!

Thanks again to everyone who helped with and attended the Idaho SWCS/SRM Summer Tour at the US Sheep Experiment Station in August. The program was educational and enjoyable, the food was excellent, the weather was pleasant, and the turnout was great! There were a few logistical slip-ups, all my fault as usual, but we survived, and I'm sure they will provide excellent entertainment fodder at the winter meeting. I'm still working on my art work of the Houdini toilet paper escapade. Maybe I'll have it completed by the winter meeting and put it in the silent auction. For those of you who weren't able to join us, you sure missed out!

And now, stepping back a year: Those attending the 2006 Idaho Section Summer Tour on the Bear Valley Allotment felt that the Section should send a letter to the agencies involved in the allotment, strongly encouraging continued monitoring there. In August, the Idaho Section SRM mailed a letter to the Bureau of Land Management and the USDA Forest Service regarding the importance of continuing to monitor the stream reaches on the Bear Valley allotment. The letter was mailed in August and a copy can be found in this newsletter. Thank you to Neil Rimbey and others for drafting the letter to help me get this piece of un-finished business in motion!

The 2007 Farm Bill is still "in progress" in Washington D.C. As a follow up to the letter signed in April by several Idaho organizations, including the Idaho Section SRM, I have made a couple of telephone calls to Senator Crapo's office to ask for his continued support of provisions in the next Farm Bill that make rangeland conservation a greater priority.

The International SRM meeting will be in Louisville, Kentucky this year, and the early bird regis-

tration deadline is November 30, 2007. So, if you're thinking of attending that meeting, you might want to look into it fairly soon. If you are interested in learning more about the business and committee work of the SRM, you are welcome to attend any part of the Advisory Council meeting and represent the Idaho Section. We can have three representatives at the AC meeting, so there's usually plenty of room for folks to drop in! Watch for more details on the UI Alumni/Idaho Section get together being planned for Louisville.

A great group of folks held a district FFA range judging contest in Eastern Idaho on October 10. The State FFA Range Judging contest will be held in Burley on October 15. Katie Moore (Idaho SRM HSYF Committee Chair) and I will be handing out information regarding the SRM High School Youth Forum (HSYF) at the State contest in hopes of finding at least one Idaho delegate to attend this year. The past two years, we have invited the top placing contestants in the FFA Range Judging contest to attend the HSYF. We learned last year that High School students are involved in a lot of activities and have a tough time scheduling a week to go to the SRM meeting. So, we are soliciting letters from high school students interested in attending the HSYF a bit wider than the top 5 in the FFA contest this year. If you happen to know an Idaho High School student who might be interested in the High School Youth Forum, please have them contact Katie Moore at [katiemoore@icsofidoaho.net](mailto:katiemoore@icsofidoaho.net).

President-Elect Shannon Williams is doing a great job putting together the Winter Section Meeting. Thank you, Shannon, for all of the hard work you have put into planning the meeting. The meeting details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. I would like to cordially invite everyone to attend! See you there!

Meribeth

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**Idaho Section  
Winter Meeting  
December 6-7**

**Register Today**



# Treasurer's Report

Cindy Salo

Letter from Bruce Brockett:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Idaho Section of the Society for Range Management for the Brian Miller scholarship I received for the Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 semesters. I thank the Idaho Section of the SRM for their continued support provided to students of the Department of Rangeland Ecology and Management, at the University of Idaho. I am a PhD candidate from South Africa in this Department.

Coming to the University of Idaho has been a life changing experience for me, and receiving financial aid such as this has enabled me to continue my studies at this University.

Yours faithfully,

Bruce H. Brockett

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Response from SRM-Idaho Chapter Treasurer:

I'm happy to hear that you've returned to the U.S. to continue your studies and I'm glad that we're able to help. Thank you again for the tour of Madikwe Game Reserve; it was a highlight of my 2004 trip to southern Africa. I'm looking forward to returning the favor with a tour of the Jarbidge area. Instead of giraffe and springbok I'll show you some charming pronghorn and mule deer. Instead of a lovely lunch overlooking the watering hole in Madikwe we'll have our choice of delicious burgers or tuna melts at either the café in Bruneau or in Hammett. Both have views of the parking lot and road.

Cindy Salo

## Meribeth Lomkin Receives Alumni Achievement Award

The **Alumni Achievement Award** honors alumni who have achieved early career distinction. This year's recipient is **Meribeth Lomkin** of Jerome. She currently is a senior resource specialist with Idaho Department of Lands, south central area. Lomkin administers leases authorizing a variety of uses on state endowment lands, including grazing, communications sites, minerals and family/group camp sites. She also participates in cooperative weed management areas in various Idaho counties and shares the receiving and distribution manager position on a type two Great Basin interagency incident management team.

Lomkin was a member of the University of Idaho's CNR Alumni Board of Trustees and has helped with several range education workshops for high school teachers and students. As a member of the Idaho Riparian Team, she helps present training sessions on the proper functioning condition method of riparian evaluation to a variety of audiences.

Lomkin is president of the Idaho Section of the Society for Range Management and has been a member since 1996. She served on the National SRM Coordinated Resource Management Committee, on several other committees and on the board of directors at the Idaho section level.

Lomkin received her bachelor's in range resources from the University of Idaho in 1998. She began working for Idaho Department of Lands in 1998 in McCall, until transferring to the south central area in late 2004.

## • Name That Idaho Drainage

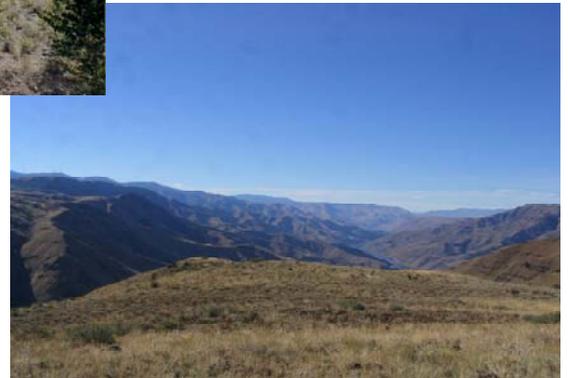
Meribeth Lomkin



**Name that Idaho Drainage:**  
**Submit your guess with the name of this Idaho waterway to:**  
[mlomkin@idl.idaho.gov](mailto:mlomkin@idl.idaho.gov)

Give it a try! Anna needs some competition in this competition!

The answer to the last “Name that Idaho Drainage” was the Snake River in Adams County. **Anna Owsiak** had the correct answer. I’d better just send a big package of spud fudge since I owe her several prizes!



## • Jeff Foss Recognized by College of Natural Resources

The **Celebrate Natural Resources Award** is given to a University of Idaho CNR graduate whose career exemplifies integrated natural resource management. This year’s recipient is **Jeff Foss** of Boise.

Foss has worked in the field of natural resource management since 1980 for both the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Currently, he is the field supervisor for the Snake River Fish and Wildlife Office responsible for conservation of plants, wildlife and resident fish listed under Endangered Species Act for all of Idaho, except the five northern most counties.

Foss completed two overseas assignments in the mid-1990s to Malaysia and Nepal, where he provided technical support and training in environmental analysis and public involvement. While in Alaska, he received the Young Forester of the Year Award from the Society of American Foresters and was awarded Juneau Area Federal Employee of the Year. In addition to his interests in natural resource management, Foss has led training in supervision and teambuilding through Boise State University’s Center for Management Development.

He earned his bachelor’s degree in rangeland resource management from the University of Idaho in 1980, and during that same year, was awarded the Most Outstanding Senior in the range program. After receiving his rangeland management degree, Foss served as a range conservationist on the Fish Lake National Forest in Utah. He advanced his education through a program sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service and earned a master’s degree in forestry from Michigan State University in 1985.

# 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 Neil Rimbey, Caldwell R&E Center, 1904 E. Chicago Suite A-B, Caldwell, ID 83605 by November 15, 2007. 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 Neil Rimbey at 459-6365

# Letter to BLM and USFS



SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT

IDAHO SECTION  
PO Box 8101  
Boise, ID 83707

Mr. Tom Dyer  
State Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
Idaho State Office  
1387 Vinnell Way  
Boise, ID 83709

Mr. Jack Troyer  
Regional Forester  
USDA Forest Service  
Intermountain Region  
324 25th Street  
Ogden, UT 84401

Dear Mr. Dyer and Mr. Troyer:

The Idaho Section, Society for Range Management, toured the Bear Valley Allotment in August, 2006. The Allotment is located in Central Idaho at the head of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. We were lead through this tour by Mr. Warren Ririe and Mr. Tim Burton. They have both been intimately involved in the monitoring and analysis associated with the allotment. Grazing ceased on the allotment in about 2003, with the purchase of the grazing permits by the Bonneville Power Administration. Unfortunately, monitoring also stopped. Prior to these permit purchases/ retirements, this area was grazed by domestic livestock for over a century. Endangered species concerns lead to the cessation of grazing, primarily related to salmon.

During the course of the tour, we were struck with the necessity to continue the intensive monitoring of the stream reaches within this allotment. Substantial resources have been committed to this by both public and private sources over the course of the grazing history of the allotment. We feel strongly that the substantial resources expended for monitoring during grazing must be continued after the cessation of grazing.

We would strongly encourage you to commit resources to this continued monitoring effort in Bear Valley. It is imperative that Mr. Ririe and Mr. Burton be committed to at least one week of effort to this important endeavor each year. There is no other "laboratory" available to reveal the impacts on streams and endangered species after the cessation of grazing. We would also volunteer to assist with this monitoring effort through the assistance of trained volunteer professionals through the Idaho Section of the Society for Range Management. We view that this monitoring of the stream reaches in Bear Valley should take place at least once every 3-5 years.

In the interest of the art and science of range management, we await your response.

Sincerely,

Meribeth Lomkin  
President  
Idaho Section  
Society for Range Management

Cc: Mr. Jim Little



## ● Idaho Section Newsletter Goes Electronic ●

Sign up for Electronic delivery of this newsletter to receive it earlier, in color, with embedded links to online material AND to be entered in a drawing for **\$20** in SRM-ID *Buckaroo Bucks* to use in the silent auction at the Idaho Section Winter Meeting, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> in Twin Falls. If you did not already receive an Electronic version of this newsletter (earlier and in living color) in your Inbox, then SRM-ID does not have your current email address. Sign up for Electronic delivery by emailing Cindy Salo (csalo11@hotmail.com) by Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 to be eligible for the *Buckaroo Bucks* drawing.

## ● Idaho Section and UI Reception in Louisville ●

University of Idaho Range Alumni, Faculty and Students will have a joint reception with the Idaho Section of SRM at the International SRM meeting in Louisville. The reception will be Tuesday January 29, from 6 to 8 pm in the Beckham Room. Join us for updates on the UI Range program, meet the Range Club members, or just catch up with old friends. Hope to see you in Louisville!

## ● Idaho Section Officer and Director Nominations ●

Organizations like SRM thrive only because of the dedication of members who volunteer their time and energy as officers, directors and committee members. Do you know someone who would be a worthy candidate for an Idaho Section office or director? Are you ready to play a bigger role in SRM-ID? Do you or does someone you know have a desire to make a difference in SRM-ID? We need members interested in serving as President Elect for 2008 (President for 2009) and as Southern Chapter Director (any member living in a Zip Code starting with 833xx). To nominate someone, or yourself, contact Meribeth Lomkin at (208) 358-1533 or mlomkin@idl.idaho.gov.

Elections will be held at the Idaho Section Meeting on December 6 in Twin Falls.

## ● 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 December 6, 2007 at the Red Lion in Twin Falls. 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, artwork, ski passes, food items, etc. If you would like to donate an item to the auction please contact Meribeth Lomkin at (208) 358-1533 or mlomkin@idl.idaho.gov, or bring your item to the Section meeting in Twin Falls on December 6. Thanks!

# Idaho Section Annual Meeting December 6-7

Idaho Section of Society for Range Management

Winter Conference

December 6 & 7, 2007

Red Lion Motel, Twin Falls, Idaho

## FIRE!

The fire season of 2007 was expansive and affected almost every part of Idaho. The 2007 conference will focus on many facets of range fires and their effects regarding livestock, wildlife, economics, ranchers and rehabilitation. Come join us and learn from some leading experts in the West of what they know about fire, what is being done and what can be done.

New this year will be a poster session. Anyone may present a poster on an aspect of fire. The posters will be displayed during lunch and the banquet. Please indicate on your registration form if you would like to bring a poster.

The conference will start on Thursday, December 6 with registration at 8:30 and a welcome at 9:30 a.m. The social hour, silent auction, evening poster session with authors present will begin at 6:00 p.m. On the morning of Friday, December 7 at 8:00 a.m. will be the business meeting for the section.

A block of rooms have been reserved for the conference. Please mention the Idaho Section of Society for Range Management. Room cost is \$78.95 and will be this price until November 19. Reservations may be made by calling 208-734-5000.

Neil Rimbey will coordinate a field tour of the Jarbidge Fire area on Friday, December 7, weather permitting. Sign up at the symposium on Dec. 6.

CPRM CEU credits will be available for the symposium.



### 2007 Idaho Section Conference Registration

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

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

Agency/Business: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Full Conference including banquet: \$70.00 \$\_\_\_\_\_

Day Registration including lunch & breaks: \$50.00 \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Late Charge if postmarked after November 19** \$10.00 \$\_\_\_\_\_

Idaho Section SRM Member Yes No

Poster Presentation: (Title of Poster) \_\_\_\_\_

To pay by credit card: Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

Send registration to: SRM Idaho Chapter or Call Cindy Salo at (208) 850-3313  
PO Box 8101 credit card registration only  
Boise, ID 83707

Next Newsletter Deadline is  
January 15, 2008



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, Meribeth Lomkin 324-2561  
Pres. Elect, Shannon Williams 756-2824  
Past President, Paul Butler 237-5716  
Secretary, Brad Williams 756-2749  
Treasurer, Cindy Salo 850-3313

Chapter Officers

Northern Director, J.D. Wulforth 885-7645  
Southern Director, Kevin Wright 736-3073  
Western Director, Maura Laverty 253-0114  
Lyman Richwine Director, Don Edgerton 522-6250  
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 Meribeth Lomkin, Shannon Williams, 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**