

Arizona Rangelands

Quarterly Newsletter

March 2021 Issue

2020 Photo Contest
Co-Winning Photo
“Nice Light on Clouds”
By Dennis Moroney





In This Issue...

2020 AZ Rangelands Photo Contest Co-Winner	2
2021 Summer Meeting	2
<i>Congrats to our 2020 Award Recipients</i>	2
President's Message— <i>Emilio Carrillo</i>	3
ASU Chapter Update—	4
Board of Directors Contact Information	4
Another Banner Year for Arizona Section SRM Members— <i>Larry Howery</i>	5-6
A Note from UA Chapter President— <i>Jacob Brown</i>	6
Director North Report— <i>Andy Habgood</i>	6-7
Director South Introduction— <i>Vanessa Prileson</i>	8
Director North Introduction— <i>Alvin Whitehair</i>	8
Science Committee Update	9
2022 SRM Conference in Albuquerque, NM	9
Job Announcements	9
Calendar of Events	10

On the Cover...

2020 Arizona Rangelands Photo Contest Co-Winning Photo:

“Nice Light on Clouds” was photographed by **Dennis Moroney** of the 47 Ranch near McNeal, AZ, home of the Sky Island Brand rangeland raised and finished all natural Criollo Cattle and Navajo Churro Sheep. Congratulations, Dennis!



Save the Date!

The Arizona SRM annual summer meeting and fundraiser auction is tentatively scheduled for August 11-13, 2021.
Stay tuned for more details.

Congrats to our 2020 Arizona Section Award Recipients!

Range Manager of the Year - *Bill Brake & Al Willcox, The Rose Tree Ranch, Elgin, AZ*

Professional and Technical Guidance - *Iric Burden*

Outstanding Young Professional - *Julia Sittig*

Outstanding Service - *Sarah King*

Award recipients will be featured in detail in the June 2021 Issue.

President's Message—*Emilio Carrillo*



Hello fellow SRMer's!

I know your time is precious and it's the one resource that we seem to never have enough of. I am reminded of this fact as we approach spring and things I wanted to get done this winter that never did. It seems that we are living and working in the virtual world now

more than ever. Maybe it's because of the simplicity of convening a virtual meeting or maybe it makes us feel important. Who knows?! I, for one, know I am overly fatigued of the multitude of virtual meetings. This realization came to me when I was sitting at my desk, looking out the window and thought to myself..."I'd rather be outside digging fence posts and pounding T-posts". Nevertheless that is the world we currently live in and with it comes challenges and opportunities.

With that said, our Section winter meeting was successful as well as the National annual meeting (both were hosted virtually). Although we did not follow our usual meeting format of our normal winter meeting (i.e. technical session, auction, banquet), we did have an award presentation, general membership meeting, and changing of the officers. I have received positive feedback and I'm gracious for those of you who reached out to me. During a session of the National meeting, AzSRM received some kudos for the success of our virtual 2020 summer meeting.

I'd like to give a big congratulations to all award recipients. Enough can't be said about all of them. From the amazing and talented students we have to the producers who are trying to make a living, while making good decisions for the land. There are so many people in our profession who deserve recognition and go without. I deeply encourage you to nominate someone for one of our various awards. Please reach out to our Awards Chairperson, Jason Martin, or myself for more information (awards@azrangelands.org).

Allow me to introduce to you our Officers and Com-

mittee Chairs for 2021 (See page 4). A huge thank you to all of them for their willingness to serve our members in a greater capacity!

I came across the following quote which got me thinking... "Does this activity fill me with energy or drain me of energy?" (James Clear, Author of the million-copy bestseller, *Atomic Habits*, Creator of the *Habit Journal* , https://jamesclear.com/3-2-1/february-11-2021?rh_ref=d15e9ec8)

As I pondered the quote, as it relates to the hustle and bustle of everyday life, I began thinking about AzSRM. I wondered how I felt about AzSRM (does it drain or invigorate me?). The more I thought about it, the more my feelings leaned towards "fill me with energy". When I think about our membership and the diversity we have and the immense talent we have, the more invigorated I get! One of my priorities, during my time as your president, is to bring that feeling to all you. Without going into detail, I will say that my plans are to build upon the existing greatness for which our section is known.

In the near future we plan to send out a short survey. At the heart of the survey is this basic thought...."What does our section mean to you?" and "How can we improve to meet your needs?". Thinking about the quote from James Clear led me to think about our Section and what it provides me as a member. Does it fill an information gap that I can't get elsewhere? Is it my "go to" place for all things rangeland related (does it need be)? Does it provide educational or networking opportunities for me? These are just a few of the many questions that came to me. So...I ask you to think about these things and participate in the survey when it comes out (and please be candid!). I believe this feedback will help your Board of Directors steer us towards the Section we need to be.

Lastly, I would like to remind everyone to renew your membership. As of early February our membership shows 95 folks who have not renewed. Please take a second and do that at the Society for Range Management website (<https://rangelands.org/>).

Sincerely,

Emilio Carrillo, President, Arizona Section SRM

ASU Student Chapter Message

Arizona State University would like to introduce the new SRM Student Chapter President, Sienna Stea, and the new faculty advisor, Dr. Adam Stein. Sienna is a graduate student who just graduated from ASU's Natural Resource Ecology program with a focus in watershed and rangeland management. Dr. Stein is new to ASU, teaches the rangeland courses, and is working to develop our rangeland program. Dr. Stein enjoys working with students in the field to provide hands-on experience.

This time last year, ASU students participated in a newly organized ASU-Roden Crater Internship. This internship is a partnership between ASU and James Turrell of Walking Cane Ranch. Students stayed for a week in Flagstaff and traveled to rangeland surrounding Roden Crater. Students gained experience in surveying, identifying vegetation, collecting range data as well as fencing and water catchment construction. We look forward to

continuing this internship and getting students back out into the field! The picture below shows the four ASU students who attended.

A few ASU students were able to attend the virtual workshop, *Navigating a Path to Rangeland Careers* and the *2021 Virtual SRM Conference*. Although it is always nice to be in person, students really enjoyed the flexibility of the virtual format. Looking forward, ASU students hope to participate in and attend the 2022 meeting in Albuquerque!



Recent graduates Michael Macias and Matthew Jones walk with current students Sienna Stea and Amy Aboalam after a day of surveying Walking Cane Ranch near Winona, AZ

2021 Arizona Section Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

President

Emilio Carrillo
ECarrillo@azrangelands.org

President-Elect

Joshua Grace
JGrace@azrangelands.org

Vice President

Elise Gornish
EGornish@arizona.edu

Past President

Erin Thomas
EThomas@azrangelands.org

Secretary

Shai Schendel
Shai.Schendel@usda.gov

Treasurer

Aaron Lien
ALien@arizona.edu

Director North

Andy Habgood
Andrew.Habgood@usda.gov

Director North

Alvin Whitehair
Alvin.Whitehair@bia.gov

Director South

Brett Myers
Brett.Myers@usda.gov

Director South

Vanessa Prileson
Vanessa.Prileson@pima.gov

UofA Chapter President

Jacob Brown
UofATierraSeca@gmail.com

ASU Chapter President

Sienna Stea
SStea@asu.edu

Membership

Joey Dahms
Joseph.Dahms@usda.gov

Public Relations/Outreach

Andrew Antaya
AAntaya@azrangelands.org

Native Range

Erin Thomas
EThomas@azrangelands.org

Young Professionals

Brett Myers
Brett.Myers@usda.gov

Rancher Affairs

Alanna Lonsdale
Alanna.R.Lonsdale@gmail.com

Scholarship

Larry Howery
LHowery@ag.arizona.edu

Awards

Jason Martin
awards@azrangelands.org

Auction/Fundraising

Alisha Phipps
Alisha.Phipps@usda.gov

NRCWAY

Kim McReynolds
KimM@cals.arizona.edu

Science

Elise Gornish
EGornish@arizona.edu

Newsletter

Kelsey Landreville
Newsletter@azrangelands.org

Historian

Willie Sommers
WSommers@dffm.az.gov

Another Banner Year for AZ Section Members!!

By Larry Howery—It was another banner year for Arizona Society for Range Management (SRM) Section members who were recognized as scholarship or award recipients at either the section or national level! Below is a summary of accolades associated with SRM that were received by students and faculty in the Arizona Section.

Habgood Scholarship:

The recipient of the 2020 Habgood scholarship was Autumn Horvat. This scholarship winner is selected by the UA Range Faculty and goes to an undergraduate student currently enrolled in the UA rangeland management program, who is dedicated to the management of rangelands, and has the character and perseverance to continue their career in rangeland management. **Congratulations Autumn! Many thanks to Mr. Mark Habgood and the Habgood family for their support of the UA Range Program.**

AZ SRM Outstanding Range Undergraduate Student Scholarships:

Recipients of this scholarship were Grace Nykol from the University of Arizona, and Sienna Stea from Arizona State University. This scholarship is given to deserving undergraduate students as determined by UA and ASU faculty members. **Congratulations Grace and Sienna! Many thanks to the AZ SRM Section for supporting our range management undergrads at the UA and ASU.**

S. Clark Martin Memorial Scholarship:

The recipient of this scholarship was Cameron Burleson. This scholarship is given to the AZ SRM Section student (from either the UA or ASU) who earned the highest rank score in an undergraduate competitive event at the International SRM meeting. Cameron placed 1st out of 77 students who took the online version of the URME in February 2021 (btw, she also placed 2nd out of >200 students who took the exam in Denver in 2020!). **Congratulations Cameron! Many thanks to the Clark Martin family for their support of undergrads at both the UA and ASU.**

Meanwhile, at the International SRM Annual Meeting Awards Ceremonies in February....

- **Dr. Elise Gornish** received the **Outstanding Young Range Professional Award** which *"...is presented by the Society to an individual member who has demonstrated extraordinary potential and promise as a range management professional."* Elise's exemplary work in restoration ecology and management has been widely recognized by scientists and managers across the southwestern U.S. and is quickly gaining international recognition.
- **Dr. Barbara Hutchinson** received the **Outstanding Achievement Award in Research and Academia** which *"...is presented by the Society for outstanding achievement for eminently note-worthy contributions to the range profession to members and other qualified individuals and groups working with rangelands."* Barb's outstanding work on multiple web platforms that highlight "all things rangelands" (e.g., <https://globalrangelands.org/rangelandswest>), along with her strong and persistent leadership on the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) Initiative (<https://iyrp.info/>) are well recognized across the globe.
- **For the second year in a row, the UA Undergraduate Range Management Exam (URME) Team** received the **1st Place Team Award.** The 2020/21 UA URME Team members were: Claire Bigelow-Lundin (Bigs), Alex Binford-Walsh, Tzirel (TZ) Leiser, Jacob Brown, Grace Nykol, James Bradley, Autumn Horvat, and Cameron Burleson. As mentioned earlier, Cameron won 1st place individual in the URME competition which earned her the Clark Martin Memorial Scholarship. Cameron, TZ, and Alex scored in the top 10% of all SRM competitors which exempts them from having to take the highly challenging Certified Professional in Range Management (CPRM) exam. Jacob, Grace, TZ, Alex, Carter Blouin, and Angel Vega also competed on the UA's Plant ID Team while attending the virtual SRM Annual Meeting.
- **Also for the second year in a row, TZ Leiser** won **3rd Place Individual Award in the URME competition, and also won the 3rd Place Individual Award in the Extemporaneous Speaking competition.**

Continued on Page 6...

Another Banner Year for AZ Section Members!!

Continued from Page 5...

· **TZ Leiser and Jacob Brown** won the **2nd Place Team Award** in the **Rangeland Cup Competition**.

· **The UA Range Program** (i.e., the **Ecology, Management, and Restoration of Rangelands Program**) was **unanimously voted to be reaccredited through 2030** by the **SRM Board of Directors on 2/12/21 (official SRM letter was received by the UA Provost on 2/25/21)**. This effort required strong support from many of you who are subscribers to this newsletter including, UA alumni and current students, rangeland scientists and managers, faculty and colleagues from the School of Natural Resources and the Environment, UA Cooperative Extension county faculty and administrators, our valued stakeholders throughout the state of Arizona, and, high-level UA administrators. A special debt of gratitude goes out to our recent alums and cur-

rent students for your stellar recruitment efforts over the past 2 years. Thanks to ALL of you, the state of the UA's Range program is strong.

Congratulations everyone! The past year has no doubt been challenging for all of us... please take a moment to celebrate and reflect on these honors received by Arizona SRM Section members!

A Note from UA Chapter President, Jacob Brown: The UA range program has raised the bar, winning a plethora of awards two years in a row. I would like to give a huge round of applause to everyone who participated in this year's competitions. The conference this year was without question different than normal, but still experiences were overwhelmingly positive. Networking was hard, but not having competitions during symposiums meant we could get involved.

Director North Report—*Andy Habgood*

This time I want to take the time to talk about trees and overstory canopy influences on understory vegetation. It's the latter part, the understory, that most of us reading this are interested in. Working for the Forest Service, at least for me, has made me develop a love hate relationship with the plant we call a "tree". For the most part, everybody loves trees, looking at them, planting them, taking pictures of them, and even living in them. Most of the time, trees, especially pine trees, even add value to residential land. The Forest Service has built a reputation around trees: it's directly imprinted on our shield, placed right on the side of the door in the pickup I drive around in every day. I often wonder what it would take and who I would have to talk to about replacing that tree with a grass plant.

Over the last century, rangelands have been invaded by all different kinds of trees: pine trees, juniper trees, cedar trees, mesquite trees, and everything in between. As the years progress, the canopy closes in, thick litter layers develop, water gets sucked up, and no sunlight can hit the ground to germinate new herbaceous plants. To the general public, there is nothing wrong with this, viewed as a functioning healthy forest. To

the land manager, it's what I call an "ecological disaster". As on the ground management activities continue to decline in the last 60 years on government ground (based on several reasons we won't get into here), there is no hope for some of these areas except the inevitable wildfire, a total ecological reset. As a range manager and producer of grass, wildfire is a good thing, not in the short term, but rather in the long term. The short term following a wildfire is a tough time for land managers, looking at the ash and exposed bare soil that remains. We have to endure the short term though, to reap the long-term benefits. Nature is very resilient, and for the most part, will heal itself naturally.

I'm not saying wildfire is the answer to our tree problem, but it is the cards we have been dealt and is the most efficient way to reduce overstory canopy. By reducing the canopy, the herbaceous understory will soon after start to fill in. It will heal bare spots, provide forage for livestock and wildlife, input valuable root systems to stabilize soils, slow water down and allow infiltration, and provide many other benefits to the ecosystem.

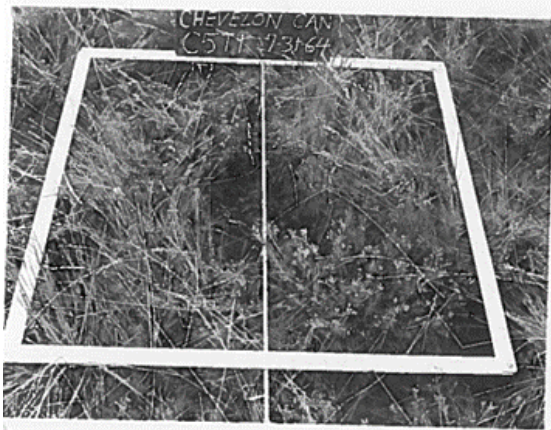
Continued on Page 7...

Director North Report—*Andy Habgood (cont'd.)*

...Continued from Page 6 Tying this all back in, there is a reason the Forest Service is represented by a symbol of a tree. The Forest Service, particularly the foresters as they are called, want to plant trees after a fire. We still plant trees to this day, as if we don't have enough of them. I am sure most of the time, it is done with good intentions, but oftentimes results in the same scenario that got us into the situation in the first place. I pulled some pictures from our files to give an idea of what happens when we plant trees. The pictures clearly show the cause and effect relationship of overstory canopy on understory vegetation. These pictures are all taken from the same location, a Parker 3-Step transect

that was established in 1964. The fire occurred in the late 1950's, with a 1960 photo showing burnt trees and appears to be 2-3 years after the fire. The area was later planted sometime in the 1970's or early 1980's. If you look at the photos, you can clearly see the rows of trees, remnant from the planting. Just some food for thought this time, derived solely from the eyes of a range conservationist. I hope you enjoy reading these, agree or disagree, love or hate, I hope it creates some conversations, for the better or for the worse.

Until next time,
Andy Habgood



←— 1964 C5T1 —→
Post-fire



←— 1996 C5T1 —→
Post-planting



←— 2015 C5T1 —→
Mess we created



Director South Introduction—*Vanessa Prileson*

I am looking forward to serving as your new Director South for the Arizona Section! I invite your input and suggestions as to what would be helpful for the AZ Section to provide for members as we continue to move forward amidst ongoing drought, pandemic, and other challenges facing natural resources and rangeland management. I am the Range Program Manager for Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Department, and work with several ranch families in the eastern half of Pima County. Please feel free to reach out and learn more about this program.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Prileson
Vanessa.Prileson@pima.gov
(520) 349-4092



Director North Introduction—*Alvin Whitehair*



My name is Alvin Whitehair, I started my range career when I was knee high to a lamb and have never stopped. My education credits go to the Utah State University's Range program. I owe my career refinement to the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Indian Affairs. Having served in Wyoming, Utah, Arizona, California, and New Mexico I have never stopped learning and am still hungry for knowledge and making my network grow daily. I would like to thank the AZ SRM Board members for nominating

me for the Arizona Director North for the 3rd time. It was about 13 years ago I had the opportunity to be a part of a very active and bright group of youthful Arizonians (in the minds and hearts, that is) and it is good to see that hasn't changed.

I plan to be very proactive, and god-willing if this pandemic subsides, we can have some really good meetings and possibly more standing room only meetings. I plan to highlight feral horse topics and plan to incorporate many Tribal grazing advocates and leaders at the meetings. Enough about me, as this would be to also incorporate more members of all age groups, including the youth and the retired novice and professionals, into our programs. Hopefully, we will all incorporate some great teamwork and play well together and have lots of fun doing it.

I want to reach out to those who are reading this that if you have anything you want to talk about please feel free to call me or email me. My info is on the membership contact list in this issue. Let's all have another great year and make every day a great one.

Science Committee Update

New EcoRestore Portal: Your one-stop-shopping for all things ecological restoration in AZ

There is a new resource available for anyone interested in aridland ecological restoration. The UArizona Cooperative Extension has produced a website called EcoRestore: <https://ecorestore.arizona.edu/>. The EcoRestore website has information needed to plan

ecological restoration, a tool to help identify restoration candidates, a calendar of events, an active blog and so much more. Once a month, the EcoRestore mailing list sends out an email with relevant events, readings, opportunities, and resources for anyone interested in land management in AZ. To join the mailing list, check out the EcoRestore site and click the 'join our mailing list' link at the bottom of the home page.

2022 SRM Conference—Albuquerque, NM

The Arizona Section and New Mexico Section are co-hosting the 75th annual Society for Range Management (SRM) conference in Albuquerque, NM. Ashley Hall and Andrew Brischke are the planning committee co-chairs representing the Arizona Section, and Brenda Simpson and Richard Bonine are the co-chairs representing the New Mexico Section. The 2022 annual conference is planned for February 06-10, 2022. The theme is *Sustainability through Culture and Innovation*.

Planning an international conference requires a strong team. As an Arizona Section member, we ask that you consider volunteering to join one or more planning sub-committees for the 2022 conference. Committee responsibilities range from the program, finance, student competitions, and Public Relations/Outreach. Help is especially needed in the Public Relations/Outreach Committee.

Please contact Ashley Hall (AshleyS3@arizona.edu) and/or Andrew Brischke (Brischke@cals.arizona.edu) for more information and to get involved. Thanks in advance for your support of the Arizona and New Mexico Sections and Parent Society SRM.



Job Announcements

Student Trainee (Range Mgmt)

USDA Forest Service
Kaibab National Forest
Williams, AZ
Series:0499 Grades:3/4/5
<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/594381500>
Application Deadline:
03/15/2021

Range Monitoring Tech

UA Cooperative Extension
Mohave County
St. George, UT
<https://arizona.csod.com/ux/ats/careersite/4/home/requisition/4296?c=arizona>
Application Reviews Begin:
03/19/2021

Range Monitoring Research Specialist

UA Cooperative Extension
Mohave County
Flagstaff, AZ
<https://arizona.csod.com/ux/ats/careersite/4/home/requisition/4249?c=arizona>
Application Reviews Begin:
03/19/2021

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Check out the events page on our website: <https://azrangelands.org/events>

2021

- March 09 Virtual Range Livestock Workshop Day 1: Beef <https://azrangelands.org/events>
- March 10 Virtual Range Livestock Workshop Day 2: Range
- March 11 Virtual Range Livestock Workshop Day 3: Small Ruminant
- March 23 Agroforestry in Northeastern Arizona Online Workshop (<https://www.aztrees.org/event-4178649>)
- March 30—April 01 43rd Annual AZ/UT Range Livestock Workshop & Tour <https://extension.arizona.edu/events/2021-03-30/43rd-annual-azut-range-livestock-workshop-tour>
- April 07-09 Biochar Opportunities in the Southwest: Extension Workshop <https://extension.arizona.edu/events/2021-04-07/biochar-opportunities-southwest-extension-workshop>
- April 14 Planting Agaves in Aid of Bat Populations (<https://arizona.zoom.us/j/83222582818>)
- April 27 Virtual Arbor Day Celebration <https://extension.arizona.edu/events/2021-04-14/water-wise-brown-bag-seminar-planting-agaves-aid-bat-populations>
- December 06-09 8th National Grazing Lands Conference, Myrtle Beach, SC

2022

- February 06-10 75th Annual SRM Conference, Albuquerque, NM**

Many great events are also listed on the University of Arizona's EcoRestore Portal: <https://ecorestore.arizona.edu/calendar>

Arizona Section Society for Range Management

