

IDAHO Section

Society for Range Management



Fall 2008



Newsletter

Number 4-08

President's Message

Shannon Williams

We have had a wonderful fall here in Lemhi County and this last weekend would have made you think winter had arrived! We had 5 ½ inches of snow in Tendoy while Salmon had none. The good news, the range needed the moisture and if it warms up like predicted, we might see some fall re-growth, hopefully. As I look out my office window and enjoy the fall colors against snow-capped mountains, it reminds me of all the people it takes to make SRM work. Just like it takes lots of trees and snowflakes to make the landscape, it takes lots of people! Some of you will be receiving phone calls from Meribeth about serving as officers and directors for the next year. Please seriously consider telling her yes, we need your participation! If you feel you have to say no, please give her names of other people who might be willing to serve. It is important! There are great people in this organization that I would not have met if I had not said yes to serving as a director and now as the president. Take the opportunity to expand your circle of friends, knowledge and skills.

I owe a big thank you to all the officers and directors that served with me this past year. My work situation hasn't allowed me to do always stay on-top of things, but with everyone's help, the section has accomplished several things this year. There was a successful summer tour in partnership with IRRC, started the footwork for 4-H range speaking contest, and have 1 member nominated as a national director, and another 2 members receiving national awards. The section has also worked on a national resolution regarding big horn sheep and domestic sheep interaction and had input into the hiring of the new range specialist for University of Idaho to be housed in Twin Falls.

Other happenings this fall are the FFA Range Judging contests that were successful. IRRC with Jodi Mink coordinating, hosted 4 district contests. Word has it that Jodi was able to work with range professionals for great contests, excellent range sites and even range sites without snow! Way to go!!

Also be sure to mark your calendars for the Annual Winter Meeting in Boise on January 8 and 9. See you all there!

Happy Fall,
Shannon

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Winter Meeting
Jan 8 & 9
in Boise

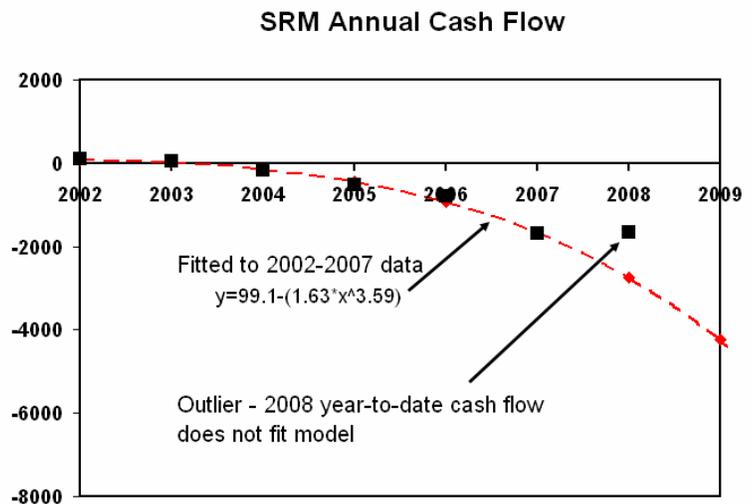


Idaho SRM Treasurer's Report Spring 2008

Cindy Salo

More Good News: yearly loss continues to be smaller than projected

Your treasurer is just fine, thank you for asking. Again this year we've been losing more Buckaroo Birds (\$) than we take in (below). However, we're still \$7,807 above our Minimum Viable Population of \$8,000.



Payette Forest Draft EIS on Bighorn and Domestic Sheep

The Payette National Forest has released a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) that re-analyzes the effects of current and proposed management of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep viability within the Payette National Forest. This DSEIS is a supplemental analysis to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Payette Revised Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) or Forest Plan. The Forest Service is requesting substantive comments on the draft analysis and management direction from the public. Some specific areas that the PNF would like to hear from the public as it pertains to bighorn sheep viability are as follows:

- Are opposing viewpoints and uncertainties surrounding the science considered?
- What level of risk for contact is acceptable?
- What other options/methods should we consider to achieve separation between domestic and bighorn sheep?
- Are there any issues or concerns that have been overlooked?

The DEIS was published on September 26, 2008 and comments will be accepted up to 90 days after the publication date. Send your comments to:

Payette National Forest
Attention: Bighorn Sheep Comments,
800 Lakeside Avenue
McCall, ID 83638

Or by email to <mailto:Payettebighorn@fs.fed.us>

To receive a copy or a compact disc of the DSEIS for management of bighorn sheep on the PNF please contact Sylvia Clark at (208) 634-0796 or visit the PNF website at http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/payette/publications/big_horn/big_horn_sheep_documents_index.shtml to view and/or download a copy.

U of I Range Club Report

Jeff Olson, Tarissa Jones, and Lovina Roselle

We started the school year off with officer elections and have a great new lineup of officers who are excited to be involved in the Range Club. Our President, Jeff Olson, is a freshman from Burley, Idaho. Our Vice President, Jake Ehlert, is a sophomore from Portland, Oregon. Our Secretary/Web Editor, Tarissa Jones, is a senior from Boise, Idaho. Our Treasurer, Tate Walters, is a junior from Boise, Idaho.

This semester, we have been meeting every two weeks to discuss fundraising ideas, club events, and professional development opportunities. Our main goal is to be able to raise enough funds to go to the national meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The club is working hard to get everything in order and is enjoying the direction of the new Club Advisor, Lovina Roselle. So far, we have 8 new SRM members signed up who are interested in attending the national meeting. Everyone attending the meeting will participate in taking the URME, and we have a few students interested in the Rangeland Cup and the Undergraduate Speaking Contest.

We have several fundraising efforts underway. We are again selling laminated plant specimens to various organizations as well as agriculture teachers around the state. On November 14th, the Range Club will host a Community Barn Dance and dinner on campus. We have been blessed with generosity from the community to have some of the food and entertainment for the dance donated. Thanks to Meribeth Lomkin who donated a box of books titled "The Land of the Free: the Pride and Purpose of the American West", an illustrated book about western rangelands which we are selling as a fundraiser at Christmas time. Our club will also be making and selling greeting cards with pictures of rangeland species and landscapes. If you are interested in purchasing any of our plant specimens, books, or cards, please email Jeff at olso4925@vandals.uidaho.edu.

Range club events so far this year have included a club BBQ, our annual "Adopt-a-Highway" road cleanup on the Troy highway outside of Moscow, and a tour of the USDA Plant Materials Center in Pullman, WA. We are planning more events throughout the spring including a turkey shoot, some fencing projects, and tours of local ranches and the biocontrol center in Lapwai.

It is our goal to find more interest in rangeland ecology and management throughout the state and encourage more involvement with the younger generation. This is a new year for us and we are all excited to learn and work in rangelands. To learn more about what the club is doing, visit our website at <http://www.cnr.uidaho.edu/range/rangeclub/>.



Jake Ehlert (VP), Jeff Olson (Pres.), and Karen Launchbaugh enjoying some good times at the club BBQ.

Lawsuit Continues

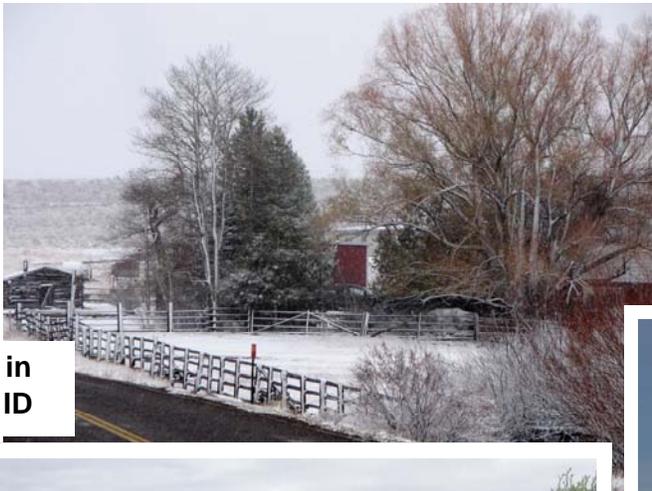
Text by Alan Schroeder

Photos copyright Cindy Salo

Western Watersheds / Jarbidge Field Office lawsuit to continue into the fall

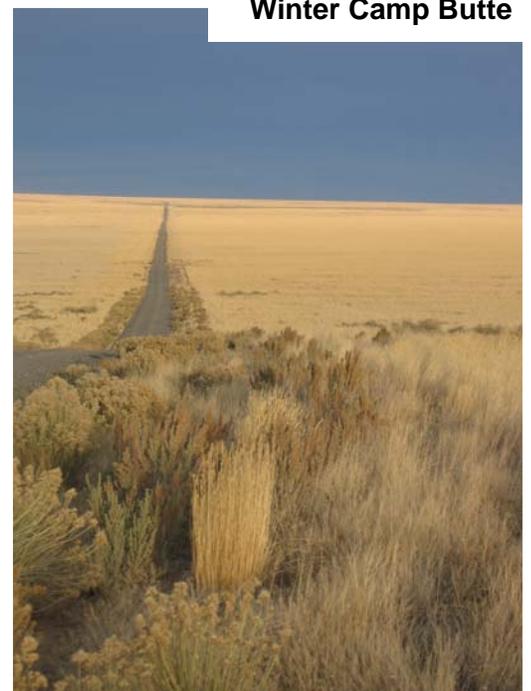
Western Watersheds Project (WWP) filed a Complaint and a Motion for Injunctive Relief early in 2008, challenging certain elements of BLM Jarbidge Field Office's management after the 2007 Murphy Complex Fire. They claimed that the BLM violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) in repairing burned fencing, in constructing certain fence to protect newly seeded areas, in prescribing certain criteria as to when grazing on burned areas could resume, and in authorizing grazing on unburned areas, including entire allotments.

The Motion for Injunctive Relief was denied on May 8, 2008, but Judge Winmill left the door open relative to certain allotments not directly subject to the 2005 Agreement between BLM, WWP and BLM permittees. WWP continued to pursue its renewed Motion for Injunctive Relief relative those certain allotments and the trial was scheduled for October 27-31, 2008. Testimony continued until November 3rd, when the remainder of the trial was scheduled to take place in early December.



Winter ranch in Three Creek, ID

Golden grasses near Winter Camp Butte



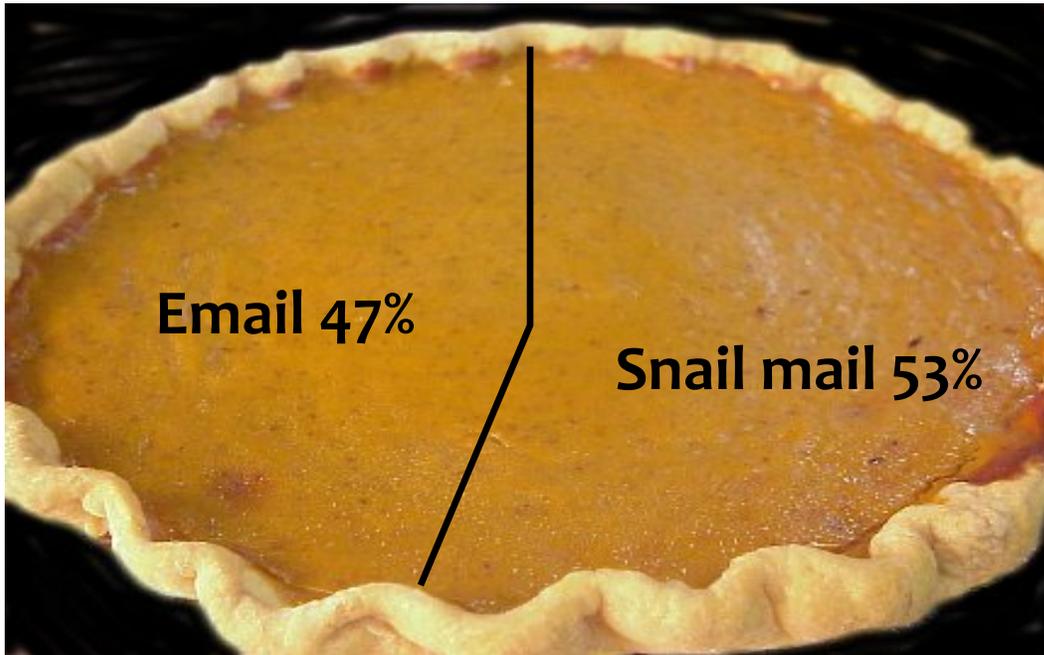
Sagebrush and bottlebrush squirrel tail in the Jarbidge

Get Your Piece of the Pie!

Cindy Salo

Help finish the pumpkin pie
in time for Thanksgiving

Sign up for Email delivery of the SRM Idaho section newsletter:



Moving cattle at Crow's Nest, Jarbidge Field Office



Photo copyright Cindy Salo

U of I Releases a New Teacher Resource Guide on Rangelands

Lovina Roselle

Thanks to a cooperative endeavor between the Department of Rangeland Ecology and Management, the Department of Agricultural Extension Education, and the Idaho Rangeland Resources Commission, information about principles of rangeland management is now at the fingertips of high school agricultural instructors and educators. The resource guide contains six modules with specific learning objectives. Each module provides background information, teacher presentations, student noteguides, handouts, teacher keys, and quizzes. A broad array of activities—including field, internet, and classroom—presents students with many perspectives of rangeland management. Learning modules include:

Module 1 - Rangelands Overview describes different types of rangelands with a focus on the different biomes and ecoregions of Idaho. Content clarifies the importance of rangelands and defines rangeland management. Students explore the individual preferences people have for specific uses of rangelands and how personal values and behaviors influence land use.

Module 2 - Rangeland Plants details the identifying characteristics of plants, how to categorize plants according to type, the impacts that invasive weeds have on rangelands, and highlights identification of 50 major rangeland plants of Idaho. This module contains color flash cards and PowerPoint presentations featuring these major rangeland plants.

Module 3 - Rangeland Animals describes the types of animals that inhabit rangelands, the habitat elements for these animals, and the interactions between livestock and wildlife. This module includes activities for determining animal forage requirements in animal unit months and setting stocking rates based on animal demand and forage availability.

Module 4 - Describing and Monitoring Rangeland includes resources on how to differentiate the biotic and abiotic factors, plant communities, water availability, watersheds and soil characteristics that create different ecological sites. A field activity allows students to develop a rangeland site description that includes estimating slope, aspect, soil texture, and plant biomass and composition.

Module 5 – Forces of Change: An ecological perspective describes factors that cause rangeland to change over time and takes students on a photographic tour of long-term studies in Idaho.

Module 6 - Integrated Rangeland Management helps students discover tools to accomplish land management and restoration. Students explore appropriate and ethical land management options, investigate the impacts of invasive species on rangelands, and develop skills to develop an integrated management plan

The project was made possible with funding from the David Little Livestock Range Management Endowment. Access the resource online at www.cnr.uidaho.edu/what-is-range/curriculum or for more information, e-mail Lovina at 4range@uidaho.edu.

Name That Idaho Drainage

Meribeth Lomkin



Congratulations to Anna Owsiak!

She had the correct answer for both of the “Name that Drainage” contest photos shown in the Summer Newsletter. I sent Anna a “spud fudge spud” for her effort! Here’s a new photo from my adventures this summer to guess. Try it, you could win some spud fudge for yourself!

Name that Idaho Drainage:

Submit your guess with the name of this Idaho waterway to:

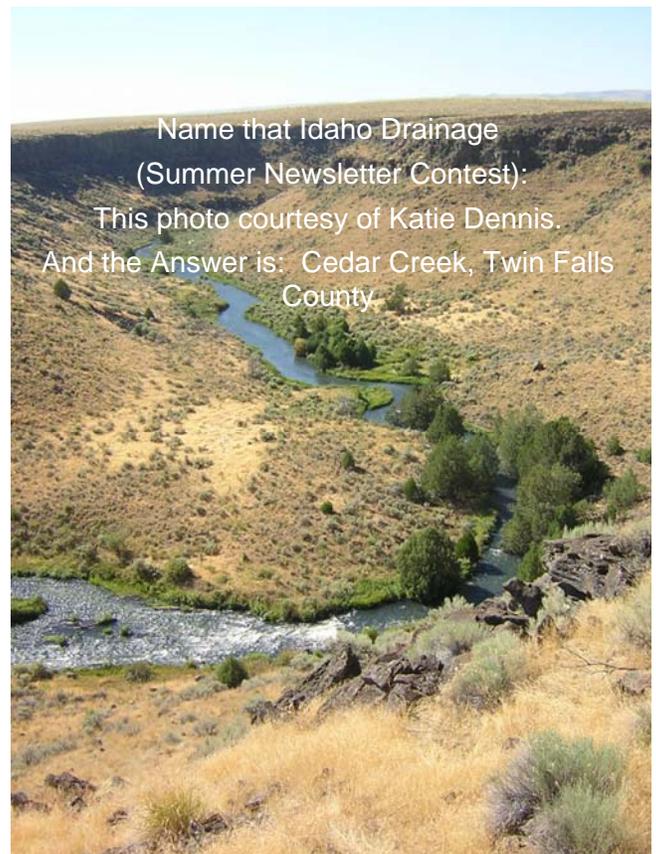
mlomkin@idl.idaho.gov



Name that Idaho Drainage
(Spring Newsletter Contest):

And the Answer is: Shoshone Creek, Twin Falls County

This photo courtesy of Erik Kriwox.



Name that Idaho Drainage
(Summer Newsletter Contest):

This photo courtesy of Katie Dennis.

And the Answer is: Cedar Creek, Twin Falls County

Next Newsletter Deadline is
January 15, 2009



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, Shannon Williams 756-2815 ext.283
Pres. Elect, Dan Bergstrom 697-4548
Past President, Meribeth Lomkin 324-2561
Secretary, Rebecca Beavers 334-3488
Treasurer, Cindy Salo 850-3313

Chapter Officers

Northern Director, J.D. Wulforth 885-7645
Southern Director, Kevin Eldredge 764-3112
Western Director, Maura Laverty 253-0114
Lyman Richwine Director, Corey Moffet 374-5306
UI Range Club Pres., Jeff Olson, 691-8343

**Newsletters on the Web
www.stoller-eser.com/idahosrm/**

There are lots of opportunities for you to become involved in the section's activities. Give Shannon Williams, Brendon Brazee, 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**