

IDAHO Section

Society for Range Management



Summer 2009



Newsletter

Number 3-09

President's Message

Brendan Brazee

Howdy All,

What a great summer, only a few days hotter than the sun, good grass and hopefully good companies. The summer tour provided a great opportunity for discussion of Ecological Sites between professionals from all around the state. The discussion also continued into the evening following a remarkable meal provided by master chef Neil and his assistant Dave. We finished up the next morning with a discussion of some of the concepts involved with the development of riparian complexes and site descriptions based on valley type and stream morphology. I would like to thank everyone for their questions and comments and hope to be able to continue these types of interactions in the future.

As the summer comes to a close please remember to think about throwing your name into the hat for the upcoming elections this winter and submit a nomination for a deserving individual for a section award.

Well, back to the range brendan



New Idaho "On the Range" plate supports rangeland education

The 2008 Idaho Legislature enacted a new special interest license plate program to help promote Idaho's vast rangelands. The "On the Range" plate became available in January 2009 at DMV offices throughout Idaho. An initial plate fee of \$35 (\$25 annual renewal) is charged in addition to all other applicable annual registration fees, county administrative fees, and plate fees. All of the special program fees, with the exception of \$10, go directly back to the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission (IRRC) to help support rangeland education. Don't wait – order your personalized Range plate today! Over 1000 plates per year need to be sold by 2011 or they will not stay in production. So spread the word about this new plate and do your part to help fund rangeland education in Idaho. Visit IRRC's website at <http://www.idrange.org/idaho-rangeland-license-plate> to learn more and make your online order.

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Mark Your Calendar
Annual Meeting
January 13-15, 2010!
In Boise

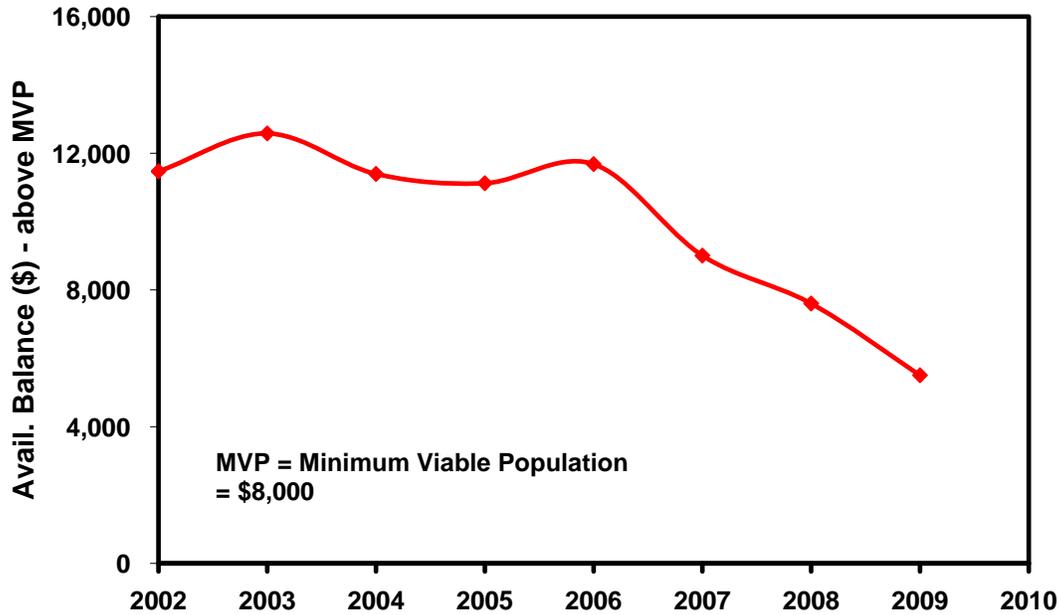
Idaho SRM Treasurer's Report Summer 2009

Cindy Salo

Is the recession over?

Your treasurer is just fine, thank you for asking. Reports are mixed as to whether the US recession is over; Idaho Section SRM members are working to expand the economy of the Section. Neil Rimbey's prime rib and Brendan Brazee's breakfast generated enough interest in the summer tour to raise \$365.25. In addition, Dave Franzen's beverage wagon at the tour raised another \$88.00 for the Brian Miller Scholarship fund. JD Wulfhorst plans great things for the January 2010 section meeting: contact JD to see how you can help!

SRM Available Balance - above MVP

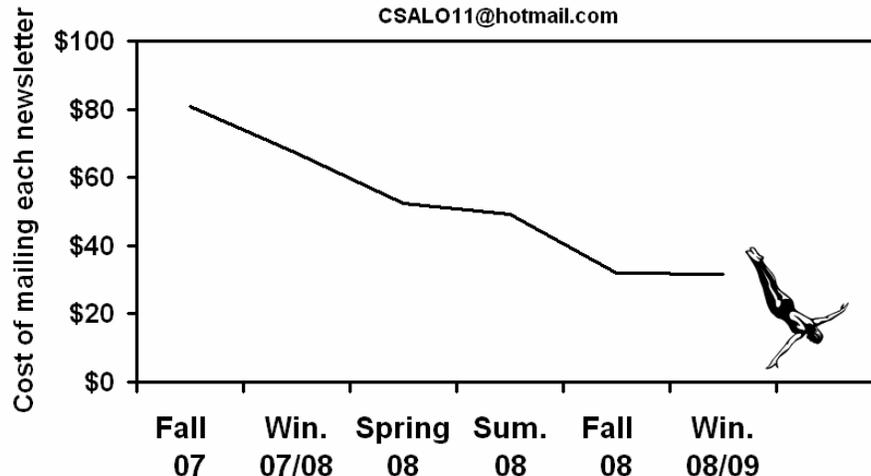


Postage Prices Up Again!

We've reached a plateau...take the plunge!

Sign up for email delivery of the SRM ID newsletter

CSALO11@hotmail.com



Summer Tour 2009

Meribeth Lomkin

The Idaho Section SRM Summer Tour 2009 commenced about 10 a.m. on July 16, at the Lee A. Sharp Experimental Area near Malta (LASEA). It wasn't quite hot enough to fry eggs on the sidewalk yet at 10, but by the time we broke for lunch and prepared to head for the field sites, it sure was. Nothing like Malta the hottest week of the year! However, the temperature created a good excuse for Meribeth to kill off the box of home-made chocolate chip cookies before they died a terrible, painful, melted death.

After a brief introduction to the tour, Kelly Crane and a few hecklers from the crowd painted the history of the LASEA and outlined current activities occurring at the LASEA. Brendan Brazee, Jeff Repp, Gene Fults, and Pat Shaver from the NRCS described the development & revision process, uses, and general ideas behind Ecological Site Descriptions (ESD).

After a great lunch of sandwiches, apples, chips and COOKIES, we headed for the field. A comment to the effect of "nothing like standing around in the shade talking for the good part of the day and then doing field work in the afternoon" was overheard as we left, but the temperatures were good for "beer wagon" sales which benefitted the Brian Miller Scholarship Fund.

After a scenic drive thru of the great livestock handling/weighing/sorting facility at the LASEA, we arrived at our first ESD stop, a shadscale site southeast of Malta. Our second stop was a black sage site near the Narrows, southwest of Malta. Great discussions on the development and use of ESD's, and on these range sites in particular were held. The black sage site was on a small ridge top where a welcome breeze found us! In an effort to see some new country, we traveled back to the LASEA past the ACE fire station, Elba Park, and Connor. The group then descended upon a campsite near Sublett Reservoir, where Neil Rimbey and Dave Franzen had spent the afternoon whipping up an awesome supper of beef, beans, and potatoes. Many stories were told and more contributions were made to the scholarship fund. Happily, the temperatures cooled off immensely once the sun went down!

July 17th dawned bright and clear, at least for some of us, and Brendan fixed a great breakfast of bacon and pancakes. J.D. Wulfhorst magically produced some blueberries and blackberries to go with it. A brief section business meeting and camp cleanup followed breakfast and then we hiked a nearby hill to discuss more upland ESD's and learn about the ongoing development of riparian ESD's. After another lunch of sandwiches and more cookies that were desperate to be eaten, we broke camp and headed home. A huge thank you is due to Brendan and Kelly for planning the tour; Brendan, (Brendan's wife), Neil, and Dave for feeding the crowd; and to Jeff, Gene, and Pat for joining us and contributing their expertise!

About 22 people were in attendance and a great time was had by all!

College of Southern Idaho and UI draft 2+2 Rangeland Option

Karen Launchbaugh

A great new plan is being drafted for Idaho students interested in seeking rangeland training and experience. Karen Launchbaugh, Rangeland Department Chair at the U of I, recently met with colleagues from the College of Southern Idaho (CSI) including Terry Patterson (Dept. Chair, Agriculture) Jayson Lloyd (Chair, Biology), and Barry Pate (Instructor, Animal Science). These professors drafted a curriculum plan that will allow students to start their academic training at CSI and complete their B.S. degree at UI.

Step 1 - Complete an AS degree in Animal Science or Biology that focuses on rangelands. Students completing their AS degree at CSI, with a Rangeland Emphasis can qualify for the federal Range Technician Series (GS-455). The advisors at CSI are able to help students with these choices. This AS degree will give them technical and seasonal employment opportunities with federal and state land management agencies.

Step 2 - After completing 2 years at CSI, students can transfer to the University of Idaho and complete a B.S. degree in Rangeland Ecology and Management in 2 additional years. The B.S. degree will qualify students for the federal Rangeland Management Specialist Series (GS-454) and to become a Certified Professional in Rangeland Management.

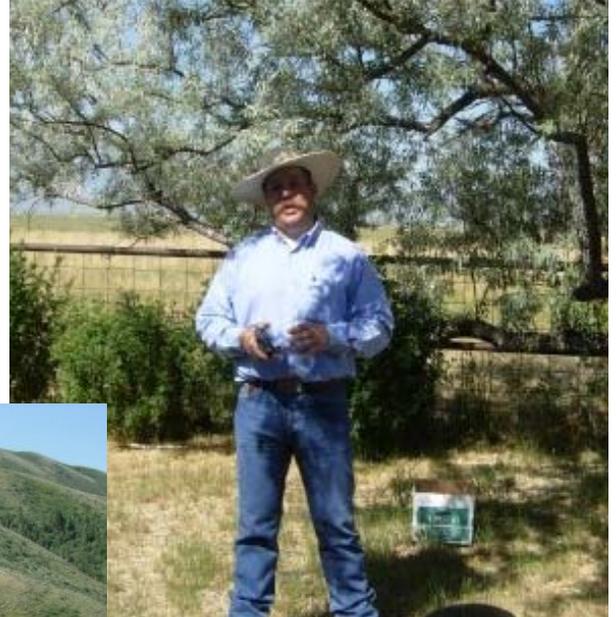
A B.S. degree in Rangeland ecology will lead to full-time and permanent jobs with land management agencies.

2 + 2 = a Great Path to a rangeland management career

Summer Tour 2009 Photos

Photos by Neil Rimbey

Kelly Crane providing a history of the Lee A. Sharp Experimental Area (LASEA), under the shade tree at the LESEA headquarters. July 16, 2009



Learning about riparian and upland ESD's from the hill above Sublett Reservoir camp. July 17, 2009.

In the frying pan – the tour group discussing ESD's at a shadscale site southeast of Malta. Black Pine Mountain is in the background. July 16, 2009.



Idaho Naturalist Program Fosters Rangeland Education

Nearly half of Idaho's natural environment is classified as rangeland. Despite living in close proximity to rangelands, few Idaho residents recognize the values they offer or realize how interconnected they are to these ecosystems. The new Idaho Master Naturalist Program will help promote rangeland education and provide residents hands-on exposure to better understand the complex intricacies of these landscapes. Spearheaded by Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the goal of the Master Naturalist program is to "develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to actively work towards the stewardship of Idaho's natural environment". The Department of Rangeland Ecology and Management at the University of Idaho and the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission recently developed a section on rangelands for the Idaho Master Naturalist Program curriculum. Rangeland ecology and management is one of 20 sections included in the program curriculum, along with others such as geology and soils, forest ecology and management, ichthyology, herpetology, ornithology, wetland ecology, and plants. The rangeland chapter includes sections on Rangeland Principles, Rangeland Plants, Rangeland Animals, Describing and Monitoring Rangelands, and Forces of Ecological Change.

The Master Naturalist program was initiated in Texas and modeled after the Master Gardner program which uses science-based training and volunteer service as a way to help provide educational programs to educate communities about gardening and landscaping. Similarly, the Master Naturalist Program provides a way "to educate citizens about conservation issues and promote individual action toward improving and supporting natural resource management". To date, 26 states have adopted the program and have benefited greatly from the outreach activities of the volunteers who give back to their community through service in conservation education and as citizen scientists. In Idaho, individual chapters have formed in Island Park, Pocatello, Boise, Ketchum and Idaho Falls. Certification through the program requires completion of 40 hours of training, 40 hours of service, and 8 hours of advanced training. If you are interested in more information about the Idaho Master Naturalist Program, contact the state-wide coordinator, Sara Focht at sfocht@idfg.idaho.gov or (208) 921-6933.



Nominations for Officers Needed

Shannon Williams

VOLUNTOLD YOUR FRIEND TODAY!

VOLUNTOLD your friend today for one of the offices of Idaho Section of Society for Range Management. There are a few positions that are up for election this year. We need candidates for president elect, southern director and Lyman-Richwine Director. Serving as an officer and director is a great way to help the Idaho Section. We would like to have lots of candidates to choose from for each office.

Here is how you can help. You can email me or call me and volunteer to be a candidate. My email is shannonw@uidaho.edu or 208-756-2815 ext. 283. You can also VOLUNTOLD someone and give me their name and number and I will talk with them about it.

Oh, you are probably wondering the definition of VOLUNTOLD. It is being told you have been volunteered. This is a new Lemhi County word. ☺ Okay, not really. Just "Googled" it and it really is a word. ☺ You can still voluntold someone today. I won't tell who did it.

RESTORING THE WEST CONFERENCE 2009:

Peaks to Valleys: Innovative Land Management for the Great Basin

October 27 & 28, 2009

Eccles Conference Center

Utah State University

Logan, Utah

Please consider attending this year's Restoring the West Conference. Visit www.restoringthewest.org to register and see the conference agenda.

The theme of this year's Restoring the West Conference is the sustainability of Great Basin landscapes from peaks to valleys, with an emphasis on forest, sagebrush steppe, and riparian ecosystems. Unifying themes include the causes and consequences of historic changes in community composition and structure, the effects of ongoing climate change, the importance of the water cycle or ecohydrology, and wild-life considerations.

This conference will explore innovative restoration and management approaches for Great Basin landscapes in the face of climate change, rapidly growing human populations, limited water resources, increases in invasive species, and altered fire regimes. Maintaining these ecosystems and communities requires management approaches that use larger spatial scales and longer time scales than in the past and that incorporate economic and social considerations.

The conference will take place at the Eccles Conference Center on the USU campus in Logan, Utah over two full days (October 27-28, 2009) and will include numerous general session speakers focusing on science and management, a break-out workshop/feedback session, an opportunity to present/observe posters, and an evening social.

The conference website can be found at www.restoringthewest.org. Registration is now open. The early registration deadline is October 5; registration prices will rise after this date.

To help you plan travel, the conference is currently planned to begin at 8:30 am on Tuesday, October 27 and will extend through 5:15 pm on the 28th. All sessions will be held in Logan, Utah.

Major sponsors for this year's conference include the S. J. and Jessie E. Quinney Foundation and the Ecology Center at Utah State University. It is organized and supported by Utah State University (Forestry Extension, Wildland Resources Department, College of Natural Resources), the Western Aspen Alliance, and the USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station.

Name That Idaho Drainage

Meribeth Lomkin

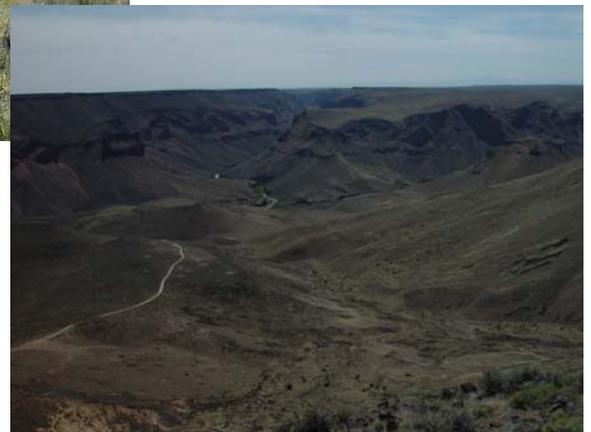


Name that Idaho Drainage:

Submit your guess with the name of this Idaho waterway to: mlomkin@idl.idaho.gov

This photo courtesy of Madeline Scheintaub.

Congratulations to Alan Schroeder! He had the correct answer of the confluence of the Jarbidge and Bruneau rivers for the spring "Name that Drainage" contest! Alan received a "spud fudge spud" for his award! The photo was courtesy of Justin Westrum.



Targeted Grazing of Yellow Starthistle with Goats

Brianna Goehring, Karen Launchbaugh and Linda Wilson

Yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis* L.) is an exotic winter annual forb that is aggressively invasive and problematic in much of California, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Yellow starthistle control is particularly challenge in canyon rangelands where accessibility limits control options. Our objective was to evaluate the effects of late-season targeted grazing by domestic goats on yellow starthistle and non-target grasses and forbs. A three-year grazing study was initiated in 2006 on a 380-hectare canyon grassland site infested with yellow starthistle near White Bird, Idaho. Twenty-four paired plots were established with each pair including a fenced subplot to exclude grazing and a similar-sized adjacent subplot that was grazed. Domestic goats grazed the study area during late summer and early fall. Density of yellow starthistle plants and seedheads were assessed after grazing of each plot in all three study years and before grazing in the second and third study years. Canopy cover of yellow starthistle, grasses, and forbs was also examined. Grazed subplots had 61% fewer yellow starthistle plants than the ungrazed controls after grazing was applied and 95% fewer seedheads. Cover of yellow starthistle did not differ between grazed and ungrazed subplots after grazing in 2006, while grazing decreased yellow starthistle cover in 2007 and 2008 by about 75%. Grazing by goats had little impact on canopy cover of grasses and resident forbs with the exception of after grazing in 2007 when there was less forb cover in grazed areas compared to ungrazed areas. Late-season (i.e., July to November) targeted grazing by goats appears to be an effective way to reduce yellow starthistle plant densities at landscape scales. This creates a large window of opportunity for grazing treatment and flexibility for land and livestock managers.

Next Newsletter Deadline is
October 15, 2009



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

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Newsletters on the Web
[www.stoller-eser.com](http://www.stoller-eser.com/idahosrm/)
[/idahosrm/](http://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
P. O. Box 8101
Boise, Idaho 83707**