

IDAHO Section

Society for Range Management



Summer 2008



Newsletter

Number 3-08

President's Message

Shannon Williams

Summer is in full swing for all of us involved in range and many other things. I want to thank everyone who worked so hard to make the summer tour a success. I wasn't able to make it due to other work assignments.

I have been working with IRRC to develop a youth public speaking contest with range as the topic. I am excited about this and think it will help to educate our young people about range. Those participating in the contest will receive a t-shirt sponsored by IRRC. It will have the new license plate printed on the t-shirt. The master plan is to have the youth participate in the 4-H public speaking contests held in their county. I haven't promoted this to the all the 4-H people yet, but hopefully we will be in full gear next year. Some of you may be contacted to judge or to help promote the contest. See the additional information about the contest on page 3. I am open to suggestions for guidelines as this is a work in progress.

Have a great summer.

Shannon

Section Officer Nominations Needed

Here's your chance at fame! If you would like to nominate someone (or yourself) to run for office in the Idaho Section SRM, please contact Meribeth Lomkin, nominations committee chair, at 208-358-1533 or mlomkin@idl.idaho.gov. The elections ballot should go out with the fall newsletter, so please provide your ideas for nominees soon!

We are seeking nominees for President Elect and one Board of Directors member each for the Northern chapter and the Western chapter. Remember, if you don't call Meribeth, Meribeth might call you!

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Two Special
Reports
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Idaho SRM Treasurer's Report Spring 2008

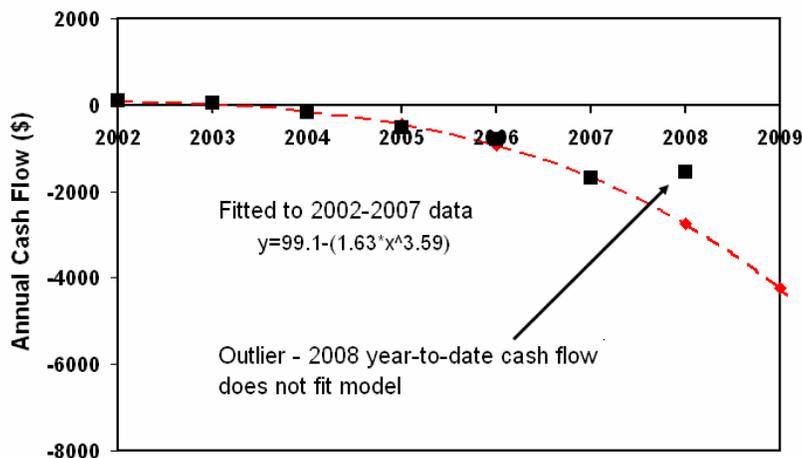
Cindy Salo

Good News: losses smaller than expected

Your treasurer is just fine, thank you for asking.

Wells Fargo stock jumped last week after 2nd quarter profits fell 22%; losses of 23.5% had been expected. The SRM Idaho Section treasury reports similar good news. Our year-to-date 2008 **cash flow is less negative than expected**. After six straight years of annually increasing losses, we have **spent only \$1,541 more than we brought in this year**. With \$7923 above our Minimum Viable Population of Buckaroo Bucks in the treasury, we could go on for five more years like this.

SRM Annual Cash Flow



Ann Owsiak hopes the Section can make it for more than five years. She is the **winner of the Hotter Spotter ribbon** for submitting the most stellar ideas for raising Buckaroo Bucks. Her suggestions include corporate sponsors for section meetings and live auctions with lots of wine-and-chocolate baskets. Anna will wear the ribbon while munching her way through the dozens of pounds of Spud Fudge she has won in the Name that Idaho Drainage contest.

For those of you reading the paper copy of



the newsletter in black and white and missing out on the vivid color of the ribbon, you can see it awarded in person at the next Idaho section annual meeting. Anna will simultaneously have a poem inflicted on her for the occasion.

Anna: if there's a **particular song you'd like the poem set to**, let me know soon. The current tune is the Hallelujah Chorus.

To everyone else: **If you sing in the church choir, or the shower, contact me to be part of the presentation committee.**

If you'd like to see the Hotter Spotter ribbon in living color, **sign up for electronic delivery of the newsletter** by emailing me at: CSALO11@hotmail.com.

Rangeland Public Speaking/Demonstration/ Illustrated Talk Contest



Sponsored by:
Idaho Section of Society for Range Management
and
Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission



Goal: To sponsor a public speaking/demonstration/illustrated talk contest at the county level in order to give youth ages 8 - 18 an opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding of rangelands while developing leadership and speaking skills which in turn foster self-confidence and personal growth.

Theme: "Stewardship of Rangelands"

Participants: Youth ages 8- 18 as of January 1, 2008

Age divisions: Junior: 8-11

Intermediate: 12-14

Senior: 15-18

Specifications:

Length of presentation: 3 to 6 minutes

Participants will be judged on content and speaking skills

Visual aids must be appropriate

Reference resources utilized in presentation

All participants will receive a "range" t-shirt

Winners at County level will receive a \$50 savings bond and a certificate

Potential Topics: These are some very broad topic areas to start the ideas "flowing". Youth should consider narrowing the focus to a specific topic that can be covered adequately in the time allowed.

Components of Rangelands

Tools to Manage Rangelands

Uses of Rangelands

Benefits of Rangelands

Wildlife and Livestock Habitat on the range

Plants of the Range

Careers in Range

Best Management Practices on rangelands

History of Rangeland Management

Future of Rangeland Management

Technology in Rangeland Management

Ken Sanders Retirement

Karen Launchbaugh

Ken Sanders Retires from an Influential Career of Leadership and Service to Rangelands



Dr. Kenneth Sanders retired from a 33-year career as Rangeland Extension Specialist for the University of Idaho on July 1st. Over these years, Dr. Sanders has helped thousands of land owners and managers solve problems, seize opportunities, and monitor management activities on their lands. Dr. Sanders has also tirelessly served the Society for Range Management and other rangeland organizations such as the Idaho Rangeland Committee and the Idaho Rangeland Resources Commission.

The SRM has benefited from Dr. Sanders' guidance, leadership, and service through his work on many state and national committees. Ken was Idaho SRM Newsletter editor for more than a decade (1976-1988), Idaho Section President (1982), chaired the Advertising and Trade Show committee for the Annual Meeting held in Boise in 2000, and served as Historian of the Idaho Section.

Dr. Sanders also contributed significantly at the national level of SRM as a member of the Board of Directors (1987-89), Editorial Board of Rangelands (1981-1983), Member and Chair of the SRM Publications Committee (1991-1993), and Member of the Nominations Committee (2000-2002).

Dr. Sanders served Idaho on dozens of coordinating committees, task forces, planning teams, and steering committees. These include executive secretary of the Idaho Rangeland Committee, serving as a member of the Challis Experimental Stewardship Program, the BLM Minimum Monitoring Standards Committee, Section 8 Conflict Resolution Process task group, and Idaho Training Cadre for Riparian Proper Functioning Condition. In his role as Rangeland Extension Specialist, Ken organized and conducted dozens of symposia, short courses, and workshops on rangeland topics. These include organizing nine offerings of the Pacific Northwest Range Short Course. A recent accomplishment was Ken Sanders leadership of the Idaho Stubble Height Review Team and publication of the Stubble Height Study Report offering guidance to land management agencies for the use of stubble height in making management decisions (available at: www.cnr.uidaho.edu/range/pubs/Stubble_Height_Report.pdf). In all, Ken Sanders has coordinated and participated in more than a thousand meetings and workshops to advance the management of Idaho rangelands.

Dr. Sanders' contributions to our understanding of rangelands span the breadth of topics that challenge land owners and managers. Of particular note are Dr. Sanders' work on the ecology and control of broom snakeweed, grazing management of crested wheatgrass, and the ecology of salt desert shrubland communities. Much of this research was centered at the Lee A. Sharp Experimental Area (near Malta, Idaho) carrying on a long tradition of applied research initiated by Dr. Lee Sharp a rangeland professor with the University of Idaho from 1949-1989. Recent accomplishments include supervising the internet publication of "50 Years of Change in a Shadscale Stand in Idaho" -- a photo journal that charts the changes that have occurred in a shadscale stand in southern Idaho between 1951 and 2002 (available at: www.cnr.uidaho.edu/range/Projects/Shadscale/).

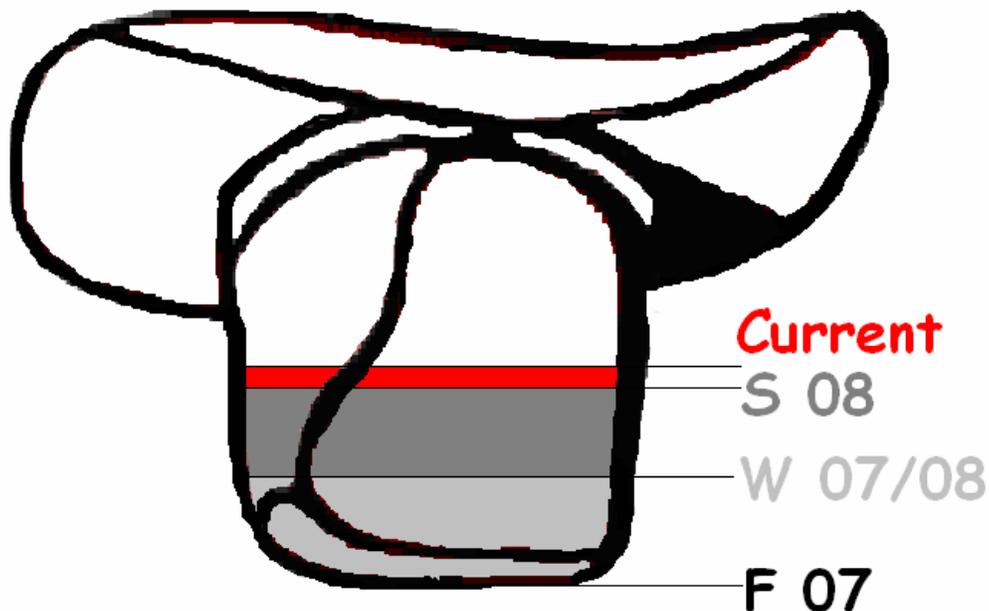
The Idaho Section of SRM recognizes and celebrates Dr. Sanders' influential contributions to Idaho rangelands. We wish him well in his retirement and hope we will continue to see him at rangeland gatherings in Idaho.

“Hats Off” To Those Who’ve Gone Electronic!

If you’re reading this on paper, you missed the chance to receive the electronic version of the newsletter early and in color. Save trees, save stamps, save money, and save the newsletter committee’s time folding and stapling -- Sign up for electronic delivery of the SRM Idaho section newsletter by emailing Cindy Salo (csalo11@hotmail.com).

Help fill the SRM Idaho Section Hat!

Sign up for electronic delivery of the newsletter. 39% of members currently receive the electronic version. This saves the section \$129 each year and saves members untold paper cuts.



Summer Tour Report Online

Cindy Salo

Summer Tour 2008

The Murphy Complex: After the Flames

June 14th, 2008

In July, 2007, the Murphy Complex fire burned over 1,000 square miles of sagebrush, grasslands, and canyons in Idaho and Nevada. This included much of the Jarbidge area, southwest of Twin Falls, ID. Ranchers lost forage and cattle, native wildlife lost habitat, and recreationists lost areas for hiking and camping.

Shortly after the fire, Gov. Butch Otter urged Idaho Fish and Game volunteers to collect sagebrush seed. One thousand volunteers collected 3,500 pounds of seed, which the Bureau of Land Management seeded on burned areas, in addition to grasses and forbs. The Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission, which educates the public about Idaho’s rangelands, recognized the opportunity to introduce the Fish and Game volunteers to the beauty of the Jarbidge area and the complexity of its rangeland systems. The Society for Range Management co-hosted the After the Flames Tour with the IRRC and many SRM members attended to learn about rehabilitation and research in the area.

See the full report at www.stoller-eser.com/idahosrm/.

Name That Idaho Drainage



Name that Idaho Drainage:

Meribeth Lomkin

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

mlokin@idl.idaho.gov

This photo courtesy of
Katie Dennis.

There were **NO** (zip, zero, none) guesses submitted for the Spring Newsletter Name that Idaho Drainage Contest. So, here's a hint: the spring newsletter Drainage is located in Twin Falls County.



Do I need to remind you folks that the prize for this silly contest is a really nice Spud Fudge "Spud" from **Sande's Candees** in Salmon?

Grazing and Fuel Management: A Special Online Report

Opportunities for Managing Fuels in Sagebrush Steppe with Grazing

By, Dr. Eva Strand, Applied Landscape Ecology, Department of Rangeland Ecology and Management at the University of Idaho.

The effect that grazing has on wildland fires is a modern controversy that is raised nearly every summer as the fire season kicks up. Grazing can be a powerful tool for reducing fine fuel loads and thereby the spread of fire in sagebrush steppe. However, the level to which grazing affects fire depends on many physical and environmental conditions. Grazing has the highest potential to affect fire spread and intensity in areas that are dominated by herbaceous fuels with low sagebrush cover and under low to moderate conditions in weather severity. Note these are the conditions under which prescribed burns are conducted. As fire weather becomes more severe and the sagebrush cover increases, grazing may or may not affect fire behavior depending on the fuel continuity and topography. Where the fire weather is severe and the sagebrush cover is high, the potential for grazing to affect fire behavior decreases. Under such conditions the fire will likely spread across the steppe independent of fine fuels or grazing regimes, conditions we could refer to as sagebrush crown fires. The flames here spread from sagebrush to sagebrush supported by severe winds, high temperatures, low fuel moisture and volatile compounds released from the burning sage. In areas dominated by sagebrush, standard grazing practices prescribed at relatively low utilization rates are less likely to effectively reduce fire spread risk even under low to moderate fire severity weather (e.g., the lower left region of Figure 1). Targeted grazing, using animals that browse on sagebrush during a season when the grass is dormant, such as fall grazing with sheep or goats, could potentially contribute to reduction in sagebrush fuels. Does grazing affect fuel loads and therefore fire behavior? Yes... under some condition. But, it depends on the abundance of herbaceous plants and sagebrush in the community and weather and topography. See the full report at www.stoller-eser.com/idahosrm/.

New Faculty Members Come to Idaho Rangeland

Karen Launchbaugh

The Department of Rangeland Ecology and Management at the University of Idaho is pleased to announce that two new faculty members will soon be in Idaho to foster greater understanding of rangeland – restoration ecologist and rangeland extension specialist.

Dr. Beth Newingham is a wildland restoration ecologist who began her assignment on July 1st. Dr. Newingham received her Ph.D. in Organismal Biology and Ecology from the University of Montana. Beth completed her dissertation under the direction of Dr. Ragan Callaway on a topic of the role of neighbors, allelopathy, and arbuscular mycorrhizae in insect herbivory and defoliation on *Centaurea species*. Dr. Newingham was most recently a faculty member at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas conducting work on the effects of global change, invasive plants, and fire on plant and insect communities.

Dr. Newingham will be joining the faculty in Rangeland Ecology and Management to increase understanding of the ecology, management, and restoration of shrubland and grassland ecosystems. Dr. Newingham will be conducting research on topics related to ecological processes and restoration techniques that facilitate the recovery and stabilization of ecosystems after natural or human-caused disturbances. This research will be of great value to land and habitat managers in Idaho and the region.

Dr. Newingham has an outstanding record of teaching and she will contribute to our understanding of arid and semi-arid systems by teaching several undergraduate courses and one graduate course. Beth's teaching assignment includes Wildland Restoration Ecology, Rangeland and Riparian Habitat Assessment, and a graduate course that she will develop in the future.

Dr. Kelly Crane will begin work as Rangeland Extension Specialist on September 1st and will be stationed at the Twin Falls Research and Extension Center. Dr. Kelly Crane has a strong background in extension and outreach gained through seven years of experience as a rangeland extension specialist with the University of Wyoming. Dr. Crane received his Ph.D. in Rangeland Ecology and Watershed Management from the University of Wyoming in 2002. His dissertation work focused on the influence of cattle grazing on feeding site selection by Rocky Mountain elk. Dr. Crane's most recent professional experience was as owner and principal consultant of Frontier Natural Resource Consulting, a firm that has conducted projects related to rangeland and habitat management in seven western states with offices in Prineville, Oregon.

Dr. Crane will develop an applied research and extension program centering on the ecological implications of grazing and sustainable livestock production on rangelands. Dr. Crane brings a depth of experience on rangeland topics to Idaho including knowledge of livestock-wildlife interactions, habitat selection, and assessing ecological condition of rangelands. Dr. Crane also offers a "home-grown" understanding of Idaho rangelands as he grew up near Burley, Idaho. Kelly attended the University of Idaho and earned a B.S. degree in Rangeland Resources. Dr. Crane received the College of Natural Resources Alumni Achievement Award in 2000 for his work in rangeland extension.

Next Newsletter Deadline is
October 15, 2008



Send your articles and pictures (.jpg format) to:
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juley_hankins@blm.gov
or Roger Blew
rblew@stoller.com

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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 Shannon Williams, Dan Bergstrom, a Director, or a committee chair a call and find out how you can get involved.

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