



President's Message

Ken Crane

We have certainly started the New Year off with a bang. Our annual Section Meeting held January 6 & 7, in Pocatello, was very well attended. Despite icy roads and predictions of the "Perfect Storm" of the West, speakers provided a wealth of information on a subject that many people were hungry to receive, as was attested to by the 110 or so people who registered and attended.

Values associated with aspen, and their subsequent loss as aspen has slowly disappeared from our landscape, have become painfully obvious over the last few years. The slow attrition of watershed values including water quality and quantity, wildlife habitat, and livestock forage has taken its toll on the region. Figures taken from Bartos and Campbell 1998, *Rangelands* 20(1), suggest that for every 1000 acres of aspen that is converted to mixed conifers, 250-500 acre-feet of water production is lost through increased transpiration, and

500-1000 tons of undergrowth biomass is not produced. Considering that we have lost an estimated 60% of our aspen in Idaho, that accounts for a lot of water that would otherwise support wet meadows and riparian areas, and annual biomass production that would provide forage for livestock and habitat for wildlife.

Recognition of these concerns has spawned a collaborative working group in eastern Idaho intent on making some positive changes in the near future. All have various reasons for pursuing change, but all share a common goal of improved watersheds that produce more high quality water, more livestock forage, and more wildlife habitat that will support our local economies and personal interests long into the future.

Several of our Section members made the trip to Fort Worth, Texas, to attend the national meetings. I was one of them and thought the meetings were well run with many good symposia. The last atten-

dance figure I heard was 1,869, making Fort Worth the third largest with Salt Lake City, 2004, being number one, and Reno, 1990, second. The trip to Fort Worth offered many of us the opportunity to experience all modes of modern travel: in our case, cars, planes, a train, and city buses. The train and buses offered numerous opportunities to experience the color of local culture that only a big American city produces. I will leave it at that and save the stories for the Watering Hole.

There are several issues facing SRM that our Section must participate in and help resolve. Everyone that has not had their head in the sand is well aware of the ongoing controversy regarding our name and symbol (The Trailboss). Much of this controversy revolves around one word, "Range". Depending on who you talk to, "range" has different meaning. To many of us it describes a land type and its associated soils and vegetation. To others it simply symbolizes a land use, prin-

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SRM Election Results

- Paul Butler—President Elect**
- Tracy Behrens—Western Director**
- J.D. Wulforst—Northern Director**

Idaho Section Winter Meeting Wrap Up

By Meribeth Lomkin with factual and statistical assistance from Neil Rimbey and Kim Ragotzkie

The Idaho Section meeting was a roaring success. The meeting was held at the Holiday Inn, Pocatello, January 6 & 7. About 110 people registered for the symposium titled "Aspen and Conifers in Rangelands". Presentations included topics of aspen stand succession, ecology, values associated with aspen stands, status of aspen populations in Idaho and the Western United States, and management practices for revegetation, recovery, and monitoring of aspen stands. The effects of Juniper encroachment on rangeland communities and watershed function were discussed along with a juniper woodland succession and ecology. A variety of Juniper control options and their effectiveness in different situations were presented.

The symposium ended with a multi-agency panel discussion exploring the challenges of managing aspen and juniper vegetation types in realistic scales on the landscape and time frames within the framework of agency policy, decision making processes, and land ownership patterns.

At the Idaho Section Awards Banquet, a good meal was accompanied by two entertaining presentations. Shane King of Idaho Department of Fish and Game gave an informational presentation on the Idaho Mule Deer Initiative, a program that hopes to work across land ownerships in Southern Idaho to improve Mule Deer Habitat with the long term goal of improving Idaho's Mule Deer Population. Bud Purdy held the audience spellbound with a tale of the development of his family's ranch holdings through the family railroad construction business.

Congratulations are due this year's Idaho Section Award winners: Chris and Dixie Black and family were presented with the Section's Excellence in Range Management award. The Black's run cattle on a mixture of public and private rangelands, based in Bruneau, Idaho. Their efforts to improve rangelands and habitat for sage grouse and spotted frogs led to this recognition by the Section. Neil Rimbey was presented the President's Award by Section President, Bruce Hanson.

The winners of the 2005 Idaho Section election are:

- President Elect: Paul Butler
- Western Director: Tracy Behrens
- Northern Director: J.D. Wulfhorst

Congratulations to these new officers and Thank You to those whose terms have expired.

Thank you to the outgoing officers and to all who helped to organize this successful meeting. The Idaho Section would also like to thank Idaho Rangeland Resources Commission for partnering with us in another successful meeting.

President's Message (cont.)

cially domestic livestock. The downward trend of membership in the society for nearly 20 years has been attributed to this persona. The debate is old and tiresome and we need to put it to rest one way or the other. Several committees, through motions, recommended to the Advisory Committee, that the Board of Directors develop a list of alternatives to be debated over the next year, with a call for the question put to the membership. As information comes out I will share it with you, including I am sure, my opinion.

On a lighter note, Roger Blew has offered to host the summer tour on the Idaho National Laboratory (formerly INEEL) range. Following last summers range tour and feast in the Owyhees, Roger will have some big shoes to fill. Look for more information in this Newsletter.

This next year offers a number of opportunities to energize the Section and strengthen the SRMs' role in leading rangeland management. I look forward to representing you as the Idaho Section President and helping to achieve some of these objectives.

Ken

Idaho Section Winter Meeting Wrap Up



1. Chris Black accepts the Excellence in Range Management Award from Section President Bruce Hanson.
2. Bud Purdy presented a history of the development of his family's ranch.
3. Neil Rimbey receives the President's Award from Section President Hanson.
4. The gavel passes to the new Section President Ken Crane as Bruce Hanson completes his term.
5. Shane King, Idaho Department of Fish and Game answers questions about the Mule Deer Initiative.

U of I Range Club Update

The University of Idaho Range Club flew to Fort Worth, Texas February 5 – 10 to attend the 58th annual meeting of the Society for Range Management. In all, the club took nine undergraduates from the Moscow campus.

This year's theme was "Trails Under the Lone Star", and although our state does not reside under the "Lone Star", the club represented a trail of regional significance by displaying a poster presentation in the Trade Show of the Lewis and Clark trail through the state of Idaho. The various floras they encountered along the way were highlighted along the trail. Several members participated in the Undergraduate Range Management Exam. The club placed 10th overall.

Overall, the club had a great trip. In addition to informative symposia, technical sessions, workshops, and the opportunity to meet fellow professionals the club enjoyed the beautiful city of Fort Worth and looks forward to next year's meeting in Vancouver, B.C.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Idaho Section for their generous support of our travels to the SRM meetings.

You've Got Mail!

We received a letter from Betsy Nelson, Secretary of the UI Range Club, thanking the Idaho Section for the \$1,000 contribution for travel to Ft. Worth.

We also got a letter from Tim White, President of the University of Idaho, thanking us for the \$1,502 contribution from the Section to the Brian Miller Memorial Scholarship.

Brian Miller - Idaho Section SRM Scholarship Fund

By Meribeth Lomkin

A huge Thank You goes out to everyone who contributed to this year's Silent Auction at the Section Meeting in Pocatello. Over \$400 was raised at the auction for the fund. Congratulations to Katie Johnson, a Senior in the University of Idaho Rangeland Resources Department, who received the 2004-2005 academic year Scholarship.

Special thanks to Courtney Smith for his years of work coordinating the Scholarship fund and its fundraising. I will attempt to take over the Scholarship coordinator position and would welcome any assistance or ideas!

• Summer Field Tour Info.

Mark your calendar! The Idaho Section summer field tour will be Saturday, June 11. This year's tour will take us to the Idaho National Laboratory. Our preliminary plans include visits to several burned areas to discuss recovery processes and to some of our long-term vegetation plots to discuss vegetation change over the past 55 years. We will also visit a test area where we are using our understanding of arid rangeland ecology to develop hazardous waste landfills covers that can outlast engineered structures. The tour will be followed that evening by camping, food, and the beverage wagon.

Stay tuned for more details and registration information in the Spring Newsletter.

• Name That Drainage

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



Next Newsletter Deadline is
April 15, 2005



Send your articles and pictures (.jpg format) to:
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**SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT
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There are lots of opportunities for you to become involved in the section activities. Give Ken Crane, Paul Butler, Bruce Hanson, a Director, or a committee chair a call and find out how you can get involved.

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