

I D A H O Section

Society for Range Management



Summer 2013



Newsletter

Number 1-13

President's Message

Juley Hankins-Smith

GO OUTSIDE!

As I type this, I am in my office on a Friday catching up on phone calls and emails, and getting ready for field work next week. With field season in full swing, sometimes it's hard to keep up with meetings, phone messages, and other correspondence. However, I strongly believe that if we have to prioritize our workload this time of year, the most important thing we as rangeland managers can do is get ourselves outside and get our eyes and hands on the rangelands we manage. As many of you know, I work as a rangeland management specialist for the BLM. One thing my permittees are used to is that I'm hard to reach this time of year. Most are glad that I am getting out and seeing how the growing season is shaping up in their area. The ranchers I work with prefer to find me out on their grazing allotment than to be at my desk when they call. Without firsthand knowledge of where the snows and rains have come (and where they have missed), what kind of a forb or grass year we are having, or how the various species of wildlife whose habitat we manage are faring on the range, my job would be much harder. It's great to have college students working with us in the summer, collecting the data we need to evaluate our rangelands, but that data is much harder to interpret if you never went out to see things for yourself. I think we owe it to our seasonal staff to get outside with them on a regular basis. Besides the obvious benefits of quality control and training, it is good to remember that they are the next generation of range professionals, and would benefit by learning from our experiences, observations, and mistakes.

Writing has become a big part of a rangeland manager's job. None of us got into this line of work because we like writing, meetings, and litigation (at least I didn't), but nevertheless it must be done. We all complain about the amount of paperwork involved in our jobs, but in June, the computer is not where our time is best spent. I count myself fortunate to work in an office where our field time is valued and takes first priority during the growing season. It helps to have a boss who also goes outside. If this is not the case in your office, I challenge you all to plan a day to take your supervisor or manager with you to the field this growing season. The paperwork will still be there tomorrow.

As you read this, my wish for you all is that you limit your computer time right now, and head outside soon. In fact, I hope that many of us will be able to get outside together to look at fire rehabilitation and juniper management projects at the summer tour next month. If you want to reach me before then, I'm checking my messages about once a week.

● Cheers,
Juley

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Summer Tour	2
Summer Tour Registration	3
Treasurer's Report	4
Student Chapter	4
Letter	4
Name that Drainage	5
Prime Rib Dinner	5

Summer
Tour
July 10-11
Registration
Info on Page
2-3

Summer Tour: July 10-11

30 Years of Western Juniper Management in the Owyhee Mountains Idaho Section Summer Tour and Great Basin Fire Science Delivery Project Field Tour

Content

The Idaho section of the Society for Range Management and the Great Basin Fire Science Delivery Project are hosting a two-day field tour of juniper treatments and wildfire effects, lead by Rick Miller, Fire Ecologist with Oregon State University and Steve Bunting, Forest, Rangeland, and Fire Sciences Dept., University of Idaho. We will view and discuss the efficacy and longevity of various treatments (hand cutting, chaining, cut-and-leave, and prescribed fire) to reduce juniper encroachment into sagebrush steppe habitats. Objectives for the projects visited include reducing juniper encroachment into sagebrush steppe, improving understory vegetation, and reducing hazardous fuels. Wildfire effects on juniper woodlands will also be discussed at several tour stops.

Camping

We will be spending the night at the North Fork Campground. The south side of this canyon burned in a wildfire in 2012. The campground has tables and toilets, but no potable water. The Idaho Section of the SRM will be providing the evening meal, the morning breakfast, and afternoon lunch (included with registration). Cold beverages will be available for purchase. If you plan on driving your own vehicle, a high clearance 4X4 vehicle is needed to navigate the second day of the tour. Please coordinate travel with co-workers or others who are attending the tour to minimize the number of vehicles travelling to tour stops.

Agenda

Wednesday, July 10

- 1:00 Leave from Gus's U-Serv Gas Station in Grandview, ID
- 2:00-3:00 Battle Creek hand cutting (chain saw) project started in 1998 - Chris Cromwell, BLM Boise District Fuels Supervisor, leads discussion on treating various phases of juniper woodland encroachment
- 3:00-4:00 Castle Creek prescribed fire, mid-1980's - Mike Pellant, BLM Ecologist, leads discussion on long-term effects of fire on plant community dynamics
- 4:00-5:00 Stoneman Creek Deep Hog Wildfire, 2000 - Steve Bunting and Rick Miller lead discussion on the fire's effects on sagebrush steppe, juniper, and aspen woodlands
- 5:00 North Fork Campground to camp on the N. F. of the Owyhee River
- 6:00 Dinner and Idaho SRM member business meeting, North Fork campground

Thursday, July 11

- 7:00-8:00 Breakfast provided by the Idaho Section SRM
- 8:00-9:00 Mud Flat Rd. prescribed burn, 1980 - lead by Steve Bunting and Rick Miller
- 9:00-10:00 Juniper cut-and-leave treatments, 1990 - lead by Steve Bunting and Rick Miller
- 10:00-12:00 Fall wildfire, 2002 - lead by Steve Bunting and Rick Miller
- 12:00-1:00 Lunch provided by the Idaho Section SRM
- 1:00-2:00 BLM chaining treatments from the 1970's - lead by Steve Bunting
- 2:00-4:00 Tongue-Crutchter Wildfire, 2007 - lead by Steve Bunting and Rick Miller
- 4:00 Depart for home



Gus's U-Serve Gas
110 Idaho 78
Grandview, ID
208-834-2487



Registration

Register for the 2013 Idaho Section SRM Summer Tour
and the Great Basin Fire Science Delivery Project Field Tour
July 10-11, 2013

The registration fee is \$40. Please register by **July 5th** so we can have a good idea of how many to expect for meals. If you would like to make an additional donation to support Idaho Section SRM activities, your support would be greatly appreciated.

There are two ways to register:

- Fill out the form below and mail it with your payment to the address below
- Email your information to Juley Smith (jhsmith@blm.gov) or Génie MontBlanc (emb@cabnr.unr.edu) and bring cash or check payment with you to the tour.

Please make check payable to Idaho Section SRM

Mail to: Juley Hankins Smith, 1405 Hollipark Drive, Idaho Falls, ID 83401

Name(s) _____ Organization _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____ Number Total _____

Registration \$40 _____

Additional Person \$40 _____

Total \$ _____

For registration information, contact Juley Smith: jhsmith@blm.gov

For tour information, contact Génie MontBlanc: emb@cabnr.unr.edu

Idaho SRM Treasurer's Report

Aubrey Woodcock

Finances have been very quiet over the past few months. Now that we've received our part of the 2012 SRM Spokane meeting funds, we can use that money for the mission of what the Idaho Section stands for.

To date, we have received \$1151 from the silent auction to go towards the Brian Miller Scholarship Foundation at the University of Idaho! Thanks to Meribeth and Anna for all the hard work they have given to this fundraiser! This is almost double than we contributed last year!

One reminder: Any money requests will require a budget submittal form, before expenses are incurred. If you are planning any events, please submit a money request so it can be passed by the board.

Student Chapter Roundup

Brooke Jacobson

The summer season is in full swing and range club members are out working in the field where they belong. We are already looking forward to the fall when we will welcome returning students and the newest generation of U-Idaho range students. The range club will host a table at the Palousafest during orientation to attract new club members and share our excitement about our program.

The Range Club hopes to continue our tradition of providing drinks at the upcoming Idaho Section Summer Tour. You can support our attendance at Orlando in 2014 by buying a beverage to cool off. The fall semester will bring more activities to help us reach our goals in Florida, including our service trip to Taylor Ranch and Kibble Dome clean-ups.

Thank you for supporting the next generation of rangeland managers. Our education is made complete by the opportunities we have to practice our science, largely because of the generation that has paved the way for us. Happy trails until we meet again!

Letters!

Dear Idaho SRM,

Thank You! I was honored to be chosen as the Idaho Section HSYF delegate this year. I flew to OKC unsure of what to expect and nervous about my presentation. After I got used to being sleep deprived, I found the forum to be a great experience. My presentation went well and I feel satisfied with my performance, minus shaking, my knees knocking, and my dry mouth as I was trying to speak. I never thought I would be able to deliver a talk in public without spontaneously combusting or a fate of like unfortunate nature! Presentation aside, I learned so much and made friends. I was also grateful to speak with professionals in the field and college professors and students. By the last day, I didn't want the forum to end! I realize part of the funding for my trip came from your contribution and would just like to say thank you so much for an awesome, educational opportunity!

Sincerely,

Melanie Elzinga

Name That Idaho Drainage

Meribeth Lomkin



Name that Idaho Drainage!

There were a couple of guesses on this drainage, but no correct answers, so here's a hint. This drainage is near famous rocks and a state other than Idaho is in the background.

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

mlomkin@idl.idaho.gov

Prime Rib Dinner Wrap Up

Meribeth Lomkin

We had a great turnout, fantastic weather, and wonderful food at the Brian Miller Scholarship fundraiser Prime Rib Dinner in May. Over 20 people attended and a great time was had by all. Thank you to Dave and Daryce Franzen for hosting and helping with food and to Neil Rimbey for helping with food and operating his BBQ's! The silent auction and prime rib dinner fundraisers this year total about \$1,200 for the Scholarship fund. Thanks to everyone for their generosity!

There are lots of opportunities for you to become involved in the section's activities. Give Julie Hankins-Smith, Nate Matlack, Lovina Roselle or a Director, or a committee chair a call and find out how you can get involved.

Next Newsletter Deadline is
August 15, 2013

Send your articles and pictures
(.jpg format) to:
Shannon Williams
shannonw@uidaho.edu



**Idaho Section
Society for Range Management
PO Box 263
Jerome, ID 83338**

**SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT
IDAHO SECTION OFFICERS**

Officers

President, Julie Hankins-Smith 524-7523
Pres. Elect, Nate Matlack 269-0652
Past President, Lovina Roselle 885-6536
Secretary, Meribeth Lomkin 358-1533
Treasurer, Aubrey Woodcock 762-4939

Chapter Officers

Northern Director, Crystal Dannar , 935-2141
Southern Director, Danelle Nance, 732-7200
Western Director, Tate Walters, 896-4544
Lyman Richwine Director, Rosana Rieth, 879-4428
UI Range Club Pres., Ashley Kiehl , (406) 366-5387
BYU-Idaho Chapter Advisor , Dave Stricklan 496-4646

**Newsletters on the Web
<http://idaho.rangelands.org>**