



President's Message

Paul Butler

As your new Idaho Section President, I will take this opportunity to thank everyone that attended and helped with the 2005 Winter Meeting Conference held in Twin Falls. I think it was a success, especially with the controversial topic of "Politics and Range Management".

Everyone has their own perceptions concerning whether rangeland management should be separated from politics. Myself, I feel that politics have complicated rangeland management to the point where many resource managers are afraid to voice their opinions. Both sides of the issue were addressed at the Winter Conference and left many of us with points to ponder.

We welcomed our new President Elect, Meribeth Lomkin, whom I am looking forward to working with this year. We also bid farewell to our now Past President Ken Crane. Ken did a tremendous job as President and has already set us on the course for our 2006 Summer Tour. We will be looking at one of the public land permit buyouts. This will give us valuable information on whether this program is successful. I predict that this years tour will be one of the most highly attended Summer Meetings in a long time.

One of the challenges that we all face in the Society for Range

Management is apathy towards membership. Personally, I have resolved to press this issue during my tenure. We have a fantastic base membership, but unfortunately, because of the decrease in emphasis on rangeland management by public land management agencies, the majority of upper level managers has either dropped their membership or has ceased to maintain interest.

At the Winter Conference, I challenged each member to enlist one new member during 2006. I suggested that we all target upper level managers such as BLM Area or District Managers, BLM State Office resource managers, Forest Service District Rangers and Forest Supervisors, FS Regional Office resource managers, and State of Idaho employees. I have to say that it has been my perception (without figures to back it up) that the State of Idaho Department of Lands and Idaho Department of Agriculture have the highest percentage of resource managers holding membership in the SRM. The federal agencies are lagging way behind.

The University system also has a high percentage of members; however we witnessed a dramatic change in direction in 2005 when the University of Idaho proposed merging the

forest and rangeland programs. This issue was a hot topic during the Business Meeting and the Idaho Section passed a statement of support for the U of I Rangeland Program.

And what of the private sector? The ranching community could certainly benefit from a higher level of participation in the Society, but, costs being what they are, I understand why it is difficult for them to pay dues. Therefore, I am proposing that in conjunction with our Rancher of the Year Award, the Idaho Section sponsor a free one year membership to that individual. This suggestion will need to be reviewed by our Awards Committee. What are your thoughts?

Want to get more involved with the Idaho Section of the Society for Range Management? I know you are out there, but I may not know who you are. We need your help. Call me at 208-237-5716 or send me a message at srmbutler@yahoo.com. That's all it takes. We have many committees and offices that are not currently filled. You can have your choice!

Best Wishes for 2006 and see you in Vancouver, British Columbia!

Paul Butler

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Mark Your Calendar

Summer Tour to Bear Valley

July 14 and 15
Details in the Spring Newsletter

• Maurice Guerry, Jr.

Long-time SRM member Maurice Guerry Jr. passed away December 10, 2005 while pursuing his life's work, the sheep business, near Castleford, Idaho. He and his son Mike were loading ewes to ship to Arizona for lambing at the time of his passing. His parents had immigrated to the United States from the impoverished Basque Country in about 1910 and 1929 respectively. His father, who had come to the U.S. as a lowly shepherd with little education and less money, built a sheep ranch out of sheer will which is still operated to this day by the family.

Maurice was well known and respected by SRM members in the Idaho Section. He was an outstanding steward of the land and shepherd of his sheep and cattle. He hosted numerous range tours on his BLM and Forest allotments and was justifiably proud of the condition of the land. He also hosted several University of Idaho range management students through an internship program and class field trips over many years.

Maurice is survived by his wife Marlene, three children Maurine, Mike and Mark and their families.

This Fall U of I Range Club had the opportunity to raise some travel money for SRM by thinning some ponderosa pine for a private land owner near Moscow. The goal was to raise money while providing improved pasture area. The Club plans on possibly going out again this spring for the same purpose as there was a lot to do on that piece of land. Selling plant mounts to FFA clubs for the Fall plant ID contests was another great fund raiser that has helped to enable us to go to SRM this upcoming season.

The Club is looking forward to heading up to Vancouver this February, and we are trying to bring as many people as possible up. I estimate we should have around ten people. There are plans to compete in the URME and to have a booth at the trade show. We look forward to seeing members of the Idaho chapter up there.

Josh Hyde, Co-president, U of I Range Club

• Idaho's High School Youth Forum Delegate

Meribeth Lomkin

From Hagerman to Vancouver, B.C.

Mark Leija is a Junior at Hagerman High School. For the past couple of years Mark and his brother have been having a friendly family competition to see who can place higher on the Idaho FFA Range Judging contest. The competition really paid off for Mark this year! When Mark placed as high individual in the contest last fall, he not only won bragging rights with his brother, but also a trip to the High School Youth Forum (HSYF) at the International SRM Meeting in Vancouver!

The University of Idaho Rangeland Ecology and Management Department, Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission, and Idaho Section SRM have combined to pay Mark's registration fees for the HSYF and provide his transportation to and from the meeting. Mark is currently working on his paper and presentation for the HSYF and looking forward to his trip. We wish Mark the best of luck in the HSYF speaking/paper contest and lots of fun in Vancouver!

BEHAVE Train the Trainer Workshop

BEHAVE stands for behavioral education for human, animal, vegetation and ecosystem management. The mission is to inspire people to master and apply behavioral principles in managing ecosystems. This program/project/research is from Dr. Fred Provenza of Utah State University and takes a serious look at animal behavior and how we manage it to accomplish production and natural resource goals. (For more information, check out the website: www.behave.net)

There will be a “train the trainer” workshop on BEHAVE principles April 19 and 20 at the University of Idaho Cummings Center in Salmon/Carmen, Idaho starting at 8:00 a.m. on the 19th till 12:00 noon on the 20th. Instructors will be Shannon Williams, University of Idaho Lemhi County Extension Educator; Tracy Brewer, University of Montana Natural Resource Specialist; Kathy Voth, Regional BEHAVE Coordinator; Beth Burritt, Utah State University BEHAVE Coordinator. The following principles will be covered:

- BEHAVE Basics
- Experience Matters Most
- Palatability is More than a Matter of Taste
- Variety is the Spice of Life
- Old Dogs – New Tricks
- Relationships Make all the Difference.

There are some funds available to assist with travel expenses depending on how many attend. For attending you will receive a resource notebook, CD's with videos and all powerpoints. The commitment that you will be asked to make is to teach/train five to ten people in the BEHAVE principles.

The goal of the “train the trainer” program is to increase number and ability of people to use knowledge of behavior to better reconcile ecological, economic, and social facets of management that will:(1) improve economic viability and ecological integrity of pasture- and range-based enterprises, (2) enhance and maintain biodiversity of rangelands, (3) restore pastures and rangelands dominated by weeds, (4) optimize wildlife benefits to land owners, managers, and users, (5) mitigate livestock abuse of riparian areas, (6) improve our ability to manage complex adaptive systems.

REGISTRATION FORM:

Name: _____ Agency/Private: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Telephone: _____

Have you attended a BEHAVE workshop before: Yes No

Please respond by **March 20, 2006** to: Shannon Williams, Lemhi County Extension Office, 201 Broadway, Salmon ID 83467

Email: shannonw@uidaho.edu

Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society Conference

March 6-8, 2006

Conference Theme and Plenary Session

Science, Natural Resource Management, and the Public Good:

Towards a Democracy of Information and Management.

Information on the conference, instructions for submitting abstracts of papers, symposia being held at the conference, e-registering for the conference, etc can all be found on our web page at:

<http://www.ictws.org/whatsnew.htm>

Idaho Section Annual Meeting — December 8-9, 2005



Key note speaker Mark Steinbach from Austin, Texas discussing his research on federal grazing permit buyouts. (above)



Rancher Wendy Pratt from Blackfoot, Idaho discussing the ideal recipe for a federal range conservationist that is knowledgeable and receptive to today's modern rancher challenges. (above)



Dr. Ralph Maughn, Political Science Professor at ISU, discussing the pitfalls of politics and range management. (above)



K. Lynn Bennett receiving award from long time SRM member and close friend Bud Purdy. (above)



Distinguished panel of speakers including left to right, Mark Steinbach, Don Oman, Mark and Wendy Pratt, Hans Bastian, James Butler, Ralph Maughn, and J.D. Wulfhorst. (above)

Idaho Section Annual Meeting — December 8-9, 2005



Ken Sanders receiving Outstanding Achievement Award from Past President Ken Crane at the SRM Banquet



Former SRM President of the Parent Society Stan Tixier, Lifetime Achievement Award recipient of the Parent Society and Charter Member James Butler, and Past President of the Idaho Section SRM Jack Labin at the banquet. Stan Tixier is a renowned author and Cowboy Poet who graciously provided the banquet entertainment. (above)



Past President Ken Crane presented the President's Award to your humble Newsletter Editors Juley Hankins and Roger Blew. (Juley was not available for the photo.) (above)



Past President Ken Crane, President Paul Butler, and President Elect Meribeth Lomkin. (above)

Letters!

University of Idaho
Office of the President
Moscow, Idaho

December 20, 2005

Dear Idaho Section, Society for Range Management:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the merger of departments in the College of Natural Resources. I appreciate very much knowing your concerns.

I am sure Dean Daley Laursen will take into consideration the issues raised by the Idaho Section of the Society for Range Management. Thank you for sharing your concerns.

Sincerely

Timothy P. White
President

University of Idaho
College of Natural Resources
Moscow, Idaho

December, 2005

Dear Idaho Section, Society for Range Management:

I received your December 9 letter regarding the future of Range Programs at the College of Natural Resources.

I very much appreciate the interest and support of SRM and share your enthusiasm for a vibrant and successful future in U of I Range programs. My goal in restructuring was to secure the Range program and protect it from the threats of shrinking resources and changing priorities.

Together, we can ensure that Range education and research remain in the U of I's priorities for all the years to come.

Best,

Steven Daley Laursen
CNR Dean

Name That Idaho Drainage

Meribeth Lomkin

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



The answer to the fall newsletter "Name that Idaho Drainage" contest (left) was: Bruneau River.

Congratulations to the lands/minerals/range folks at Idaho Department of Lands Southwest Supervisory Area for submitting the correct answer. A box of "Spud" fudge is on its way to them for their correct answer.

The summer and fall contest pictures were both taken near Indian Hot Springs. The summer contest picture was looking downstream from above the river where the river flows through rock outcrops and the fall contest picture was taken looking upstream toward the hot springs.

Tri-State Rangeland Management Short Course

RANGELANDS FOR THE FUTURE

Creating rangeland ecosystems for the next century

March 29-30, 2006

Red Lion Inn — Pasco, WA

Details after February 1, 2006 on

<http://ext.nrs.wsu.edu/newsevents/index.htm>

Next Newsletter Deadline is
April 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**

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Lyman Richwine Director, Don Edgerton 529-1539
UI Range Club Co-Pres., Joshua Hyde and Tess Wipfli
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 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**