

# IDAHO

Section

## Society for Range Management



Fall 2009

Newsletter

Number 4-09



## President's Message

*Brendan Brazee*

Howdy All,

Well field season is drawing to an end and I sit here looking back on my second summer in Idaho. I had the opportunity to see a lot of country from the salt desert to the subalpine meadows. Of course I am always fascinated by the cattle grazing on the 80% slopes near Riggins and have enjoyed the many conversations I have had with range managers across the state.

There are a lot of potential opportunities out there to share SRM's vision. I attended the State FFA Range contest in Burley and witnessed the enthusiasm of 100+ high school students looking forward to identifying plants (How cool is that!). Many of these young minds are thirsting for knowledge and with a little guidance will become the future managers of Idaho's rangeland. Offer some time to 4H, FFA, and teachers to help them get started on plant id, soil texturing, and estimating stocking rates. It will sharpen your skills and the students will see the world they live in a little differently.

If you have any items you would like to discuss at the annual business meeting this winter please let me know.... see you all January 13-15, 2010 here in the big city....brendan

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## IRRC Publishes History of Idaho Range

### Idaho's Rangelands: A History

By Arthur A. Hart

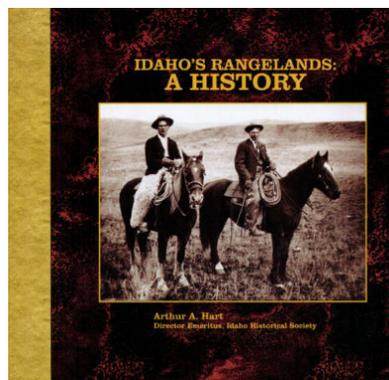
*Kathy Mallory*

An historical perspective of Idaho's rangelands written by Arthur A. Hart (Director Emeritus, Idaho Historical Society). Published by: Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission

Arthur Hart is a renowned historian and his personal interest in the people who settled Idaho make him the ideal author for this book. One of the results of his many years of research is this brief history of Idaho's rangelands and the people who have labored to make a living on them.

Mr. Hart begins with archeological records of human habitation about 12,000 years ago and continues through the era of open range, changes of ownership and the changes due to topography, climate and products of the soil. The book is filled with many historical photographs that document Idaho's ranching industry.

To purchase a copy of this book, contact Gretchen Hyde at the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission [ghyde@idrange.org](mailto:ghyde@idrange.org) or 208-398-7002. The books retail for \$17.95 and would make a perfect gift for the history buff!



**Officer Elections  
at the  
Annual Meeting  
In Boise  
January 13-15, 2010**

# Idaho SRM Treasurer's Report Summer 2009

## Ups and Downs of the Idaho Section Economy Cindy Salo

Your treasurer is just fine, thank you for asking. We continue to spend more than we make, leaving the costs of Medicare, the AIG bailout, and future Idaho Section spending to our children, nieces, and nephews (Figure 1). However, the cost of contacting our members is dropping, although the price of stamps is rising (Figure 2).

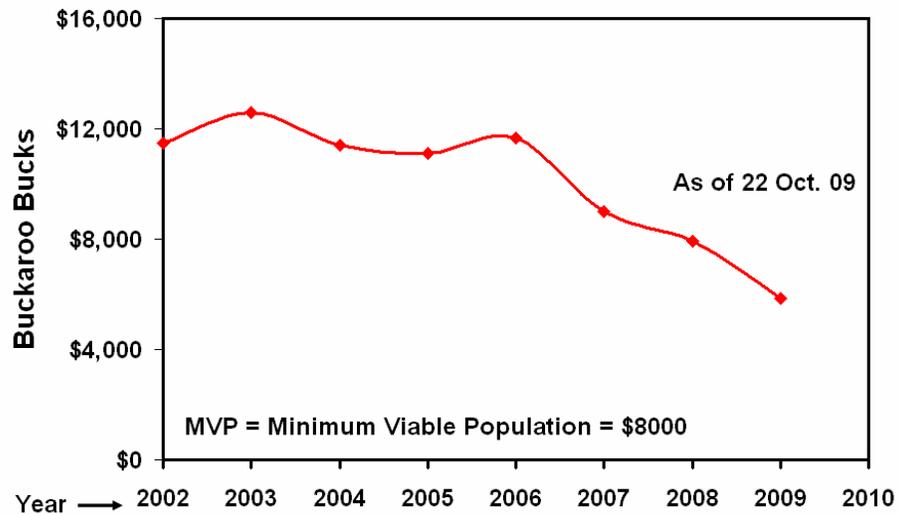
In line with the new White House restrictions on executive bonuses, your treasurer *will forgo her bonus*. She challenges other Idaho Section officers to do the same.



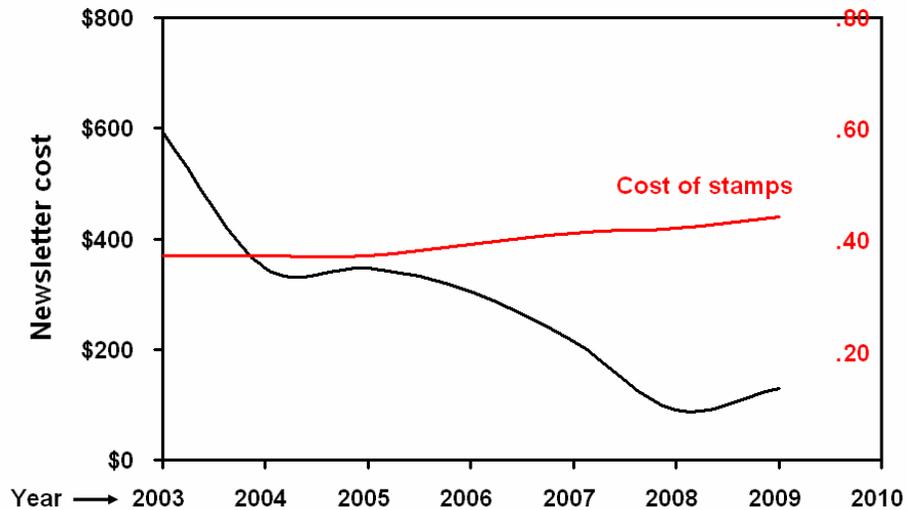
Electrons are cheaper than stamps.  
 Sign up for the electronic version of the Idaho Section newsletter.  
 CindySaloBoise@gmail.com



**Fig. 1** Idaho Section Available Balance (above MVP)



**Fig. 2** Idaho Section Newsletter Costs and Cost of Stamps



# Annual Meeting and Symposium January 13-15, 2010

## *A Congress on Western Rangelands*

Idaho Society for Range Management & Intermountain Rangeland Livestock Symposium

**January 13-15, 2010 – Boise Convention Center – Boise, Idaho**

*con-gress (kōng'grīs) n. A formal assembly of independent representatives convened to address specific questions or problems.*

### *Program Objectives:*

Characterize the prevailing conditions and policies which may negatively influence rangeland management in the West.

- Ranching perspective
- Conservation perspective
- Legal perspective
- State and federal agency perspective

Provide a forum to showcase nationally recognized individuals and organizations who have successfully implemented innovative strategies to sustain the benefits, values and uses of western rangelands.

- Collaborative management
- Livestock production
- Wildlife & Livestock Interactions
- Rangeland restoration
- Management of invasive species
- Endangered species

Facilitate productive interactions among participants and presenters to explore public land policies and management strategies to address contemporary challenges to managing rangelands.

### *Program Schedule:*

**Wednesday January 13, 2010\***

8:30 am to 5:30 pm

Rangeland Perspectives

*The Situation Session*

Lunch, break and evening hors d'oeuvres included

**Thursday January 14, 2010\***

8:30 am to 5:00 pm

Management Innovations

*The Solution Session*

Continental breakfast included

**Friday January 15, 2010**

8:00 to 10:00 am

Idaho Section SRM

Business meeting

\*Both sessions will include a speaker's panel to address audience questions and opportunities for participant interactions.

### *Lodging Information:*

The Grove and The Owyhee (downtown Boise) will provide a rebate to the Symposium for each room reservation. Please reference "Society for Range Management" when you make your reservations. All rooms: \$86/night + taxes. Reservation deadline **December 13, 2009**

The Grove Hotel, 1-888-961-5000

The Owyhee, 1-800-233-4611

### *Registration:*

Register Online at <http://www.idrange.org/rangeland-symposium> after November 18.

# Idaho Section SRM Awards for 2009

*Neil Rimbey*

OK, Meribeth, Shannon, Cindy and all the rest of you slackards! It's that time of year to recognize SRM members and others that are doing good things on rangelands. So dust off your pencils, remove the cobwebs from between your ears, scan your computer for viruses and **NOMINATE SOMEONE FOR ONE OF THE TWO (2) Idaho Section Awards**. Return nominations via email or fax to Neil Rimbey ([nrimbey@uidaho.edu](mailto:nrimbey@uidaho.edu) or 208-454-7612) by December 25, 2009. **Top Hand** is the top award that the Section gives and is for SRM members who have done good things. **Outstanding Achievement** award is for members and non-members and can be a team of folks doing good things.

## AWARD NOMINATION APPLICATION

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

### Contact Information for Nominee

- Name
- Address
- Occupation, Profession, Employer
- Phone Number
- Email Address

### Contact Information for Nominator(s)

- Name
- Address
- Phone Number
- Email Address

Nominee's Education, Training and Awards: (short description of the educational background, training, certificates and other awards of the nominee).

Nominee's activities in SRM: (short description of the nominee's involvement with SRM—service on committees (section and parent society), length of membership, hosting tours, etc.)

Nominee's Professional Contributions to Range Management:

Nominee's Activities and/or Memberships in other Societies and Organizations:

Other Biographic Information related to the Nominee:

Justification Statement(s) from Nominator(s): (Justification for the nomination: Why is this individual or group worthy of recognition?)

For more information, please contact Neil Rimbey at 459-6365

## • Student Chapter Roundup

*Richard Ambrosek and Lovina Roselle*

November finds the members of the Range Club at the University of Idaho busy with classes and fundraising. Finals week for the students will be the week of December 14th, and with Thanksgiving right around the bend, the semester is quickly passing. The Range Club has stayed busy this fall but has managed to interject a bit of fun. We hosted a BBQ out at Robinson Park where some delicious venison burgers and hotdogs were had by about 25 people from the range department, followed by some good conversation around the fire pit. The Club is also staying committed to our Adopt-a-Highway community service project out on Highway 6 near Deary. We had about 10 students show up to get their hands dirty on October 18th, and the weather miraculously held out for us. Afterwards, we headed to Jim Kingery's place to feast on some dutch-oven potatoes, beans, and grilled sausages.

The PNW section met in mid-September down in Clarkston, and while many of the club members really wanted to attend the sessions and tour, conflicts with class schedules precluded us from attending. However, Lovina, our advisor, represented our club and sold drinks on the field tour which the PNW section donated to our range club. Thank you PNW section membership for your support!

In preparation for SRM in Denver, we have formed an URME study group, coached by Richard Ambrosek, which is meeting weekly until February. Also we have a very good Rangeland Cup team formed that will put together a poster on Tamarisk invasion in the central Snake River Plain.



Our second annual Barn Dance, co-sponsored by the Sigma Alpha sorority, is coming up November 6th at the Livestock Pavilion here on campus. We continue our efforts to create a new specimen collection of noxious weeds commonly found on western rangelands. We selected about 50 noxious weeds which we are currently processing as high quality scans. Ultimately, we will print a high resolution copy of the herbarium specimen on 11 x 17 cardstock and laminate it for durability. The invasive plant sets will be ready for sale by Christmas. We are also moving forward with a second set of greeting cards (photos taken by the range club membership) depicting rangeland plants and animals, landscape and western scenes, and livestock. We have so many great pictures in our collection that we are also going to sell calendars depicting these similar themes.

We will have many of our fundraiser items on hand at the winter meeting in January and at SRM in Denver. Get your holiday gifts early and support the UI Range Club! Check out our fundraising website at [www.cnr.uidaho.edu/range/RangeClub/](http://www.cnr.uidaho.edu/range/RangeClub/) or drop a note to any of the club officers if you have questions. As always, we would like to thank the members of the Idaho SRM for their continued support.

## • Letters!

Dear Idaho SRM,

I would like to extend my gratitude to you for your contribution to the Brian Miller Memorial Scholarship; Thank You! I really appreciate your interest in helping range students like myself pursue an education in a field that I truly value and enjoy. As a way of saying thanks to you and others who have helped in my education, I plan to donate to scholarships of similar intent in the future.

Again, thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Seth McFarland,  
Carmen, Idaho

# Idaho Students Test Skills Out on the Range

Lovina Roselle

A record number of students participated in this year's FFA Rangeland Career Development Event (CDE), marking another successful contest aimed at helping Idaho high school students learn more about field skills and career opportunities associated with the rangeland management profession. The event took place on a beautiful rangeland site not far from Burley on October 13th, 2009. Many kudos go out to the event organizers, Kelly Crane and Ken Sanders, the current and former University of Idaho Rangeland Extension Specialists located out of Twin Falls.

Gretchen Hyde, Director of the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission took lead on the administering the event. She is pleased to see how interest in this FFA event has grown tremendously over the years. "It has grown from just a handful of teams over a decade ago to 22 teams representing Idaho's high schools." The 1st place team this year was from Rigby, coached by Jon Hogge and Robert Hale, followed by Fruitland, Hagerman, Kimberly, and Kuna. The top five individuals were Joseph Hale (Rigby), Michelle Mortimer (Rigby), Toby White (Payette), Jacob Houdek (Fruitland), and Hayden Boll (Cambridge).



Contestants hard at work judging the soil pit.

An exciting new opportunity exists for the top 5 teams this year. They have been invited to attend the first Western National Rangeland Career Development Event that will be held near Twin Falls in April 2010. Other top teams from Nevada and Utah will also participate in this new FFA contest forum.



The winning team!

Special thanks to the dedicated rangeland professionals who helped make this event a great success –BLMers Juley Hankins-Smith, Erik Kriwox, Codie Martin, Dan Patten; Katie Dennis of IDL; and Heidi Heyrend of the USFS.

Gretchen noted that "it was fairly easy to spot which teams had been working with a local rangeland professional. Those kids seemed to have a real advantage over the other teams." If you enjoy working with youth and a fast-paced afternoon out on the ground, then consider volunteering your time for this event in 2010! Contact Kelly Crane [kcrane@uidaho.edu](mailto:kcrane@uidaho.edu) or Lovina Roselle [lovina@uidaho.edu](mailto:lovina@uidaho.edu) for more information.

## Sage-Grouse

### Study Examines Potential Impacts of Oil and Gas Development on Western Sage-grouse Populations

Lovina Roselle

The plight of western states in their exploration of alternative energy development has been a hot topic in newspapers across the country. A new peer-reviewed scientific report examines the potential impacts of new energy infrastructure on the habitat for critical species such as sage grouse.

The researchers created a model to forecast oil and gas development on a broad landscape scale. The model examined two scenarios – anticipated and unrestrained development. Under the anticipated scenario, an estimated 2.3 million ha will be impacted by oil and gas development and an estimated 5.5 million ha will be impacted under the unrestrained scenario. The areas impacted are predominantly rangeland vegetation types. Their analysis shows that we can expect a 7 to 19 percent decline in sage-grouse population as a result of increased oil and gas development.

This research article, which includes a map depicting the spatial relationship of anticipated oil and gas development and sage-grouse core areas, may be useful to guide decision makers about the potential impacts to sage-grouse, a species experiencing population decline throughout the Intermountain West.

The full report is online at [www.plosone.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0007400](http://www.plosone.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0007400).

## Name That Idaho Drainage

*Meribeth Lomkin*



### Name that Idaho Drainage!

Submit your guess with the name of this Idaho River, since this one should be easy, include the feature name to win the prize.

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

[mlomkin@idl.idaho.gov](mailto:mlomkin@idl.idaho.gov)

There were No Correct Guesses for the Summer contest.  
You Can Try again!

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

This photo courtesy of Madeline Scheintaub.



## It's Annual Meeting Silent Auction Time!

*Meribeth Lomkin*

Proceeds from this year's auction may be split between the Brian Miller Scholarship fund at the University of Idaho and the University of Idaho Student SRM Chapter (Range Club) "travel fund". The Idaho Section members traditionally vote to donate some amount of our Section funds each year help our Student Chapter members with travel expenses incurred when they attend the International SRM meeting. This year's fundraising committee has decided to raise the bar for the Silent Auction. If we're funding two worthy causes with the Auction, we need twice the participation – more and better items donated for the auction and a deeper reach into your pocket when you purchase an item in the auction.

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, horse halters, guided fishing trips, artwork, food items, and ski passes. The sky is the limit for potential items that could be donated.

What kind of great contacts do you have? Are you the customer of the year at the local coffee shop? Would the owner donate a gift certificate? Is your freezer full of tasty meat that you could share? What a great way to advertise your home business! How about the neat set of towels embroidered with ducks in that catalogue on the kitchen table? You could buy them and bring them to the auction! You could even stop at the store on your way to the meeting and bring a 6 pack of your favorite beverage to enter in the auction.

If you would like to donate an item to the auction, please contact Meribeth Lomkin at (208) 358-1533 or just bring your item to the Section meeting in Boise on January 13. If you can't attend the meeting, but have an item for the auction, let me know - we'll figure out transport! Thanks and See You There!! Don't forget your checkbook.

Next Newsletter Deadline is  
January 15, 2010



Send your articles and pictures (.jpg format) to:  
Juley Hankins Smith  
juley\_hankins\_smith@blm.gov  
or Roger Blew  
rblew@stoller.com

**SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT  
IDAHO SECTION OFFICERS**

Officers

President, Brendan Brazee 378-5722  
Pres. Elect, J.D. Wulfhorst 230-7333  
Past President, Shannon Williams 756-2815 ext. 283  
Secretary, Jessica Davis 208-756-3211 ext. 111  
Treasurer, Cindy Salo 850-3313

Chapter Officers

Northern Director, Lovina Roselle 885-0160  
Southern Director, Kevin Eldredge 764-3112  
Western Director, Robin Holmquist 845-2324  
Lyman Richwine Director, Corey Moffet 374-5306  
UI Range Club Pres., Jeff Olson, 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 Brendan Brazee, J. D. Wulfhorst, a Director, or a committee chair a call and find out how you can get involved.**

**Idaho Section  
Society for Range Management  
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