



President's Message

Bruce Hanson

It's refreshing to find new ideas, tools or resources that may help us in our profession on rangelands. If you haven't checked out the Idaho NRCS web page in 2004, you might be surprised

(<http://www.id.nrcs.usda.gov/>). The home page features a new book by Steve Cote from Arco, "Stockmanship – A Powerful Tool for Grazing Lands Management". Just off the press, this book summarizes several years of work Steve put together on low stress livestock handling. He demonstrated several of the techniques the book describes during our Boise 2000 meeting, but has now come out with the first publication on the subject.

On the same website you can find a photo gallery, plant resources, snow survey and water supply information, job opportunities and contracting for Technical Service Providers, and many resources in the electronic Field Office Technical Guide, eFOTG. An example of eFOTG materials in Section I would be the Major Land Resource Area maps and descriptions, which equate to ecoregions or ecozones other institutions use. A further breakdown of these MLRAs for Idaho is

found in Section III, under D, Common Resource Areas. There is a CRA map for Idaho, descriptions, and some management tools called guidance documents.

Now, to pass along a little business. Here a few notes from the May 25, Idaho Section Board of Directors meeting.

Section dues change – In order to have a little more consistency between SRM sections, the Denver office asked for a vote to change all section dues to \$5 for all categories (student, add'l family, institutional). That will eliminate confusion if anyone is moving or changing their membership classification. Idaho BOD voted in favor.

Annual winter meeting – Ken Crane is planning the program. (See preliminary details on Page 2). We declined an invitation from the PNW Section to have a joint meeting. They will be having an October meeting in eastern Oregon .

JRM name change – Idaho had 3 votes to cast for the proposed name change. We sent all 3 votes not to change from the Journal of Range Management. If you read the Member Resource News lately you will

see that our wishes were not in the majority vote. The JRM will be changed January 2005 to "Rangeland Ecology and Management".

Mentoring for students and new Section members – If you want to offer assistance to a student or new Idaho Section member, contact the Section President or the Director for your part of the state. This will help people get to know with other SRM members and key contacts in your part of the state. You can also discuss rangeland activities that take place in your area. Pass on suggestions for career development, learning opportunities, or future employment. The membership chairman and University of Idaho will be contacted this summer to ensure we get a good start on this.

In the fall newsletter we will include information on our Section Committees, Awards and nominations for the 2005 officers.

Hope your summer is leading you to a number of extraordinary things you "get to do", and not just things you have "got to do".

Bruce

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Allan Savory at ISU Symposium

Oct. 4 & 5

See Page 3 for details



Idaho Section Annual Meeting January 6-7, 2005 in Pocatello

Mark your calendar for the upcoming annual meeting at a location yet to be determined in Pocatello or Idaho Falls. Watch for registration and agenda details in a future newsletter or in a separate mailing. Contact Ken Crane (332-8566) for more information or to offer some assistance in organizing the meeting.

Information on the World Wide Web concerning Sage Grouse

Steven Seefeldt

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has begun a 12-month process to determine whether sage grouse should be listed as a threatened or endangered species. The arguments for and against a possible listing this next year are likely to become contentious. Many opinions about sage grouse are available on the Web. Some of them are listed below.

www.sagegrouse.org gives arguments why listing is needed for the species.

www.beef-mag.com/ar/beef_sage_grouse_saga gives arguments why listing is not needed.

www.nwf.org/nationalwildlife/article.cfm?articleId=758&issueId=58 rides the fence on whether listing is needed.

http://wyoming.gov/governor/press_releases/2004/april2004/sagegrousefinding.asp indicates that the WY governor is disappointed with the recent USFWS finding, but it will provide WY an opportunity to showcase their management plan.

<http://www.gjsentinel.com/news/newsfd/auto/feed/news/2003/11/25/1069767422.28620.7613.0250.html!COXnetJSessionID=AajO1ZXP22WT1ymHt8fez3jLoYHg4UXV0p6LfrTv7YpeA19Pm8l0!-532913995?urac=n&urvf=10838761748780.8731280268666749> is a newspaper article that indicates that listing might hurt the species.

To find out what is going on at the USFWS and to learn more about sage grouse, go to www.r6.fws.gov/species/birds/sagegrouse. This is the USFS Region 6 sage grouse web page with all the pertinent information. On this page you will find links to information about the bird, maps of sage grouse ranges, the Federal Register notice of 3 petitions, and the 12-month finding Federal Register notice.

Some sage grouse management plans are already in place, and some are being developed. Several drafts of sage grouse management plans are on the web. Four of these are listed below.

http://www.blm.gov/nhp/spotlight/sage_grouse/ draft from the BLM

<http://www.animalpark.org/ibh/grouseplan.html> draft from Owyhee county Idaho bird hunting society

http://www.rangenet.org/projects/grouse/sagr_cp_UtDraft.pdf draft from Utah

http://gf.state.wy.us/wildlife/wildlife_management/sagegrouse.asp plan from WY

There is much more information on the web about sage grouse and in the months to come there will be quite a bit more. The web pages listed above provide a great deal of information about the issue and will allow people to follow the debate.

• New Idaho Section SRM Members

Welcome!			
Katie M. Salsbury	Regular	Intermountain Aquatics, Inc.	Driggs
Rebecca J. Beavers	Student	Idaho Dept. Of Lands	Kuna

• Integration of Geo-Spatial and Range Sciences Symposium featuring Allan Savory

The GIS Training and Research Center at ISU will again this year host a symposium on using GIS as a tool for range management. And, once again, Allan Savory will be a featured speaker. The symposium is sponsored by NASA. This year the field trip on October 4 will visit rangelands in the Sage Junction area and Camas National Wildlife Refuge. The symposium on October 5 will include presentations on new geo-spatial tools to improve your range management skills.

Registration is FREE! Registration Deadline is September 3, 2004. Registrations are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration forms and more information are available at <http://giscenter.isu.edu>, or call 208-282-3606, or email to giscenter@isu.edu.

October 4th, 2004

Field trip and rangeland viewing led by Allan Savory and Keith T. Weber

October 5th, 2004

Symposium.

Idaho State University Pond Student Union Building- Salmon River Suites

8:30am Registration check-in

9:00am Welcome and opening remarks- Keith T. Weber

9:15am **Strategic Grazing for Exotic Weed Control**- Bret Taylor

9:45am **Vegetation Measurement and Exotic Weeds**- Steven Seefeldt

10:15am **Challenges of Integrating Geo-Spatial Technologies into Range Management**- Keith T. Weber

11:00am **Rangeland Health Modeling with Quickbird Imagery- Special Emphasis on Bareground Modeling** - Bhushan Gokhale

11:30am **Using Hyperspectral Imagery for Rangeland Modeling**- Jacob Mundt

NOON LUNCH (provided for registered participants)

1:00pm **LIDAR Applications for Range Management**- David Streutker

1:30pm **LiDAR and Hyperspectral Data Fusion for Rangeland Environments**- David Streutker and Jacob Mundt

2:00pm BREAK

2:30pm **Fire, Invasive Weeds, and Rangeland Change**- Matthew Germino

3:15pm **Thinking Holistically to Tackle Today's Problems**- Allan Savory

4:45pm Concluding remarks- Keith T. Weber

Idaho Section SRM Summer Tour Highlights

About 50 Idaho Section SRM members and guest enjoyed a great summer tour the end of June. We enjoyed a loop through Owyhee County, looking at issues ranging from Juniper encroachment to the Owyhee Initiative, sage grouse, spotted frogs, riparian area management and Mormon Crickets. Friday was spent dealing with Juniper rangelands. We visited a State land parcel which had been treated with tebuthion pellets and burned about 12 years ago. Tim Duffner, Jim Kingery and Chad Gibson led the discussion at this stop. We had lunch at the North Fork of the Owyhee River. The next stop was on an old (12-15 years ago) juniper cutting area on the north end of Juniper Mountain. Mike Hanley, Jim Kingery and Eva Strand led the discussion at this stop. Young junipers are re-invading this site and we had the opportunity to look at an untreated reference site. The third stop was on Ted and Dorothy Payne's deeded land on the Mud Flat Road. Discussion dealt with the development of an ecological site description (Dave Franzen, Jacy Gibbs and Jim Cornwell) and BLM's juniper management proposal for the area (Glen Secrist, Jenna Whitlock and Steve Jirik). We set up camp, cooked dinner (prime rib) and enjoyed an

The long line-up of tour vehicles



Part of the tour discussing juniper issues near Juniper Mountain

evening dealing with the Owyhee Initiative (Chad Gibson), the Owyhee Sage Grouse Working Group (Donna Bennett) and an update from the parent society (2nd Vice President, John Tanaka)

Saturday was a little more "wet" than the Friday stops. Chris Black, a cattle producer from Bruneau, showed us some impressive riparian area management strategies that appear to be working well on his deeded land near the Mud Flat Road. We finished the tour on some more of Black's deeded land talking about the spotted frog is-

Idaho Section SRM Summer Tour Highlights

sue. Chris has done some amazing things with livestock grazing management and hard work to maintain and create habitat for spotted frogs. He is quite knowledgeable about spotted frogs and very effectively conveyed that knowledge to the tour. Chris also explained what he has been doing in the face of an invasion of large numbers of Mormon crickets. He told us that he has effectively “herded” the crickets to get them to go places where he was baiting them.

We had lunch and headed for home after an enjoyable and educational tour.

Special “thanks” to Dave Franzen, Jacy Gibbs and Chad Gibson for their work on the tour “planning team”. We appreciate all the help of tour participants in preparing meals and cleaning up the remains of the campsite. Thanks to Glen Secrist, Jenna Whitlock and the staff at BLM for allowing us to use the Mud Flat Administrative Site for our camp Friday night. Special thanks to Chris Black and Donna and George Bennett, who took time from their Mormon Cricket wars to talk about sage grouse, riparian area management and spotted frogs. Who’d have ever thunk that you could herd Mormon Crickets? Jim Cornwell and the “Beverage Wagon” generated \$236 for the Section’s Brian Miller Scholarship fund at U of I. Hope to see you all at next year’s summer tour!



Above—Chris Black explaining his riparian grazing management, spotted frogs or ...herding Mormon crickets!?!



Left—Spotted Frog in one of Chris Black’s ponds

Next Newsletter Deadline is
October 1, 2004



Send your articles and pictures (.jpg format) to:
Juley Hankins
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rblew@stoller.com

**SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT
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Newsletters on the Web
www.stoller-eser.com
/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.

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