



Arizona Section Newsletter

December 2017



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President's Message - James Heitholt

Rangers,

It's hard to believe, but we have put another year in the books, and from my perspective it's been a good one for the Arizona Section. The Year of Native Rangelands has been a huge success and the agenda for the upcoming winter meeting looks fantastic. If you are planning on attending the winter meeting and have not registered, then please do so soon. The winter meeting will also signal a transfer of leadership from myself to President Elect Iric Burden. I am honored to have served as your President and look forward to serving out the remainder of my commitment to the Board as Past President. Serving on the Board of Directors is a rewarding experience that I would recommend to everyone in the Section. Please have a wonderful holiday season with your families and I will see you next year!



Call for Auction Items!

Going once.....going twice....SOLD!

The Arizona Section will hold its annual live fundraiser auction at the winter meeting on Thursday January 04, 2018 during the membership social at 5:30 pm. Proceeds from the auction directly benefit the Natural Resources Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth (NRCWAY) and the Arizona Section itself. The auction is a fun tradition, and a great way to show your support for our Section and our opportunities for Arizona youth. Please consider bringing an item to the winter meeting to donate to our auction. You could even find yourself as the next proud owner of the branded, not-so-new traveling chihuahua, Pepé. See you there!

Don't forget about our Arizona Section Website!

Have you ever wondered what the Board of Directors has been up to between our general meetings? Have you ever wondered how to get in contact with a member of the Board, but don't have their contact information?



You can find all that and more at <http://azrangelands.org/>

Celebrating the Year of Native Rangelands in Arizona

SAVE THE DATE Arizona Section Winter Meeting

January 3 – 5, 2018

Apache Gold Casino & Resort, San Carlos, AZ

Board of Directors

President

James Heitholt
jheitholt@fs.fed.us

President-Elect

Eric Burden
Iric.Burden@az.usda.gov

Past President

Christine Thiel
cathiel@fs.fed.us

Vice President

Andrew Brischke
brischke@cals.arizona.edu

Secretary/Treasurer

Ashley (Shepherd) Hall
AshleyS3@email.arizona.edu

Director North

Joseph Dahms
Joseph.dahms@az.usda.gov

Director North

Erin Boyd
Erin.Boyd@az.usda.gov

Director South

Rachel Turner
racheltturner@email.arizona.edu

Director South

Doug Whitbeck
dwhitbeck@blm.gov

U of A Student President

Clara Miller
claramiller@email.arizona.edu

ASU Student President

Justin Eddinger
Justin.Eddinger@asu.edu

Good day to all range professionals,

On behalf of the AZ Native Range Committee, I would like to invite everyone to this year's AZ Section SRM Winter Meeting and help celebrate "Year of Native Range in Arizona". As many know, we have had two field tours and the summer meeting conducted on Tribal lands this year. We have pulled together some of the most progressive young range professionals, ranchers, and experienced agency range professionals to provide us with a diversity of information not readily known to those outside of the Tribal Range and Livestock Industry. We are extremely excited to be able to present this meeting to our Membership and all who are interested. We look forward to seeing all of you this winter!

Sincerely,
Iric Burden, President Elect

Agenda

Wednesday, January 3rd:

7:00 pm General Membership Meeting

Thursday, January 4th

7:00 am Registration

8:00 am Welcome from the San Carlos Apache Tribe

Thursday Morning Session: Showcasing the Work of our Native American Young Professionals

8:15 am Identifying Disconnects in Education to Careers in Rangeland Mgmt.,
Erin Boyd, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Holbrook, AZ

9:00 am Collaborative and Multi-disciplined Approaches to Achieving & Maintaining Animal and Environmental Health, *Santana Nez, U. of Arizona*

9:40 am Potential for Raising High Quality Beef Cattle on Native Rangelands,
Kimberly Yazzie, LaBatt Foods/Native American Beef Program

10:20 am Break

10:40 am Hualapai Forage Analysis, *Jessica Orozco, Range Specialist, Hualapai Department of Natural Resources, Hualapai Tribe, Peach Springs, AZ*

11:20 am Range Management on White Mountain Apache Tribal Lands, *Sisto Hernandez, Range Management Specialist, White Mountain Apache Tribe, White River, AZ*

12:00 pm Lunch

Celebrating the Year of Native Range in Arizona



Arizona Section 2018 Winter Meeting Agenda (Continued...)

Thursday January 4th:

Thursday Afternoon Session: Ranching on Native Rangelands

- 1:15 pm Ranch History & Operation
Steve Titla, President, Point of Pines Livestock Association, San Carlos Apache Tribe, San Carlos, AZ
- 2:00 pm 14R Ranches & the Navajo Beef Program
Elwood Pahi, Nahat'a Dziil 14R Ranch Corporation, Navajo Nation, Nahat'a Dziil, AZ
- 2:45 pm Break
- 3:00 pm Livestock Associations on the Tohono O'odham Nation
Homer Marks, Sr., Rancher, Tohono O'odham Nation, Sells, AZ
- 3:45 pm Ranching on the Hualapai
Clay Bravo, Rancher, District 1, Hualapai Tribe, Peach Springs, AZ
- 4:30 pm Closing Remarks – *Iric Burden*
- 5:30 pm Membership Social and Auction**
- 7:00 pm Banquet Dinner and Awards Presentation**

Friday, January 5th:

- 7:00 am Registration

Friday Morning Session: Agency and SRM Involvement on Native Rangelands

- 8:00 am The State of Native American Rangelands
Delane Atcitty, Arrowhead Resource Management and the SRM's Native American Rangeland Advisory Council
- 9:00 am NRCS Assistance on Tribal Rangelands in Arizona
Kenneth Gishi, State Rangeland Management Specialist, Arizona NRCS
- 9:45 am Break
- 10:15 am Western Navajo Agency Land Management District 3: Range Management Plan and Environmental Assessment, *Casey Francisco, Rangeland Management Specialist, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Tuba City, AZ*
- 11:00 am Water Conservation at Indian Springs, *Millie Titla, District Conservationist, NRCS and Howard Hooke, President, Ash Creek Livestock Association, San Carlos Apache Tribe, San Carlos, AZ*
- 11:45 am Adjourn
- 1:00 pm AZSRM Native Range Committee Strategic Planning Meeting
Moderated by Delane Atcitty**

The Native American Range Committee will be having a strategic planning session from 1 pm to 6 pm on Friday January 5th and people are more than welcome to sit in on the meeting.

Arizona Section - Society for Range Management 2018 Winter Meeting Registration

January 3-5, 2018
Apache Gold Casino & Resort, San Carlos, Arizona

Theme: "Celebrating the Year of Native Range in Arizona"

NAME: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

SPOUSE : _____

GUEST NAMES: _____

Registration Options	SRM Member	Non-SRM Member	SRM -Student
Full Registration Includes: Presentations, Thursday Continental Breakfast and Lunch, and Thursday Banquet Dinner	_____ \$125.00	_____ \$135.00	_____ \$75.00
Thursday only Includes: Presentations, Thursday Breakfast and Lunch	_____ \$75.00	_____ \$85.00	_____ \$35.00
Thursday Banquet Dinner Only	_____ \$35.00	_____ \$35.00	_____ \$35.00
Friday Only	_____ \$40.00	_____ \$50.00	_____ \$20.00

Event Total \$ _____

LATE REGISTRATION (after 12/15/17) \$25 per registrant \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Banquet Meal Selection (Please include the number of each selection)

Steak _____ Chicken _____ Salmon _____ Vegetarian _____

For additional information, contact Iric Burden at iric.burden@az.usda.gov or 928-864-5536

Please mail the registration form to: Ashley Hall, University of Arizona Gila County Cooperative Extension

5515 S. Apache Ave., Suite 600, Globe, AZ 85501-4428 or register online at <http://events.eventzilla.net/e/arizona-section-society-for-range-management-winter-meeting--year-of-the-native-rangelands--2138921813>

Please make your reservations at the hotel no later than December 15, 2017 in order to get AZSRM block rate.

2018 Candidates for Board of Directors Election

Vice President

Erin Boyd, Rangeland Management Specialist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Holbrook, AZ

My name is Erin Boyd. I'm from White Cone, Arizona on the Navajo Nation. This fact has shaped every aspect of my life and led me to a career in Rangeland Management. I am a proud graduate of the Natural Resources program at the University of Arizona and began my career as a Rangeland Management Specialist with the NRCS in 2013. While my passion has always been to return home and work on the reservation, I am grateful for my off- reservation experience in the Holbrook Field Office. My professional and personal experience has been unique and I feel even more passionately that rangelands are our most vital natural resource, on the reservation and off.

The Arizona SRM Chapter has been an important part of my professional life since my undergraduate years. Our Arizona Chapter contributes to a lot of valuable experiences, including NRCWAY camp, annual meetings and field tours. As a Vice Presidential nominee, I know that we can maximize our potential as we begin the strategic planning process and I am eager to see what goals the membership sets and accomplishes for itself. My experience on the Board of Directors as the Director North and a member of the Native Range Committee was invaluable the last couple of years and I hope to continue the tradition of the Spring and Fall Field Tours and our emphasis on tribal rangelands through our Native Range Committee. Thank you for your consideration.

Director South

Alisha Phipps, Rangeland Management Specialist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Tucson, AZ

Director North

Joshua Grace, Ph.D.

Josh has served as a Rangeland Resource Area Manager with the Arizona State Land Department, covering much of southeastern Arizona prior to a recent move North. He's a native Texan, drawn to Arizona in 2016 by the desire to experience the vast landscapes and diverse rangelands of the south west. Since then, he's immersed himself in Arizona rangelands and is able to spend a lot of time on the range, working with ranchers and other range professionals.



Josh has been a long time member of the national organization and Texas Section as both a professional and student. In addition to his time here in Arizona, he has worked in rangelands throughout Texas and Louisiana in both technical guidance and academic settings. He completed a Ph.D. in Wildlife Science in 2017 dealing in the realm of invasive species, particularly management-based research to control, restore, and develop strategies to cope with these species going forward. Among other things, Josh hopes to bring new professional perspectives and insight from past involvement with other state sections while serving as a Director North.

Lost Resources—Ernie Gipson

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Ernie Gipson. Ernie was an active member of the Arizona Section of the Society for Range Management for many years, and recently served as the Section's Treasurer before relocating to Oregon a few years ago. Ernie received the 2012 Outstanding Service Award in recognition for his dedication, work ethic, fresh ideas, smiles, and relationship-building with permittees in the Globe Ranger District of the Tonto National Forest. Ernie's career as a Rangeland Specialist for the Forest Service also included jobs on the Allegheny National Forest, the Thunder Basin Grassland, and most recently the Malheur National Forest. As a part of his career, Ernie often worked with correctional inmates to provide them with productive work experiences on public lands. Below is an obituary published for Ernie in the Daily Sentinel:



Photo from: <http://btimesherald.com/2017/10/18/ernie-gipson-1955-2017/>



Ernest M. Gipson

November 19, 1955 - October 6, 2017

Ernie Gipson was born on November 19, 1955, in Oklahoma City. He passed away from complications during a transplant surgery on October 6, 2017, in Portland, OR.



Ernie spent most of his childhood and teenage years in Grand Junction, where he attended Central High School. In Ernie's earlier years, he competed at a high level in professional rodeo circuits, and placed in the "Final 15" in 1979 for single steer roping.

Ernie is survived by his father, Tom; his step-mother, Carol; his sister, Nickey and his three children, Amanda, Chris and Sam. His mother, Maybelle, passed away in 2011.

Ernie was an amazing father and friend. He was loved by everyone he met, and was known for his jokes, his dry sense of humor, and his kindness towards others. His final years were spent living in John Day, Oregon working as a Rangeland Manager for the U.S. Forest Service. He had a successful career in the Forest Service for over 20 years.

A Celebration of Life for Ernie will be held at the New Castle Community Center in New Castle, CO on Sunday, November 5, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

Published in The Daily Sentinel on Oct. 20, 2017

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/gjsentinel/obituary.aspx?pid=187003600>

Director South Report — *Doug Whitbeck*

The days have grown shorter and cooler so that means it's monitoring season down here in southwest AZ! Unfortunately, it has been very dry and doesn't look like we'll see much improvement in the near future. Luckily, measuring Saguaro densities and digging soil pits are not precipitation-dependent and can be done year round! Otherwise, we are stuck under the florescent lights organizing data and rehabbing our monitoring equipment.

I want to thank everyone who helped setup the winter meeting this year, especially our Native Range Leaders. The agenda looks like it will be an interesting one for sure. It will be nice to get back east and visit the San Carlos Reservation to see what they have to show.

Well, my time as co-director south is coming to an end this winter. It's been a pleasure working with everyone on the board as well as the members. I've been somewhat involved in SRM for 5 years now and I can say it has helped my career development and given me new friends. I'll remain involved as a member and look forward to what the new directors bring to the table. Hope everyone has a good holiday season!



Director North Report — *Erin Boyd*

As I end my term as a Director North, I'd like to thank all of those who helped us plan and attended our Field Tours. I'd especially like to thank the communities of Tolani Lake, and the Hualapai and White Mountain Apache Tribes. It was very rewarding to showcase the work of ranchers and natural resources professionals on tribal lands. It was an honor to be a part of such a motivated and passionate Board of Directors and Chapter.

Our Winter Section meeting promises to be a good one. I am proud to end the "Year of Native Range" with a meeting that focuses on the unique challenges and opportunities that tribal rangelands present and the exceptional individuals and groups that manage them. My experience on the AZ SRM Board of Directors has given me the opportunity to be a part of the SRM Native American Rangeland Advisory Committee (NARAC) and I am especially excited to welcome NARAC Chair, Delane Atcitty, to our Winter Meeting to give a "State of Native Rangelands" address and moderate the Native Range Committee Strategic Planning Session. See you there!



Photo by: Doug Whitbeck

In the Spotlight: Jessica Orozco

AZ Section Social Media Coordinator

My name is Jessica Orozco and I am the Range Specialist of the Hualapai Nation and have been working for the Natural Resources Department for the last year. I got my bachelor's degree in botany from San Francisco State University and my Master's degree in Botany from Claremont Graduate University. If you can't tell, I like plants. For my thesis project, I conducted a floristic study of the South Fork Tule River Watershed, in the southern Sierra Nevada, the majority of which is within the boundaries of the Tule River Indian Reservation. The



project was motivated by my desire to call attention to the poorly documented botanical diversity on tribal trust lands, where native plants have great cultural significance. As the Range Specialist of Hualapai, I have enjoyed learning about plants as forage and forage nutrition as it pertains to cattle. I will continue to learn more about natural resource management and hope to incorporate more botanical work in my job responsibilities.

Student Chapter Activities

The University of Arizona student chapter, "Tierra Seca", is sending a strong team of 12 undergraduates to the 2018 annual SRM conference in Sparks, NV to compete in the Plant Identification Contest and/or Undergraduate Range Management Exam (URME) competition. In addition, Tierra Seca members are excited to attend the upcoming AZ Section winter meeting in January, at which they will hold a small raffle to fundraise for the upcoming annual conference. Coached by Dr. Larry Howery, the University of Arizona chapter has performed very well in the past at the URME competition in particular, frequently placing in the top five individual scores and team scores. Good luck to all of our students participating in these upcoming competitions!

BLM Internship Position Announcement

BLM's Phoenix District Office is seeking a motivated individual interested in rangeland monitoring on the Sonoran Desert National Monument. An ideal candidate has or is seeking a degree in rangeland management or closely related field and is comfortable working in group settings in remote environments. This is an internship through American Conservation Experience (ACE). If interested, please contact Doug Whitbeck at dwhitbeck@blm.gov for more details.

Field Follies

Andrew Brischke

It wasn't my fault. Well most of it wasn't my fault...

Occasionally I have to do some field work in the summer. Try as I might to avoid it, there were times I had to go out in the dead of heat and humidity of a late June day in the Arizona desert. Sometimes far out. Far more than 10 miles out one-way from the headquarters via ATV far.

I prepared. I had two water bottles frozen to provide me with cold water as they melted throughout the day and another bottle for the morning. It was going to be a short day despite the mileage. I was only taking photos of a riparian area near a road after all. No hike, just a drive.

The ride out was, well it was weird. It felt like the rear end on my ATV was fish-tailing. I heard a couple pings but chalked it up to small gravels hitting the frame. I couldn't figure it out. I had drunk my entire bottle of liquid water by the time I reached my site, but was still feeling the effects of the heat. I was halfway through my mission so I drank a couple drops of my melted water and turned for home.

On the return trip, I realized the fish-tailing was real and not dehydrated delusions. A few times I got off the bike and had to manually move the rear end to get it aligned. About five miles from HQ, it finally gave out. The single rear shock had broken and the bike wouldn't move at all.

Guess who gets to do one of his least favorite leisure activities for the next five miles? Guess who is already feeling heat stress and slight dehydration? Guess who has drops of water because block ice takes forever to melt even in the punishing late-June Arizona heat? Guess who decided it would be the perfect opportunity to break in brand new fire boots? That's right - straight out of the box, first-day wearing fire boots. #blisterbonanza.

I hiked, oh did I hike. I trudged from shrub to shrub taking sweet relief in the mid-day shade of an agave. I would sip my melted drops of water, get up and hike until I felt a little woozy again. I was living the hiking life a quarter-mile at a time. Did I mention the new boots?

It came to a point where the drops weren't enough anymore. I had about half a block left in each bottle but the small mouthpiece had the blocks captured. I sat down, looked for my knife in my pack, couldn't find it, picked up a semi-sharp rock, and mangled the bottles that held my ice hostage. What a pathetic sight I must've been, desperately sucking ice blocks to get through the last mile. Feeling slightly refreshed, I wobbled my blistered feet the rest of the way without a break.

Still feeling the effects of dehydration the next day, we went ahead and retrieved the broken down ATV. Rather, I watched my colleagues retrieve the ATV the next day because I was waddling like an injured penguin with my feet. Harsh lessons were learned that day, but it wasn't my fault. Ok, I take it back, aside from the ATV most of it was my fault. Again.

Calendar of Events

2018

January 03-05, 2018

Arizona SRM Winter Meeting

January 22, 2018

Brush Management Workshop, Santa Rita Experimental Range, AZ

January 28—Feb 02, 2018

Society for Range Management Annual Meeting, Sparks, NV

January 31—Feb 02, 2018

Cattle Industry Convention & NCBA Trade Show, Phoenix, AZ

April 3-5, 2018

AZ/NM Range & Livestock Workshop, Orderville and St. George, UT

December 02, 2018

National Grazing Lands Coalition Conference, Reno, NV



Arizona Section-Society For Range Management
c/o: Kelsey Hawkes
School of Natural Resources and the Environment
University of Arizona
1064 E Lowell Street
Tucson, AZ 85721

