



President's Message

Meribeth Lomkin

I would like to give a HUGE THANKS to everyone who presented at, helped with, attended, and put up with me for the 2007 Section meeting. Approximately 90 people attended the symposia, about 40 people attended the banquet, and there were about 30 members at the business meeting. There were 9 brave souls who worried the waiter at the Willow Creek Grill at the WWORI gathering. We had fun and eventually we even paid the tab.

Whew! Ensuring that the annual meeting happens and hoping that it is worthwhile and enjoyable for those who attend is a big responsibility. And I'll admit that I'm glad to have it behind me. I am pretty excited about my soap box though, maybe I'll take it to Reno so that I can stand on it at the Advisory Council meeting. Thanks again Dave and Neil!

In the group was a great mix of both familiar faces and new ones. I was happy to meet several new Idaho SRM members and visit with old friends. I hope that the section can continue to offer activities that interest new and old members alike. I'm always looking for activities and ways that membership in the Idaho Section can be more valuable to the members, so please, if you have an idea, let me know!

At the symposia we were treated to a great mix of rangeland rehabilitation research from mechanical and chemical treatments to plant biology and ecology to human eco-

nomie and social factors. We also heard about larger scale rehabilitation projects and lessons learned from working with diverse interests and Mother Nature's unpredictability. Throughout the day there was great dialogue among and between the audience and the speakers, facilitating knowledge sharing among everyone in attendance.

At the business meeting, we heard committee reports, brainstormed summer tour and 2008 winter meeting ideas, and received updates on the UI Range program and Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission activities. There will be plenty of planning and details to chase for the 2008 winter meeting and 2007 summer tour, so if you are interested in helping with those, contact me or your president elect Shannon Williams. We were very fortunate to hear SRM updates from SRM President, John Tanaka, and Board members Wally Butler and Karen Launchbaugh.

Some specific items that were identified as needing future action (and help from section members) are the Section's standing committees. The Idaho Section Handbook identifies the following committees: Nominations, Membership, Information and Education, Student Affairs, Public Affairs, Honors and Awards, Historian and Newsletter. There is always room for folks to

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**Summer Tour
Announcement**

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President's Message continued

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volunteer to serve on any of these committees.

As examples, the Nominations Committee and Honors and Awards Committee members have done a great job of rounding up Idaho Section members to run for parent society offices/board positions and finding those deserving of recognition for their contributions to range management. Additional help for that committee would be much appreciated.

A new activity, in coordination with IRRC and Idaho FFA, is the development of Regional FFA Range Judging contests. These contests would provide Idaho FFA members more opportunities to learn about rangelands and help reduce their judging contest travel expenses. Ken Sanders has agreed to provide guidance on the technical aspects of the contest, but he needs help on a local level to locate contest sites, get the word out to FFA chapters, and run the contests. Ideally, the range contest would be co-located with regional Soil Conservation District soils judging contests that are already occurring. This way, local chapters could allow more students to participate in a contest with less travel expense than if multiple teams from each chapter attend the state contest. For starters, we hope to offer contests in southwest, southern, eastern, and northern Idaho. Developing these contests and the resulting contacts with ag-ed teachers also opens the door for range professionals to provide guest lectures on rangelands in ag-ed classes. So if you enjoy sharing your knowledge and love of rangelands, this might be the ticket for you! Contact Ken Sanders at 208-736-3610 for information on the contest and ideas for developing a regional contest in your area.

There are many opportunities for members to become more involved in section business and activities. If you aren't familiar with the Section Handbook, it is posted on the Idaho Section website, and it contains lots of information and great guidance. Or, just jump in with both feet and volunteer yourself. Any of the officers and Board members would be happy to hear from you and find you some work.

Meribeth

2007 Idaho SRM Election Results

Meribeth Lomkin

The ballots have been counted, the winners have been named, and all that could remain is to say:
CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU.

Congratulations to the following newly elected SRM Officers and Board members:

President Elect: **Shannon Williams** Treasurer: **Cindy Salo** Western Director: **Maura Laverty**

Thanks to those still serving their terms of office: Past President Paul Butler, Secretary Brad Williams, Northern Director J.D. Wulforth, Southern Director Kevin Wright, Lyman Richwine Director Don Edgerton, Newsletter Editors Roger Blew and Juley Hankins, and Membership Committee Chair: Juley Hankins

Thanks again to our outgoing officers/board members for their years of service to the section:

Ken Crane, Neil Rimbey, and Tracy Behrens

THANK YOU to everyone who was willing to put their name on the ballot and to everyone who voted!

Range Club Report

Ruth Luke

It has been a great year for the Idaho's College SRM Chapter. Student membership is up to eighteen, which are great numbers since the student body number in the Rangeland Ecology Department are in the forties. Ten of these are new members who are also in the process of applying for SRM Membership.

During fall semester, new club members participated in many activities such as bowling night, road cleanup, western spaghetti night, and sponsoring guest speakers. Range club members also have contributed their time to raise funds for students who will be attending the Reno SRM conference in February. Fund raisers include selling mounted plants to FFA, Yellowstar plots for Karen, and falling/slash piling trees for a private landowner. However, the Range Club is still in need of funding to allow a total of eleven students to participate at the Reno conference. Our goal is to raise \$1,000 more. All donations would be greatly appreciated. It would be wonderful for these students to be able to attend this conference. A great deal of experience and knowledge would be gained through their attendance. Thank you for your support.

Tom Dyer Installed as Idaho's State BLM Director

At a well-attended Installation Ceremony at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Idaho State Office in Boise, Idaho on December 19, 2006, DOI Assistant Secretary Stephen Allred administered the Oath of Office, officially recognizing Tom Dyer as the new State Director for the BLM in Idaho. "It is a pleasure to be here," Allred said. "It is also a pleasure to have joining us today Idaho Senator Larry Craig, employees, retirees and retired Idaho BLM State Directors, all of whom share in the legacy of the agency."

"Tom is particularly special to me," Allred said. "He has a wide range of experiences and has always been very helpful. I know I can depend on Tom." In his opening remarks, Associate State Director Peter Ditton said, "It is fitting that we commemorate this milestone in his career. This is a wonderful place to live and work. It is my home for now, for me and my family. For Tom, however, I know this has always been his home. He was raised just down the road in Fruitland, and I know how happy he is to return here as Idaho BLM's State Director." (from *Idaho BLM in Action*, Jan 2007)

Letters!

Dear Idaho Section SRM members,

I would like to thank the Idaho Section of the SRM for their generous contribution toward my education by awarding me the Brian Miller Scholarship in the fall and this spring. I feel honored that I was chosen to receive this scholarship; it has been a considerable help in paying for classes.

I will be attending the SRM meeting in Reno and hope to see several familiar faces there from Idaho.

Sincerely,
Josh Hyde

Idaho Section Award Winners

Paul Butler

Idaho Section President Paul Butler presented awards to several Idaho Section members and ranchers for their service to the Section and our profession.

Top Hand Award: Dave Franzen, Jacy Gibbs, and Jim Cornwell. These three members were involved in taking the old SCS (NRCS) range site descriptions and preparing the new site descriptions that are much more inclusive. In preparation of these descriptions, they spent considerable time in the field "ground-truthing" data from the old books. They did a great job and have prepared information that will be of interest and use for range professionals for years into the future.

Outstanding Achievement: Jim Little and Jock McGregor. These two permittees of the USFS bent over backwards trying to accommodate issues related to endangered anadromous fish in the Bear Valley area. They spent considerable effort and expense on addressing these issues. Unfortunately for the ranchers, it was determined that buying their federal permits was cheaper than continuing the considerable investment and other expenses in improvements and management.

President's Award: Neil Rimbey. Neil served for many years as the Treasurer of the Idaho Section. It can easily be said that Neil was the backbone of the Idaho Section during his tenure as Treasurer. In fact, Neil was responsible for keeping business intact and moving forward more than any other Officer or Director. His long hours and savvy direction were relied upon by the entire Section.

President's Award: Karen Launchbaugh. Karen, as one of the parent society Directors has continued to contribute more time towards the future success of the Society for Range Management than any other member in the Idaho Section. Her tireless hours of support and encouragement to new members and student members will long be remembered. Karen is the ultimate example of the committed member in our Society.

2007 Summer Tour

Meribeth Lomkin

We have been invited by the Idaho Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society to a joint summer tour at the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station, near Dubois, Idaho. The tour will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, August 7 and 8, 2007 and includes both the sagebrush-steppe and mountain portions of the Sheep Station. Mark your calendar and we'll keep you updated as the details develop.

Idaho Section Social in Reno

We'll see you in Reno! For those attending the International SRM meeting in Reno, join the Idaho Section members at a social on Wednesday (Feb 14) -- 6:00 to 8:00 in the Genoa. We will join University of Idaho Alums and share snacks and conversation. Hope to see you there.

Idaho SRM Annual Meeting Photo Gallery



Neil Rimbej receives the President's Award from Paul Butler



Meribeth up on her soap box.



Jim Cornwell and Dave Franzen receive the Top Hand Award from Paul Butler



Lunch!



Karen Launchbaugh receives the President's Award from Paul Butler

• Name That Idaho Drainage

Meribeth Lomkin



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

The answer to the last “Name that Idaho Drainage” was the Big Lost River. Gregg Dawson had the 1st correct answer! A box of spud fudge is on its way to Gregg.



• Lee Vierling awarded Heady Professorship

University of Idaho scientist Lee Vierling was recently awarded the Heady Professorship of Rangeland Ecology to study remote sensing techniques to monitor rangeland health.

The professorship was the first named in the field of rangeland ecology in the U.S. and the third named professorship at the University of Idaho. It was initiated by Harold Heady, professor emeritus of range resources at the University of California Berkeley. Heady and his wife, Ruth, created the Heady Professorship in 1994 to enhance career development and professional standing of the faculty and Idaho's College of Natural Resources Department of Rangeland Ecology and Management.

Vierling will use the award to advance the ability of rangeland scientists to apply satellite remote sensing techniques to rangeland monitoring and management. Vierling will be assisted on this project by doctoral candidate, Javier Naupari. Naupari is a Fulbright Scholar from Lima, Peru, who hopes to use this research project as a basis for developing a rangeland monitoring protocol in his home country.

“By improving methods of detecting rangeland plant species and productivity using satellite imagery, our goal is to develop new tools that will be applicable not only in Idaho and the West, but across the globe as well,” said Vierling. “We hope that this work will provide new methods not only for scientists, but also for rangeland managers on the ground.”

“We congratulate Lee Vierling and give our sincere thanks to Dr. Heady for his visionary leadership and contributions to the people and programs of our college,” said CNR Dean Steven Daley Laursen.

Improved Forages and Irrigated Pasture Workshop

Sponsored by the Idaho Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society and the University of Idaho Cooperative Extension Service

February 22-23, 2007

9:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. each day

Location: Idaho AG Office Bldg., 601 Poleline, Rooms A & C, Twin Falls, Idaho

Specialists from the University of Idaho, UI Cooperative Extension, USDA-NRCS, and Utah State Cooperative Extension will provide the latest information on forage crop/pasture establishment and management, including fertilizer and irrigation water management, grazing and harvest management, management of soil problems, and animal nutrition and husbandry. Workshop has been approved for 10 CEU's for the SRM CPRM program.

Space is limited, so plan to register early! To register, email Dee Carlson (Dee.Carlson@id.usda.gov) indicating your desire to attend. If you can only attend one day, please indicate which day you will attend.

There is NO COST to attend the workshop. Lunch will be on your own.

Pacific Northwest Range Management Symposium

Sage Grouse and Sagebrush Steppe: Biology, Ecology, and Management Implications

36th Annual Pacific Northwest Range Management Symposium

March 20-21, 2007

Four Rivers Cultural Center and Museum

676 S.W. 5th Ave., Ontario Oregon

Sponsored by: Department of Rangeland Ecology and Management, Oregon State University

In cooperation with Department of Rangeland Ecology and Management, University of Idaho and Department of Natural Resource Sciences, Washington State University

For additional info please contact Mike Borman at 541-737-1614 or email at:

michael.borman@oregonstate.edu

Brian Miller Scholarship Endowment 2006 Report

The Brian Miller - Idaho SRM Scholarship Endowment has a balance of \$35,962.85 as of June 30, 2006. Gifts received to the Endowment in fiscal year 2006 totaled \$587.00. The Silent Auction held at the 2007 Section meeting in January netted \$376.00 to be added to the fund. We had some great auction items donated and lots of generous buyers to purchase them! Thanks to everyone who participated.

This academic year **Josh Hyde** is the recipient of the Brian Miller Scholarship.

Next Newsletter Deadline is
April 15, 2007



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, Meribeth Lomkin 324-2561
Pres. Elect, Shannon Williams 756-2824
Past President, Paul Butler 237-5716
Secretary, Brad Williams 756-2749
Treasurer, Cindy Salo 850-3313

Chapter Officers

Northern Director, J.D. Wulfhorst 885-7645
Southern Director, Kevin Wright 736-3073
Western Director, Maura Laverty 253-0114
Lyman Richwine Director, Don Edgerton 522-6250
UI Range Club Pres., Ruth Luke 885-6536

**Newsletters on the Web
www.stoller-eser.com
/idahosrm/**

There are lots of opportunities for you to become involved in the section's activities. Give Meribeth Lomkin, Shannon Williams, a Director, or a committee chair a call and find out how you can get involved.

**Idaho Section
Society for Range Management
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