



## President's Message

*Ken Crane*

In the last newsletter I made the comment about being on a climatic roller coaster. If I have been correct about anything this year that was it. We went from wringing our hands in worry over a pending drought, to wrestling mud and floods, to now wringing our hands in worry over a potentially bad fire season. The dramatic change of range conditions we witnessed this year has raised the eyebrows of even the most seasoned range people.

It is clear that Mother Nature still runs the show and the need for "Art" in the management of our rangelands is still there. Though our confidence in our ability to predict how growing seasons might progress was diminished, I still feel that our initial concerns over drought were justified. If it were not for two consecutive months of record and near record precipitation our worries would likely have come to fruition.

The take home lesson from all of this is clearly that monitoring changing conditions is critical. Equally important is maintaining flexibility in management. Flexibility provides more alternatives to address any given situation. Too much rigidity in our management plans whether for grazing, recreation, or wildlife habitat, will not allow managers to mitigate for an acute crisis, nor will they allow them to take advantage of unfore-

seen bounty. Effective management requires managers, agency and ranchers alike, to monitor constantly and adapt as situations demand.

I want to compliment Roger, and those that assisted him, on organizing a great summer tour. Everything went smoothly from the transportation to the weather. Somehow Roger was able to redirect the thunderstorms and calm the winds to make for a very pleasant day on the Desert. Over the years the Idaho National Laboratory has engaged, through necessity in a number of cases, in a diverse array of projects and research that demonstrates the multiple uses and roles that rangelands can provide. I encourage everyone that has not yet been to the Site, to contact Roger and accompany him on a tour. I assure you that you will not be disappointed.

Most of members are probably already aware that the parent society has been debating the issue of changing the name from the Society for Range Management to one that may represent a more inclusive picture of how the Society engages in the science and management of our rangelands. This debate has been going on for years and has at times deeply divided the membership. Though the general membership stands firmly to-

gether in its passion for rangelands, losing the original name and the long-time symbol of leadership, "The Trail Boss", is akin to abandoning the roots of our heritage. The Member Resource News announced the direction the Board of Directors (BOD) has chosen to take and I summarize portions of it below.

At the Fort Worth meeting, with the support of multiple committees, the Advisory Committee recommended to the BOD that this issue be put in front of the general membership for a vote. The BOD subsequently elected to post a straw poll on whether to change the current name to one of three, or keep the name as-is. If the membership poll supports a name change, the issue will be placed on the official ballot this fall with the results announced during the annual meeting.

A number of articles & opinions have been published and can be viewed on the SRM website: <http://www.rangelands.org/mrn.s.html>. I encourage everyone to make themselves familiar with the debate and take the time to cast a vote at: <http://www.rangelands.org/mrn.s.html>.

Though this is an important topic, our organization needs to come to resolution and move on. There are other very important issues that need our attention.

I hope the remaining summer treats you well.

Ken

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# Glen Secrist 1943-2005

*Ken Crane, Neil Rimbey, Ken Sanders*

As most of you are aware Glen Secrist lost his battle with cancer on June 20, 2005. We feel his loss already as Glen was a true leader in the range management community. Not only did Glen mean a lot to us professionally but to many of us he was a good friend as well. Glen and I spent many days chasing chukar and pheasant. Though not near enough.

Glen was born in 1943 in Brigham City, Utah, and grew up in Fielding where he was layed to rest. He married Marilyn in 1964 and spent the next 41 years raising 4 children, and spoiling 14 grandchildren.

Glen's career started with the Soil Conservation Service in Cascade followed by a period in Weiser. He then went to the Bureau of Land Management and served as a Range Conservationist in the Owyhee Area until his transfer to the Washington office. From Washington D.C., he moved to Craig, CO and served as an area manager for about 3 years and moved again to Washington D.C.

In 1996 Glen retired from the BLM and moved back to Boise where he accepted the Vegetation Management Bureau Chief position with the Idaho Department of Agriculture managing the Range and Noxious Weed programs. Glen's leadership in developing the noxious weed efforts here in Idaho have evolved into a multi-million dollar cooperative program that has been used as a template for numerous states and provinces across the US and Canada. Though Glen's efforts with noxious weeds may be his largest legacy, he was also very effective at using collaborative processes to resolve livestock grazing issues across Idaho. Being able to bring people to the table and work out amicable solutions was a true talent of Glen's that many of us wish we had.

Glen was an active member of the Society for Range Management, serving in leadership roles at the Section level and with the parent society as well as acquiring and maintaining his standing as a Certified Professional in Range Management. With Glen, the official positions cannot fully account for the productive input provided in discussions at meetings, field trips, or personal conversations.

With the Idaho Section Glen served as Chairman of the Western Chapter in 1976, as Western Chapter Councilman 1978-1979, as Section President-elect in 1980 and Idaho Section President in 1981. As Section President he developed the Idaho Section Officers handbook, submitted a bid for the 1987 SRM meeting in Boise and formed the planning committee. He received a letter of commendation from the Idaho Section in 1982 for his service to the Section. Glen was on the SRM Board of Directors from 1999-2001. He was co-chair of the 2000 SRM Annual Meeting, Trails to Boise, and was awarded the Idaho Section Top Hand Award for his efforts in managing noxious weeds.

During his stay at Washington D.C. he served as President for the National Capital Section in 1990.

Glen was very active at the national level and served on the Finance Committee in 1993 and 1994, Committee Chair for the Advisory Council and the Council of Past Presidents & Charter Members in 1990, Annual Meeting Planning Committee 1997-2000, Committee Chairs 1997-1998, Research Affairs Committee 1999-2000 and 2001-2002, Government Policy & Programs Committee 1999-2000 and 2001-2002, GLCI Task Group 1999-2000, Partnership & Affiliations Committee 1999-2000 and 2001-2002, Public Affairs Committee 1999-2000, Committee Chairs 1999-2000, Rangeland Assessment & Monitoring Committee 2001-2002, Rangeland Invasive Species Committee 2001-2004, and on the Board of Directors from 1999-2002.

Glen is survived by his wife, Marilyn, four children and 14 grandchildren.

# Geo-Spatial and Range Sciences Conference at ISU

On July 20-21st Idaho State University's GIS Training and Research Center hosted the fourth annual Geo-spatial and Range Sciences Conference at the Pond Student Union Building on the ISU campus in Pocatello. The conference began with a day-long field trip to Massacre Rocks and Register Rock State Parks. Attendees learned the grazing and management history of this area including how 300,000 head of livestock were historically grazed there during the height of the Oregon Trail.

Speakers at the July 21st conference included Allan Savory, Steve Cote, and local rancher's Mark and Wendy Pratt. Topics ranged from using GIS and Remote Sensing for range management, to selecting appropriate GPS receivers, and using remote sensing data for weed management. Other presentations focused on identifying ranchers concerns, low-stress livestock handling, and holistic decision making.

Over fifty people attended the conference from Idaho and Wyoming. Part of the emphasis of this conference is to let others know about the research findings from ISU's GIS Center and Rangeland Research Program. According to Keith Weber, GIS Director, "We are trying to better understand rangelands and develop tools to better manage rangelands...further, we realize that no matter how significant a finding, the finding will not improve rangelands unless the land stewards who are caring for the land know about the research".

Right. Allan Savory describes overgrazing of plants --not whole rangelands-- to the attendees at the 4th Annual Geo-spatial and Range Sciences Conference



Left. Attendees of the 4th Annual Geo-spatial and Range Sciences Conference visit the rangelands at Massacre Rocks State Park and view first-hand the rangeland health concepts discussed earlier that day

# A New Era for Range at the University of Idaho

*Karen Launchbaugh*

A long time ago in Idaho, an academic program focusing on rangelands emerged as a curriculum in the School of Forestry at the University of Idaho (UI). The Range Department, in all of its various forms, has played a prominent role in the education of range managers throughout its 88-year history. The UI Rangeland Ecology and Management Department exists today as a small (6 faculty, 15 graduate students, 38 undergraduates) and efficient department that is important to those who manage, own, and enjoy rangeland.

You probably know that the University of Idaho is in a time of change and renewal. University President Timothy White and the college deans have proposed several program changes that are “focused on increasing critical mass of faculty, strengthening academic impact and aligning financial, spatial and personnel resources.” To accomplish these university goals, Dean Steven Daley Laursen of the College of Natural Resources put forward several recommendations including to “create a new academic department applying bio-physical, social and policy sciences to the ecology and sustainable management of rangeland and forestland ecosystems and associated aquatic habitats. This new academic department will replace the current Departments of Forest Resources and Rangeland Ecology and Management.”

Yes, this means the end of the Range Department as we know it... BUT, WAIT! We will emerge as a distinct program in a department that focuses on the wild landscapes of the west. After all, forests and rangelands share many ecological processes and management issues, for example, fire, weeds, endangered species, water quality, rural subdivision, wildlife habitat, recreation, etc. There are lots of reasons why this new departmental home can strengthen the rangeland and forestry disciplines. On the other hand, it takes different skills to manage a forest than it does to manage rangeland. In this new department, the rangeland faculty will hold to our identity and ability to teach specialized knowledge and skills. We will still offer Undergraduate Degrees in Rangeland Ecology and Management and Range-Livestock Management. We will also continue to offer graduate degrees in Rangeland Ecology and Management. This change will not jeopardize our accreditation by SRM.

Change is hard, but change is the only thing in life that is certain. Our ability to succeed as individuals and organizations depends on how we deal with change. Yes, of course there is a risk that Range will get lost in this transition. Karen Launchbaugh (Department Chair) and Margaret Soulen-Hinson (Chair of UI Rangeland Advisory Board) are leading a transition plan that will fight off risks and seek opportunities.

Spread the word that Range at the University of Idaho is NOT DEAD... we are IN TRANSITION. If you have questions, ideas, or concerns, contact Karen Launchbaugh (208-885-4394, [klaunchb@uidaho.edu](mailto:klaunchb@uidaho.edu), [www.uidaho.edu/range](http://www.uidaho.edu/range)).

- **The UI Rangeland Ecology and Management program is the only Idaho institution that offers a degree in rangeland ecology or management.**
- **UI has one of only 10 programs in the United States accredited by the Society for Range Management.**
- **The demand for rangeland specialists is high with over 90% of our students graduating with a B.S. in the last 10 years securing careers in natural resource management or advancing to graduate school.**
- **All of our graduate students in the last 15 years have secured jobs in natural resources.**

# Nominations for SRM National Officers Sought

The SRM Nominating Committee is seeking nominations for the office of Second Vice President and for the Board of Directors (two positions) to be filled beginning in 2007. Nominations are sought from SRM members, Committees, and Sections. A total of six candidates, two for each position, will be selected from the list of nominees submitted.

See the Idaho Section webpage for the full announcement at [www.stoller-eser.com/idahosrm/](http://www.stoller-eser.com/idahosrm/)

**Nominations are due December 9, 2005.**

## Name That Drainage

*Meribeth Lomkin*

**Do you recognize this Idaho watershed?** If so, a fabulous prize could be yours! Send your answers to Maribeth Lomkin at [MLomkin@idl.state.id.us](mailto:MLomkin@idl.state.id.us). There were no winners from the last newsletter. I thought I'd try to make it easier for everyone since I have yet to get even one guess in this contest. I did have a request to run the pictures that have been in the "contest" so far with their locations (see below right).



**Winter 2005 Name That Drainage:  
Crane Creek, Washington County, ID**



**Spring 2005 Name That Drainage:  
Lime Creek, Camas County, ID**



# Summer Field Tour at the Idaho National Laboratory

*Kim Ragotzkie*

A gorgeous summer morning greeted the thirty Idaho SRM folks attending the summer tour at the Idaho National Laboratory June 11. The Big Desert of eastern Idaho was especially lush after the abundant spring precipitation. We met at the Experimental Breeder Reactor I site and enjoyed a tour of this National Historic Monument given by an animated young engineering student. After going through various security and safety briefings, we traveled to our first range site in the area burned by the 2000 Tin Cup fire. Roger Blew talked to the group about this site which has showed a steady increase in cover by native bunch grasses and especially forbs this year. We also talked about sagebrush recovery; natural reseeding from remnant stands of sagebrush (good success in some areas), and aerial seeding over snow (poor success). On the bus to the Central Facilities Area, we heard about the numerous wildlife monitoring programs funded by the Department of Energy at the INL. During lunch, we watched a very interesting presentation by Mike Ebinger of Utah State University on coyote movements and home range fidelity. Those wily coyotes travel much further and faster than one would think.



Left. Roger Blew describes vegetation recovery on the 2000 Tin Cup Fire.



Right. Beth Colket discusses sagebrush recovery following fire.

## Summer Field Tour (cont.)

Next we traveled to a Protective Cap/Biobarrier Experiment site. At this site, native range plants and soil material are being tested to provide long term stability to landfill caps to prevent moisture from entering buried waste. Beth Colket, who had done her M.S. work at the INL, talked to us about recovery of Wyoming big sagebrush after wildfire; it may take 90 years to become reestablished. Last stop, as the wind starting kicking up, was to look at crested wheatgrass spreading into adjacent native sagebrush steppe. By now the group had gotten rather friendly, discussion was getting lively, and cold beverages were calling. We reconvened at the group camp at Craters of the Moon National Monument, nestled in a cove surrounded by cinder cones and a stand of Douglas fir. We snacked on fresh, homemade potato chips and then enjoyed an excellent steak dinner, all prepared by Chef Troy. Idaho Section President Ken Crane impressed us with his adept use of a splitting maul, and the discussion around the campfire continued until the firewood ran out. In the morning, we shared another excellent Chef Troy breakfast and, after some Idaho Section business and discussion, parted ways until we gather again at our annual meeting this winter. Roger Blew and the folks at S.M. Stoller Corporation deserve big THANKS for organizing this tour and arranging access to the highly restricted INL.

Right. Dave Franzen and Glenn Shewmaker examine vegetation in a 30-year-old burn.



Left. Ken Crane demonstrates how to wrap your hands around the handle of a splitting maul. Others watch “enthusiastically” while also demonstrating how to wrap your hands around a cold beverage.

Next Newsletter Deadline is  
October 15, 2005



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**

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885-6536

There are lots of opportunities for you to become involved in the section's activities. Give Ken Crane, Paul Butler, Bruce Hanson, a Director, or a committee chair a call and find out how you can get involved.

**Newsletters on the Web**  
**[www.stoller-eser.com](http://www.stoller-eser.com/idahosrm/)**  
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