

## President's Message

*Paul Butler*

After the 2005 Winter meeting, one of our former Idaho Section Presidents, whom I respect, said to me, "Range management is politics". He said this in response to my contention that range management decisions should be devoid of politics.

I suppose that many would wonder why I have thought about this particular statement for so long. But I wonder, who is right? Is it possible that we both are? What are your thoughts?

Perhaps we can reason through the question and see where it leads us. How about this argument: Decisions made on the ground should stay on the ground. If a range con makes a recommendation to a line officer concerning range management., it should be and usually is, based on science, regulation, or law.

If the line officer reviews the recommendation and tables the decision because a congressional delegation has complained, should politics be allowed to interfere? At what point is it acceptable for line officers to be swayed by politics?

Of course never having shied away from controversial resource management situations, I say very, very seldom.

Is range management politics? I would concede this point: only in the city. In other words, at Regional, State or Washington D.C. offices I think line officers are out of touch with on-the-ground managers. I know from personal experience. If a poll was taken of on-the-ground personnel, a huge majority would agree with me.

If a poll was taken of line officers, a huge majority would agree that politics are an integral part of range management.

Would the charter members of the Society agree? OK, I'll step in it and guess no, that politics and range management don't mix, but then I only polled one of them and "there ain't a lot left".

Times change. Is it affordable?

Butler

### Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Summer Tour Report	2
U of I Range Department Update	4
Plant Photos Needed	4
Name That Idaho Drainage	5
Winter Meeting Announcement	5
Land Use Summit	6

### Mark Your Calendar

**Idaho Section  
Winter Meeting**

**January 17-18**



# Idaho Section Summer Tour

July 21-22, 2006

Bear Valley

Idaho Section SRM held the summer range tour on July 21-22 in Bear Valley. Twenty-five members and guests attended the day and a half tour. The primary focus was to re-visit an area that had a history of livestock grazing and real and perceived conflicts with anadromous fish. The U.S. Forest Service grazing permits were purchased by Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and there has been no grazing in the area since the 2001. This was an effort to view what had taken place in the area without livestock grazing pressure. We also reviewed the monitoring information and protocols. We camped at the Forest Service Elk Creek Guard Station on Friday night, where we had an excellent meal (prime rib!) and discussion. J.D. Wulfhorst and Robin Holmquist recruited 3 new section members and they all attended the summer tour. These new members, Katelyn Peterson, Rachel Winston and Jenifer Haley, all enjoyed the tour and discussion and look forward to future section activities. Tim Burton, Jim Little, Jock McGregor and Warren Ririe served as tour guides and discussion leaders. A primary outcome of the tour was recognition of the need to continue the monitoring



Summer tour participants at a monitoring site on Bear Valley Creek .

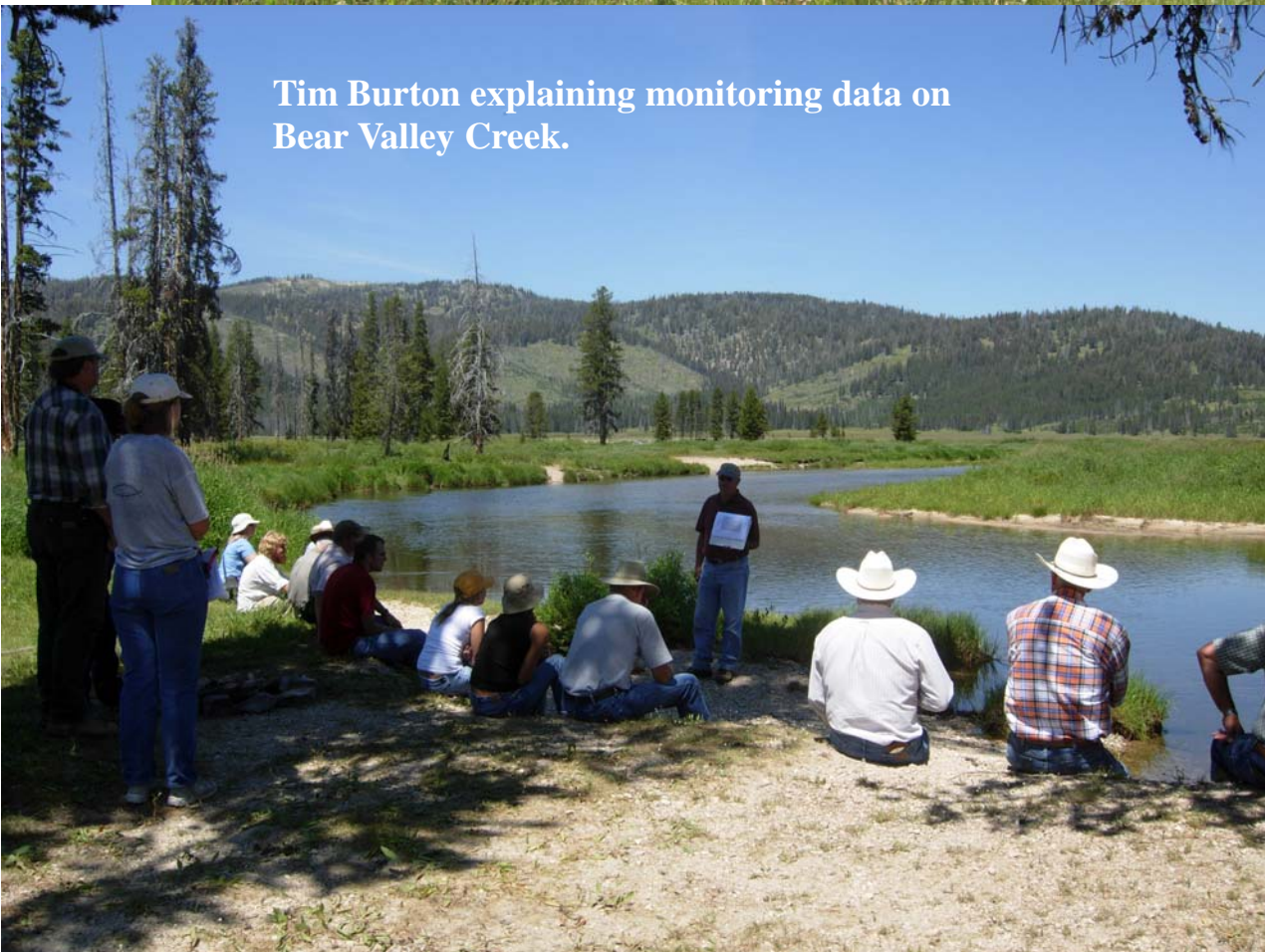


# Idaho Section Summer Tour

**“Premature” Jack Lavin taking group picture.**



**Tim Burton explaining monitoring data on Bear Valley Creek.**



# •What's Up at the University of Idaho?

*Karen Launchbaugh*

The UI Rangeland Ecology and Management Department continues to thrive! Discussions of a merger between the Rangeland Ecology and Forest Resources Departments have subsided, for now. A potential merger will be discussed as part of strategic planning in the College of Natural Resources in the coming year. One thing we know for sure is that support for the UI Range Department runs deep. Thanks to all of you who showed your interest and support of our department in the past year. The good news is that student interest in rangeland ecology is growing. Nearly 20 new freshman and transfer students will begin undergraduate degrees in Rangeland Ecology this fall. This is great news! The number of students in the Range will grow from 28 to 40 in one big leap. Plus, these students are really high achieving students – most have GPA's over 3.5. We are really looking forward to a great school year and new crop of outstanding students. Soon will be overwhelmed educating the rangeland managers of the future. Keep sending students our way and thanks again for your support of our department. Steady On – Karen Launchbaugh, Chair of Rangeland Ecology and Management, <4range@uidaho.edu>.

## •Calling All Plant Photographers!

It's okay. You're among friends. You can admit that you occasionally take your camera out of the truck to take photos of your favorite grasses, shrubs, or forbs. Now, you can put those range plant photos to good use. A few years ago the UI Rangeland Ecology and Management Department and the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission published a book called the "Back-Pack Guide to Idaho Rangeland Plants," written by Juley Hankins. Over the years, many people in Idaho SRM have contributed to editing and distributing this handy guide. We are now ready to take the book to the next level and convert from line-drawings to color photos. But, we are short a few photos. Do you have photos (digital, slide, or snapshot) of any of the following plants in your files that you could contribute to this effort?

- Western Wheatgrass
- Mountain Brome
- Pinegrass
- Prairie Junegrass
- Sand Dropseed
- Columbia Needlegrass
- Needle-and-Thread
- Threadleaf Sedge
- Nebraska Sedge
- Baltic Rush
- Hardstem Bulrush
- Wild Onion
- Hoary Cress or Whitetop
- Rush Skeletonweed
- Fireweed
- Tall Larkspur

We hope to create a book that will can be published and sold. Profits will go to support students in the UI Range Department. If you have any photos you can contribute, drop an e-mail <4range@uidaho.edu> or call (208-885-4294) to Karen Launchbaugh. Or, dust off your camera and start clicking. Thanks in advance.



## Name That Idaho Drainage

*Meribeth Lomkin*

Name that Idaho Drainage:  
Submit your guess with the name of this  
Idaho waterway to:  
mlomkin@idl.state.id.us

Special thanks to Erik Kriwox for providing  
this issue's picture!



The answer to the spring newsletter "Name that Idaho Drainage" contest was: East Fork Big Wood River (near Triumph).

Congratulations to Cheryl Bennett, with Lava Lake Land and Livestock for having the first correct answer this time! She received a box of "Spud" fudge for the correct answer.

## Idaho Section Winter Meeting - January 17-18, 2007

*Meribeth Lomkin*

Plans are in the works for this year's Winter meeting. The working title for the symposium is:  
**"Rangeland Rehabilitation – programs and people working towards healthy rangelands".**

The meeting is still a work in progress, so if you have any ideas or a great presentation ready for the topic, please let me know!

This year's symposium will be held on Wednesday, January 17, 2007, with the banquet and awards that evening. The Section business meeting will be the morning of Thursday, January 18, 2007. The winter meeting activities will be at the Holiday Inn, 3300 Vista Avenue, in Boise.

So, mark your calendars with the dates and we'll see you in Boise in January!

# Land Use Summit September 14-15

*Protecting Idaho's Working Lands, Wildlife, and Outdoor Recreation*

## A Land Use Summit

September 14 - 15, 2006

### Nampa Civic Center

**Objective:**

*Exchange information and knowledge on how land use changes are affecting farming, ranching, wildlife, and outdoor recreation.*

**Objective:**

*Learn how others in the West are working to sustain working lands, wildlife, and outdoor recreation for future generations.*

**Objective:**

*Examine how Idaho can protect its farming, ranching, and forestlands, its wildlife, and its outdoor recreation with smart growth.*

**Objective:**

*Propose practical solutions to protecting rural Idaho's working lands, wildlife, and outdoor recreation as land uses change.*

**Goal:** *Promote conservation of Idaho's rural quality of life and wildlife resources.*

**For Registration information visit <http://www.ictws.org/summit.html>**

### Sponsors

Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society

Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation

Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation

Idaho Department of Lands

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

University of Idaho, College of Natural Resources

Idaho Landowner Conservation Incentives Project

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Western Pacific Timber, LLC

Potlatch

Forest Capital

Idaho Rangeland Resources Commission

Idaho Association of Counties

Natural Resources Conservation Service

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Snake River Basin Office

Boise State University

U. S. Forest Service

Bureau of Land Management

Idaho Conservation League

E.R.O. Resources

The Idaho Planning Association

# Land Use Summit September 14-15

## Program

**Thursday, Sept. 14**

**9 AM Idaho Places and Spaces**

A Generational View of Land Use in Idaho

**Welcome, Introduction, and Overview**

Summit Moderator – Dr. Steven Daley-Laursen,  
Dean, College of Natural Resources, University  
of Idaho, Moscow, ID

**Opening Remarks**

U.S. Senator Mike Crapo

**10:00 – 10:45 The Broad Picture**

**Developing Trends: Implications for Idaho  
Land Use and Change**

– Dr. Emilyn Sheffield, Chair, Department of Rec-  
reation Management, California State University,  
Chico, CA

**10:45 – 11:00 Break and Refreshments**

**11:00 – 11:45 Speaking Western: Honest Con-  
versations in the New West**

– Dr. Rick Knight, Colorado State University

**11:45 – 12:30 Land Use Changes in the West: A  
Crunch on Watersheds, Recreation and Working  
Ranches**

– Dr. Jim Martin, Conservation Director, Berkley  
Conservation Institute, Mulino, OR

**12:30 - 1:30 Lunch Provided**

**A Look at Changing Western Land Use**

– Session Chair, Senator Laird Noh

**1:30 – 2:15 Quivara Coalition – New Mexico**

– Courtney White, Executive Director

**2:15 – 3:00 Blackfoot Challenge – Montana**

– Jim Stone, Executive Director

**3:00 – 3:15 Break and Refreshments**

**3:15 – 4:00 Economics of Idaho Land Use**

**4:00 – 5:00 Audience Q & A of Today's Speak-  
ers**

**5:00 – 5:30 How can what we heard today help  
balance Idaho's rural lifestyles, wildlife, recrea-  
tion, and development.**

**Summary:** Moderator Steven Daley-Laursen

**5:30 PM Social and No Host Bar**

**6:30 PM Outdoor Bar B Q**

**Friday, Sept. 15**

**9:00 – 10:30 AM Idaho's Rural Communities:  
Traditional and the New West**

Moderator – Marc Johnson, President, The Gallatin  
Group

Panel Members (invited)

Steve Huffaker – Director, Idaho Department of Fish  
and Game

Jennifer Ellis – Idaho Cattle Association

Judy Ellis – Adams County Commissioner

Mike Stevens – Manager, Lava Lake Land and Live-  
stock

Tamarack Resorts, Inc.

Steve Smith – Potlatch Corporation

Robert L. Meinen – Director, Idaho Parks and Recrea-  
tion

**10:30 – 10:45 Break and Refreshments**

**10:45 – Noon The Role of Government in Balanc-  
ing Rural Lifestyles and Develop-  
ment in Idaho**

Moderator - Dr. Jim Weatherby, Professor Emeritus,  
Boise State University

Panel Members

IDFG Commissioner

Jay Calderwood, Teton County Commissioner

Senator Brad Little

Senator Shawn Keough

Senator Dave Langhorst

Representative Mark Snodgrass

Representative Wendy Jaquet

**Noon Lunch Provided**

**1:00 – 1:15 Overview of Afternoon Session**

– Dr. Steven Daley-Laursen

**1:15 – 3:00 Break Out Groups**

Each session should result in a list of the top three ac-  
tions necessary for insuring conservation of Idaho's rural  
lifestyles. A facilitator from each group will present the  
recommendations to the large group after the break. All  
15 recommendations will be posted by topic and Summit  
attendees will be asked to vote for their overall top five  
actions as they leave.

• Politics

• Land Conservation and Protection Funding

• Working Together

• Planning and Zoning

• Economics

**3:00 – 3:15 Break and Refreshments**

**3:15 – 4:30 Break Out Group Recommenda-  
tions to Large Group**

(10 minutes each)

**4:30 – 4:45 Marking a Beginning**

– Dr. Steven Daley-Laursen

Audience vote for five priority actions to balance Idaho's  
rural lifestyles and development.

Next Newsletter Deadline is  
October 15, 2006



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, Paul Butler 237-5716  
Pres. Elect, Meribeth Lomkin 324-2561  
Past President, Ken Crane 332-8566  
Secretary, Brad Williams 756-2749  
Treasurer, Neil Rimbey 459-6365

Chapter Officers

Northern Director, J.D. Wulfhorst 885-7645  
Southern Director, Kevin Wright 736-3073  
Western Director, Tracy Behrens 334-0278  
Lyman Richwine Director, Don Edgerton 529-1539  
UI Range Club Pres., Ruth Luke 885-6536

**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 Paul Butler, Meribeth Lomkin, 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**