



## President's Message

*Brendan Brazee*

What a great start to the New Year. The annual meeting held this year in Boise on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of January was a great success. Approximately 145 people were on site to learn about restoring and improving their grazing lands. Everything from site preparation and species selection, management, and a few real world examples were presented to the participants. The Section and the University of Idaho will use some of the profits of this meeting to fund the get together in Albuquerque at the upcoming meeting. I owe special thanks to Lovina, Kathy, and Karen for their time and effort in putting this program together and know that next year's meeting will be every bit as good as this one.

The business meeting turned out to be a good opportunity to discuss new ideas and follow-up on old ones. The greatest amount of discussion occurred about the Bear Valley sum-

mer tour from 2006. A letter was drafted and sent to the Regional Forester and Director of BLM in the fall of 2007 offering assistance with monitoring and analysis of the allotments in Bear Valley, where grazing by domestic livestock was removed in 2001. The section has not to date received a response from that letter, whether positive or negative. It was decided to proceed with a follow-up letter offering our assistance with monitoring and assessment of these allotments. The letter has been drafted with the help of several section members and was sent on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January, 2009. (See the letter on Page 6).

Some new items of business included the formation of a Budget Committee and a Fund Raising Committee. These are fantastic ideas and of course may lead to the delisting of the Buckaroo Birds from the T&E list. It will also provide the section with a solid set of records for the

future.

There was also a discussion and motion approving the Idaho Section as a co-host with the PNW section for the 2012 annual meeting in Spokane. This will take a lot of teamwork from both sections to meet this challenge. Some of the preliminary discussions will take place in Albuquerque. Watch for more information to come. For those of you who have never had an opportunity to assist with a meeting, now is as good a time as any. And for those who have seen the sun set on several annual meetings, your advice and experience will be greatly appreciated.

For those brave souls leaping into the world of 21<sup>st</sup> century communication, Cindy and I have set up a Facebook group for the Idaho Section. Come check it out... My wife is trying to teach me the way of the new world ... good luck and See you in Albuquerque

Brendan

*Inside this issue:*

<b>President's Message</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>President's Award</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>RMRS News</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>U of I Range Club</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Buckaroo Auction Report</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Business Meeting Report</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Awards</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Bear Valley Letter</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Name that Idaho Drainage</b>	<b>7</b>

**What's on your bumper?**

**See page 7**



# Lomkin's Dedication Recognized with President's Award

Shannon Williams

This year's President's Awards was presented to **Meribeth Lomkin**. Meribeth has served in many capacities and offices for the Idaho Section. This year she has served as Past President, fill-in Secretary and head "cheerleader" for the current president. She chairs the silent auction fund raiser for the Brian Miller Scholarship funds and always does a super job.

For this past year, she has helped the current president, Shannon Williams, stay on top of things, been beside her as she experience the Advisory Council meeting on the national level and run the business meeting at the conference. Shannon and Meribeth shared rides to Boise, plane rides to Kentucky, wrote resolutions in the airport and late night ice cream! Meribeth also filled in at the Idaho Rangeland Resource Committee meetings since she was closer to the meetings than Shannon was.

Every new president needs a past president like Meribeth. It makes the job enjoyable and helps them to be successful.

# Idaho SRM Treasurer's Report Spring 2008

Cindy Salo

## Good news: Idaho SRM cash flow moves closer to 0

Your treasurer is just fine, thank you for asking.

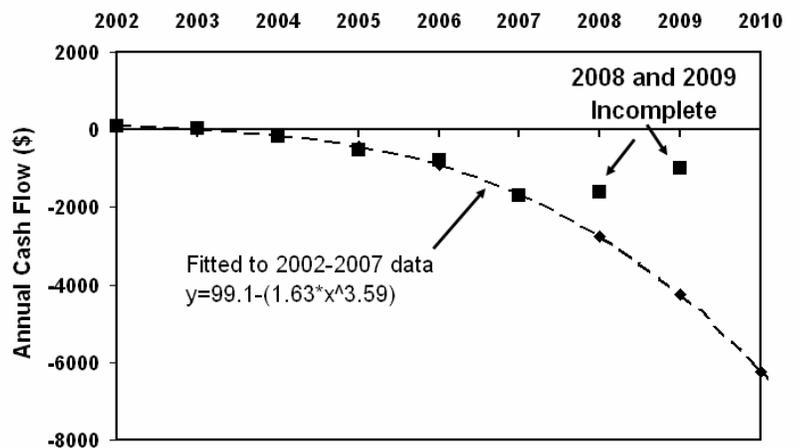
The section annual meeting, which was co-hosted by the University of Idaho Dept. of Rangeland Ecology and Management, is expected to be a record money maker. **Thank you, Lovina Roselle and Karen Launchbaugh**, for organizing the meeting! We've moved away from our previous precipitous cash flow trajectory (note - 2008 data does not include proceeds from the meeting).



**Ann Owskiak** was awarded her **Hotter Spotter ribbon** and **song, by the Singing Sagebrush** (JD Wulfhorst, Ted Hoffman, Michael Young [ID Fish & Game] and Yours Truly) at the section meeting. Thank you again Anna for your fund raising ideas, and congratulations on your being named to the newly established Fundrais-

ing Committee, along with **Shannon Williams** and **Meribeth Lomkin**. New section president **Brendan Brazee** also established a **Budget Committee** to review funding requests.

SRM Annual Cash Flow



# Rocky Mountain Research Station News

Kelsey Sherich

At the annual meeting, January 9th, we had a competition to guess how many *Eriogonum umbellatum* seeds were in a small vial. There were 2,694 seeds and the three closest guesses came from **Jennifer Gehauer**, **Diana Jackson**, and **Seth Dettenmaier**. Congratulations to them; they each received a Rocky Mountain Research Station t-shirt and poster!

RMRS is co-hosting a workshop "Developing a Successful Native Plant Program." April 1 and 2, 2009 in Ontario, Oregon. For more information visit the website:  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/boise/research/shrub/projects/Native.pdf>

## U of I Range Club Report

The Range club continues to be very active with activities and fundraising. The barn dance and spaghetti feed, held on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>, was well supported by both students and members of the community. We were pleased to have members of **Karen Launchbaugh's** band start out the evening with some great tunes. Some of the Range club members tried their hand at dutch-oven desserts which were a delight to all. After dinner, **Chris McDaniel**, a long-time friend of the range department, volunteered his time and served as a DJ for the dance. People came and went all through the evening, and fun was had by all. We're making plans for a repeat in the spring!

**Richard Ambrosek, Tess Jones, and Jeff Olson**

The club members have been busy creating and selling greeting cards that have photos of wildlife, plants, and rangeland landscapes as another fundraiser. The majority of the pictures used were taken by one of our own club members **Seth McFarland**. Other photos were donated by range department alums and graduate students. You can take a look at the cards on our fundraising website at <http://www.cnr.uidaho.edu/range/RangeClub/Fundraisers.htm>. Other items for sale on our fundraising website include plant sets (50 Common Idaho Range Plants) and a coffee table book titled "This Land of the Free", which celebrates cowboys, farmers, and the western heritage. The books were generously donated to the club by **Meribeth Lomkin**. Our plans for the future include expanding the greeting card sets to include a livestock set and expanding our plant collection so that we can start work on a set of Idaho's noxious weeds.



**Dancing to some great country tunes at the Range Club Barn Dance**

Three members from the club (**Jeff Olson, Tess Jones, and Richard Ambrosek**) were able to attend the Idaho SRM meeting in Boise on Jan. 15 and 16. The experience was great for those members of our club, and the way the other members of the SRM took them in and made them feel a part of the club was greatly appreciated. During the business meeting, the section very graciously provided the club with funds to help support travel to the national meeting in Albuquerque, NM. These funds, along with funds generated through fundraising activities have enabled our club to be able to take 6 members to the national convention. At the convention all members will participate in the URME, as well as a team to participate in the Rangeland Cup (**Tess Jones, Richard Ambrosek, Jeff Olson**), and a group to participate in the student Chapter Display Contest (**Tate Walters, Jake Ehlert, Jen Trenarty**). Members also plan on bringing resumes and participating in the Job Fair.

The club continues to be busy, hold meetings twice a month, and plan future activities. Once again we would like to thank all the members of the community and the SRM who continue to donate time, money, and moral support to the club and it's members.

## Buckaroo Auction Report

To everyone who donated an item to this year's Idaho SRM Brian Miller Memorial Scholarship Fund auction – you are greatly appreciated! And, THANK YOU, to everyone who purchased a ticket or a card for a chance to win an item. This year's event raised \$446.00 for the Scholarship Fund!

**Meribeth Lomkin**

## Letters!

**Idaho SRM,**

I just want to say thanks for donating money to the Brian Miller Memorial Scholarship fund. I appreciate the great opportunity that it gave me.

Thanks again,

**Aubrey Woodcock**

# Annual Business Meeting Summary

*Meribeth Lomkin*  
*Acting Secretary*

**What a great turnout! Attendance was 30+.**

## **Officer and Committee Reports:**

- Rebecca Beavers has resigned the Secretary position as she transferred out of state. We are looking for a Secretary. Call Brendan to volunteer.
- Treasurer Cindy Salo explained about Buckaroo Birds, the banking business, and reported on the Section's Treasury. A year-end written report was submitted and included the following "Bottom Lines" as of 12/31/2008: Checking Account Balance - \$5,135.76 and Savings Account Balance - \$10,987.23.
- Newsletter Co-Editor Roger Blew reported that 53% of the newsletters are now on the electronic distribution list. This saves the Section about \$150 per year in stamps. Thank you to Shannon Williams and her office staff for helping with hard copy distribution of the fall 2008 newsletter!
- Student Chapter/UI Range Club President Jeff Olson reported that the club's focus so far this year has been fundraising. They are selling note cards with range/wildlife/landscape pictures, books, and plant mounts. Check out their website at: <http://www.cnr.uidaho.edu/range/RangeClub/Fundraisers.htm> to view the items that they have for sale. Range Club co-sponsored a dance at UI and they are looking for other work projects to perform as fundraisers. They have about 10 active members this year, including one graduate student. They are planning to send 6 students to the Albuquerque SRM meeting and all of the undergraduates will take the URME. They also plan to participate in the Rangeland Cup contest, show a poster, and have a club booth. The Idaho Section voted to donate \$1,000 to the Student Chapter's travel fund.
- Brian Miller Idaho Section SRM Scholarship Fund Report: the fund has a balance of \$39,488.17 (as of July 1, 2008). Gifts to the fund in Fiscal year 2008 were: \$620.51. This year's Brian Miller Scholarship Recipient is Aubrey Woodcock from St. Anthony, ID. Aubrey is a Senior in the Rangeland Ecology and Management Department at U of I.
- Nominations Committee Report: The 2009 Idaho Section Slate of candidates is:
  - President Elect Candidate: J.D. Wulffhorst
  - Western Chapter Director Candidates: Marika Kearsley and Robin Holmquist
  - Northern Chapter Director Candidates: Patrick Currin & Lovina RoselleThe election ballots and candidate statements/bio's were handed out for voting at this meeting.

## **Old Business:**

- A committee of Neil, J.D., and Dave was formed to follow up on the Bear Valley USFS Letter that was mailed in the fall of 2007.
- Meribeth and Shannon reported on the bighorn sheep resolution that was drafted after the last Idaho SRM business meeting and presented to the SRM Advisory Council in Louisville, Kentucky.
- Membership drive letter writing campaign: J.D., Karen, Cindy, and Range Club will develop a list of potential new members, draft a letter, and send out letters in early 2009.
- New Business:
  - 2009 Summer Tour/Next Winter meeting ideas were brainstormed. If you have any ideas, contact J.D.
  - The Idaho Section has been approached by the PNW Section to Co-Host a future International SRM meeting in Spokane, WA. After much discussion, it was decided that the Idaho Section will agree to Co-Host with the PNW Section. J.D. will investigate a possible joint section meeting between Idaho and PNW for fall of 2009.
  - Don't miss the UI Alumni/Idaho Section Social in Albuquerque on
  - February 10, 2009!
  - The Rangeland Special Interest License Plate that benefits IRRC is now available. Get one now for your favorite set of wheels!

## Annual Business Meeting Summary (cont.)

- Wally Butler brought greetings from the office of the Parent Society and provided a Society Board report.
- A standing budget committee was formed to evaluate requests for funds that come to the Section and develop an annual budget. The committee will consist of one representative from the Section Board of Directors, the President Elect, and the Treasurer. The executive committee (Section officers & Board) will give final approval on the budget and recommendations of the committee.
- A fundraising committee of Shannon, Anna, and Meribeth was formed.
- Shannon has developed guidelines for a 4-H Range Demonstration contest and will market the contest through County 4-H Extension this year. The contest is aimed at 8-10 year olds and all participants will be awarded a t-shirt. T-shirts are already printed, courtesy of IRRC and include an image of the new Rangeland License Plate. If you are interested in helping with a 4-H Range Demonstration contest in your area, contact Shannon.
- Awards Committee Pep Talk – Neil says: please, nominate someone for an award next year! The Awards Committee accepts and evaluates nominations for the following Section Awards: Outstanding Member, Outstanding Achievement, and Top Hand.

### Install New Officers:

The ballots were collected and the votes tallied. Duly elected new 2009 Idaho Section officers/board members are:

President: **Brendan Brazee**

President Elect: **J.D. Wulfhorst**

Western Chapter Director: **Robin Holmquist**

Northern Chapter Director: **Lovina Roselle**

### Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned and everyone enjoyed snacks & visiting at the Idaho Section Social!

## 2008 Idaho Section SRM Awards Citation Summaries

### 2008 Outstanding Achievement Award Winners

**Donna Bennett** gives willingly and unselfishly to fulfill her responsibilities as a member of the Owyhee County Local Sage Grouse Working Group, the Idaho State Sage Grouse Advisory Committee, Boise District BLM Resource Advisory Council, and many other civic and professional causes. Donna's leadership and commitment to improving rangelands and sage grouse habitat is recognized with a 2008 Outstanding Achievement Award.

**Lee Brooks** has done an excellent job in the development of Ecological Site Descriptions that will advance the knowledge of rangeland ecology throughout Idaho. For his work developing and finalizing a contract for data gathering and development of ESD's by outside contractors and his review and editing of the completed ESD's, Lee is presented a 2008 Outstanding Achievement Award.



**2008 Top Hand Award Winner Ted Hoffman** is a progressive livestock operator constantly striving to improve his rangeland. Ted sought assistance from range-trained personnel to revise the grazing system on his ranch and implement management changes, gained approval for the system from land management agencies, and established an extensive range monitoring system. He is also a West Point graduate, a practicing veterinarian, co-chair of the Idaho Rangeland Committee, past-president of the Idaho Cattle Association and a published country western songwriter. For these reasons, the Idaho Section of the Society for Range Management proudly presented its highest award for 2008, the Top Hand Award, to Dr. Ted Hoffman.

# Bear Valley



January 21, 2009

Cecilia Seesholtz  
Supervisor  
Boise National Forest  
1249 South Vinnell Way, Suite 200  
Boise, ID 83709

Harv Forsgren  
Regional Forester  
USFS Intermountain Region  
324 25th Street  
Ogden, UT 84414

Tom Dyer  
State Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
Idaho State Office  
1387 Vinnell Way  
Boise, ID 83709

Dear Cecilia, Harv and Tom:

The Idaho Section, Society for Range Management (SRM), toured the Bear Valley Allotment in August, 2006. We were lead through this 2 day tour by Mr. Warren Ririe (USFS) and Mr. Tim Burton (BLM). They have both been intimately involved in the monitoring and analysis associated with the allotment. Grazing ceased on the allotment in about 2001, with the purchase of the grazing permits by the Bonneville Power Administration. Unfortunately, monitoring also stopped. Prior to these permit retirements, this area was grazed by domestic livestock for over a century.

In September, 2007, we sent a letter to the State Director of the Bureau of Land Management and the Regional Forester (Region 4) of the U.S. Forest Service. The purpose of that letter (copy attached) was two-fold. First, it was to ensure that the agencies maintain a long-term monitoring effort, even in the absence of domestic livestock grazing. Second, in the letter, we also offered the assistance of trained professionals involved in the Idaho Section SRM with the monitoring effort and data analysis.

We understand that some monitoring did take place in the summer of 2008. We still feel strongly that monitoring must continue and again offer the assistance of the Society for Range Management to accomplish this important task. Our Student Chapter has offered to work with the professional range managers on data collection and analysis associated with this effort.

We are still hopeful of a response from the federal land management agencies on the original letter. Communication with the Idaho Section SRM would seem to be appropriate, given our repeated offers of assistance in monitoring Bear Valley.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Brendan Brazee", written in a cursive style.

Brendan Brazee  
President  
Idaho Section, Society for Range Management  
P.O. Box 8101, Boise, ID 83707

Cc: Mr. Jim Little  
PO Box 68  
Emmett, ID 83617



## Name That Idaho Drainage

Meribeth Lomkin



Congratulations to Neil Rimbey! He had the correct answer of Boulder Creek (below) in Owyhee County for the fall "Name that Drainage" contest! Neil received a "spud fudge spud" for his award!



### Name that Idaho Drainage:

Submit your guess with the name of the above Idaho waterway to: [mlomkin@idl.idaho.gov](mailto:mlomkin@idl.idaho.gov) This photo courtesy of Katie Dennis. (hint: the photo was taken in summer of 2007)

## Idaho Rangeland Resources License Plate

### Show Your Support for Idaho's Rangelands!

Check out the new Rangeland Special Interest License Plate that benefits the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission (IRRC). Learn more about this new Idaho License Plate

from the IRRC website: <http://www.idrange.org/idaho-rangeland-license-plate>

### Replace Those Famous Potatoes!



Next Newsletter Deadline is  
April 15, 2009



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, Brendan Brazee 378-5722  
Pres. Elect, J.D. Wulfhorst 230-7333  
Past President, Shannon Williams 756-2815 ext. 283  
Secretary, Your Name Could Be Here! So, Why Not Volunteer!  
Treasurer, Cindy Salo 850-3313

Chapter Officers

Northern Director, Lovina Roselle 885-0160  
Southern Director, Kevin Eldredge 764-3112  
Western Director, Robin Holmquist 845-2324  
Lyman Richwine Director, Corey Moffet 374-5306  
UI Range Club Pres., Jeff Olson, 885-6536

**Newsletters on the Web  
[www.stoller-eser.com  
/idahosrm/](http://www.stoller-eser.com/idahosrm/)**

**There are lots of opportunities for you to become involved in the section's activities. Give Brendon Brazee, J. D. Wulfhorst, 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**