

Society for Range Management



ARIZONA SECTION

President

Alvin Medina
928-853-1391
almedina777@hotmail.com

President-Elect

Don Luhrsen
602-526-4104
dluhrsen@fs.fed.us

Past President

Jim Sprinkle
928-474-4160
sprinkle@cals.arizona.edu

Vice President

Doug Tollefson
dougt@cals.arizona.edu

Secretary

Alisha Phipps
Alisha.phipps@az.usda.gov

Treasurer

Kendall Brown
520-281-2296
kbrown03@fs.fed.us

Directors North

Clare Hydock
928-635-4623
chydock@fs.fed.us
Chris Thiel
cthiel@fs.fed.us

Directors South

Richard Collins
rcc123@q.com
Kent Ellet
kellet@fs.fed.us

U of A Student President

Cameron Warner
cwarner@email.arizona.edu

ASU Student President

Cody Mosley
Cody.Mosley@asu.edu

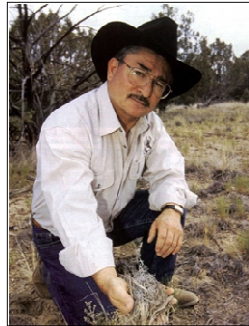
ASU Representative

Michael Sorensen
Michael.P.Sorensen@asu.edu

February, 2010

President's Message

[Http://azrangelands.org](http://azrangelands.org)



Saddlin up... with Al

Thank You! First, I want to thank Jim Sprinkle for the fine job he did as our President in 2009, as all the outgoing and current members of the Board of Directors (BOD). A special thanks to Don Luhrsen, 2009 Vice-President, who volunteered as editor/producer of the AZ-SRM newsletter. Another round-of-thanks to all volunteer members of the summer and winter planning committees, auction volunteers, committee chairpersons, and Wendy McCourt, ASU Student Chapter, who provided support for the summer meeting. Lastly but not least, AZ-SRM members who attended our summer meeting in Payson, and those that braved the winter winds and snow to attend the winter meeting in Prescott!

Welcome! I want to welcome incoming Director South - Richard Collins and Director North - Clare Hydock. Help me put these folks to work by contacting them with your ideas and questions. They are great and we look forward to productive year.

Now for Business. As your new president, I have proposed several goals for the BOD to work on in 2010. Please feel free to contact me and discuss these any other needs, questions, issues you may have. The goals include:

Improving membership service – Our membership database needs to be updated with the most current information, so that we can ensure that ALL members are receiving AZ-SRM notices. We intend to redesign our web site (<http://azrangelands.org/index.html>) so that members can obtain the most current news, e.g. newsletter, meetings, about SRM activities. Members will be able to access presentations from the summer and winter meetings, award posters, student activities featuring their graduate research, and information about Arizona rangelands and their stewardship. Quality membership service is very high on my list!

Improve communications with members, students and our publics – AZ-SRM has a very diverse membership consisting primarily of ranchers/producers, resource managers, scientists, and students. This entity of folks embodies a tremendous wealth of knowledge and experience that spans to the days of inception of the Society of Range Management in 1948. Everytime we “rub shoulders” during our gatherings, we walk away enriched with knowledge and knowing another friend you can call upon when in need. These interactions are essential to promote the mission of SRM in Arizona! We need every rancher/producer to help the professional folks stay focused on rangeland issues important to our region. As such, we need to enlist more members! ***Why would a producer not be a part of the only professional organization providing scientific evidence in support of livestock grazing?*** What we know of grazing management is in large part due to the pioneering efforts of rangeland professionals.

Deliver high quality summer and winter meetings – We seek to provide our members and publics with themes of significance that attract a diverse audience and provide the latest State –of–our –Knowledge information. (Continued, pg 2)

Continued from pg. 1

Enact new business guidelines for section officers and committee chairpersons – Jim Sprinkle began the process of updating the 1992 guidelines to reflect current and future business needs. After BOD reviews, the new guidelines will be presented to the general membership at the summer meeting for approval.

Fund-raise money for the S. C. Martin Scholarship Trust – In 2003, AZ-SRM began an effort to build a scholarship trust in memoriam of Dr. Martin, a strong promoter of SRM and rangeland management. Initial efforts raise \$2500 for the Trust, but we have not contributed to the effort in recent years. This year, Wink Crigler of X Diamond ranch in Springerville, offered a donation of ½ beef and a 2-nite stay at the X-Diamond Resort to AZ-SRM to raffle and raise money for the Trust. With her generosity and our hard work, we seek to raise enough funds to be able to make the first awards at the winter meeting. *Do I hear any other offers?* This will be an important trail mark for the fellow members who began this effort, to see their efforts bear fruit.

Increase our membership – AZ-SRM membership started with 27 members in 1950. Between 1960-1990, membership was near 300-350. That has declined to about 166 in 2002 and we stand about 210 today. Historically, nearly 50% of the membership were ranchers, but today ranchers comprise about 25%. We need to increase rancher and student memberships, as well as regain previous members. AZ-SRM has much to offer all professions. Every AZ-SRM President has emphasized membership as a goal, and I renew ***the challenge to our members to bring in one new member.*** Quite simply ... I'll see and raise you! Ask your fellow member if they have contributed to the cause. Applications are available from SRM www.rangelands.org/index.shtml, Shai Schendel (928-774-2401), or send me a note or call me to chat: almedi-na777@hotmail.com, (928-853-1391).

Have A Great Time Working With AZ-SRM! Yes, at the end of the day – we're going to celebrate our successes with our fellow members.

SRM National News – Briefly, SRM is also in state of transition, trying to plan for the future, including developing a Strategic Plan. At the Advisory Council, we deliberated important issues (e.g. membership, marketing, member services, rangeland issues (livestock-wildlife interactions), that need to be dealt in order to be more effective in providing quality customer service and promoting our mission. We forwarded several recommendations to the Board. **Continued on page 10**

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS RECOGNIZED AT ANNUAL MEETING

At the Annual Meeting in Prescott on 20 January 2010, the University of Arizona and Arizona State University recipients of the Section's Outstanding Undergraduate Student Scholarship were recognized. The scholarship recognizes the outstanding student in a degree program emphasizing rangeland management. Each recipient receives a check for \$300, and a one-year membership in the Society for Range Management.

The recipient from Arizona State University was Antonio Lopez. He is a Junior, graduating in the Fall of 2010, majoring in Wildlife and Restoration Ecology with an emphasis in Rangeland Ecosystem Management. He looks forward to a career in Wildlife Habitat and Rangeland Ecosystem Management. He is on the Rangeland Plant Identification team at ASU and will compete in the SRM Plant Identification Contest in Denver.

The recipient from the University of Arizona was Cameron Warner. He is currently the President of the Student Chapter called Tierra Seca, and is a member of the team planning to participate in the Undergraduate Range Management Exam at the upcoming national meeting in Denver. He will graduate in May 2011 with a BS degree in Natural Resources with an emphasis in Ecology and Management of Rangelands. He was raised in the Normal, Illinois and selected to attend the University of Arizona because of the opportunities available in natural resources and environmental science. In the classroom, he has received two awards for academic distinction from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. He is currently assisting a graduate student with the field portion of a research project. He will pursue a career in the field of rangeland management, but has not narrowed his pursuit to any specific position.

On a related topic, Corey Picraux a junior at the University of Arizona will receive the Marcelle E. Schmutz Memorial Scholarship given in memory of Erv Schmutz's father. Erv was a longtime faculty member in Range Management at UA. He was born and raised in Lincoln, Nebraska, and is currently Secretary of Student Chapter called Tierra Seca. He is a junior in the School of Natural Resources and the Environment at the University of Arizona with a focus on rangeland management. He has been a Seasonal Ranger for the National Park Service and is interested in working for either the National Park Service or Forest Service after completion of completing his degree.

Range Manager of the Year - Ron Fish and the Santa Fe Ranch

Ron Fish has been the manager of the Santa Fe Ranch for over 30 years. The ranch is located in Santa Cruz County, 5 miles north of the US/Mexico border, directly in the middle of Nogales, Arizona, and has been in operation since the 1950's. The ranch is nearly entirely private land and consists mainly of mountainous uplands and the Santa Cruz River. From the start, the Santa Fe Ranch have been great supporters of coordination and cooperation of their ranching activities initiating projects with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Santa Cruz Natural Resources Conservation District as well as with many agencies and entities to address major resource concerns on the ranch including; brush management, erosion control structures and public outreach.

The ranch was converted to a non-profit foundation in 2007 and has established an educational center at the headquarters in order to keep the ranch unit operable without development. Since then, nearly 1,200 kids per year participate in workshops and field trips held at the ranch. Curriculum is focused on the K-8 and is based on the AZ State Standards for Education and children learn about livestock, native plants, opportunities in agriculture and are able to work in the nectar garden that has been established. Along with the youth activities, the ranch also host the University of Arizona Beef Production class to participate in a hands-on livestock workshop and the Santa Cruz NRCDC has established an information kiosk center and uses the ranch for educational programs and district meetings.



Ron Fish and the Santa Fe Ranch are deserving recipients of the 2009 Range Manager of the Year Award.

Professional & Technical Guidance - John L. Sullivan

In 2005, John Sullivan was hired as the Pima County Rangelands Resources Program Manager. John has a solid history as a ranch owner and manager in southern Arizona. Pima County has in place one of the most comprehensive conservation and land use plans in the nation, the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, and has acquired 12 ranches totaling over 280,000 acres.

John works with each operator to understand the unique constraints and opportunities of individual ranch's to maintain a sustainable operation that first and foremost meets the county conservation goals as identified in the SDCP. John understands the ranching industry and blends science and ranch common sense. Because he is working with prior owners he walks a constant tightrope of moving the county range agenda forward while honoring previous operational methods. John has taken on the challenges of developing a broad based range management program for Pima County from scratch. Through collaborative modeling, John is working hard to base the new program on science and best management practices.

John works closely with partner agencies and strongly endorses the Coordinate Resource Management planning process for county ranches. He has placed a priority on establishing or enhancing monitoring on all the properties. After several years of acquiring properties, John initiated a process to establish the grazing program Standards and Guidelines for the county, based on Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service programs, John worked with county staff and outside support to generate a draft document that is currently out for public review.



Congratulations to John Sullivan for receiving the 2009 Professional and Technical Guidance Award.

Outstanding Young Professional - Sean Lockwood

Sean Lockwood started his Forest Service career as a volunteer, working his way through college as a wildland firefighter and then as a student trainee until he graduated from the University of Arizona in 2006. He was converted to a permanent position as a Rangeland Management Specialist at the Nogales Ranger Station upon graduation.

Working with his permittees using adaptive management strategies, Sean has adjusted AOI's changing pasture rotations in response to and changing historic grazing regimens on entire ranch units as a whole. Sean has also been an instrumental figure in the development of Coordinated Management Plans in his work area involving several land owners and agencies.

Sean has received almost \$281,000 for infrastructure repairs after wildfires and installment of new wildlife and livestock waters from sources like such as the AZ Game and Fish for allotments in his district. He has worked extensively with US Dept of Homeland Security, Border Patrol and permittees to alleviate management issues pertaining to open gates by purchasing and installing cattle guards for roads in areas where trafficking and patrolling use is high.

Collaborating with the Santa Cruz NRC, he has helped host the first of several workshops for the Nogales Ranger District grazing permittees. Discussed in these workshops are issues pertaining to livestock health, supplementation, management strategies, rangeland resource base, monitoring and funding opportunities.

Along with these accomplishments, Sean has also acted officially and unofficially as Lead Range Management Specialist for the District since June 2008. Sean is well liked among his peers and, he understands the issues facing public lands ranching very well, and works hard to overcome obstacles that inhibit ranching and promotes sustainable land management. Congratulations to Sean for receiving the 2009 Outstanding Young Professional Award.

University of Arizona student chapter of the Society for Range Management: Tierra Seca

The 2009-10 school year has been business as usual for Tierra Seca at the University of Arizona. Currently there are ten members participating regularly in chapter activities. Two of the ten students in the club are graduate students. These graduate bring new innovative ideas to the chapter with the combination of their experience and their own individual and unique expertise. Undergraduate members are highly valued due to the amount of time they donate ensuring the club activities run smoothly.

The fall semester typically entails fund raising activities to make certain the club can support the students traveling to the annual SRM meeting. Members were actively raising funds by providing refreshments at the RISE symposium which was held on the UofA campus. A bake sale was also held. In addition to these events Tierra Seca will be working on an Erosion Control and Arroyo Restoration project this spring hosted by the Altar Valley Conservation Alliance and Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge.

Three members traveled to Denver, Colorado this year to represent the U of A at the SRM annual meeting. All three members participated in the Undergraduate Range Management Exam. Two students took the exam for the first time and the third for a second time. The overall experience was a positive one. Students will soon begin studying again for next year's exam. Members also enjoyed a variety of interesting talks and poster presentations while attending the annual meeting.

Throughout the course of the upcoming summer, students will participant in diverse activities. Some students currently have jobs in place with the Forest Service in the Coronado National Forest, as well as the Natural Resources Conservation Service located in Tucson. Other students will be continuing on with field research at the Barry M. Goldwater Range and The Santa Rita Experimental Range. Also, chapter members will be found volunteering at the Arizona Desert Museum.

Tierra Seca embraces a strategy which further promote its' members the opportunity to work with professionals in their field of interest as well as encouraging work experience with government agencies. Fellowship among students and faculty members is an important and significant goal that continues to be carried forward and is evolving every day. The Society for Range Management student chapter at the University of Arizona is constantly working on ideas which will benefit the University as well as the community that surrounds it.

Cameron Warner

President UA Student Chapter

The AZ SRM will be calling for Posters
for
upcoming Summer and Winter meetings



Thanks for all the support! The **ASU section** of the Society of Range management is looking forward to a very productive year. Recently we assisted at Southwest Vegetation Management Association meeting held in Casa Grande. At ASU the Society of Rang Management is part of a Wildlife Restoration Student Association also known as WRSA. With four parent associations represented in WRSA interest of students varies and allows for many opportunities to broaden knowledge and understanding of rangelands. We recently had 14 students prepare for the Society of Range Management meeting Plant ID Contest in Denver, with 5 members being able to attend. With an increase interest in plant ID and rangeland management from students at ASU we are looking forward to a great year. A student with flash cards or carrying plants to learn is a common sight throughout the wildlife and ecology concentration. This year we have a goal to get all members of WRSA to become registered members of our parent societies so all can receive greater benefits.

Michael Sorensen

Vice President Representative for SRM

Your thoughtful input is requested.

During the Arizona Section General Membership portion of the Winter Meeting we introduced a proposal for adding several award categories:

??????? This award category still needs a name. Some suggestions for a name are "Innovator", "Ground-breaking", and "Spot Award". This recognition is to provide the Arizona SRM Section an opportunity to occasionally recognize individuals for their contributions to the general field of range management.

It is proposed that this award would not be an annual award nor limited to a set number of awards in any one year. The intent is to highlight how, any time during the year, a person's work, projects, activities and/or accomplishments has contributed to the progression of range management in a way that deserves recognition. This award would be used to complement, recognize, and applaud an individual or group deserving recognition for efforts in Range Management and would be a formal way of saying, "Way To Go".

Recipients of this award would be recognized throughout the year in the newsletters.

A Fellow Award in recognition of exceptional and dedicated service to the Arizona Section of SRM.

This would not be an annual award. There may be several years between awards. The purpose would be recognize someone's contributions in serving the Section and making the Section successful.

Publication Awards for "Technical Writing", "Popular Article" and "Special Category". This category would provide an opportunity to recognize those who have published great articles, studies and reports.

Plant ID and URME Contests at the Winter Meeting with awards for Top Team and Top 3 Individuals. It has been suggested to invite New Mexico State to participate (Of course the AZ schools will win each year: Right?) Dr. Larry Howry has agreed to take the lead on the URME contest. Doug Tolleson has agreed to help with the Plant ID contest. Anyone else interested in volunteering to help with these contests?

Nominations for the first 3 categories above would be submitted to the Awards Committee. The Awards Committee Chair would present recommendation(s) to the Board of Directors during their regularly scheduled meetings. The Board of Directors would make the final decision on the nominee(s) recommended by the Awards Committee.

Please comment to Kent Ellett by e-mail at kellett@cox.net, by mail at 27 W. Calle Bayeta, Sahuarita, AZ 85629 or by phone at 520-975-0902.



Incoming President Al Medina (left) proudly presents Outgoing President Jim Sprinkle with the traditional Section belt buckle while congratulating Jim on a "job well done"! This beautiful silver buckle is awarded to the outgoing President at the end of their tenure.

Jim is now the Past President with responsibilities for gathering nominations for next years Board of Directors and Vice President. Please help him by volunteering for the Nominations Committee or offering yourself as a nominee for the AZ SRM. Positions available will be one Director North and one Director South and the Vice Presidency.



Howdy! This is my first opportunity to write for the AZ Section Newsletter so I thought I would start off with a bang. Actually if I had really wanted to stir things up, I would have chosen to write about the pros and cons of rotational versus continuous grazing... Anyway, some of you may have read my article in the October 2008 issue of the [Rimrock Report](#). The title of that piece was "Red, Blue, and Green". In it, I gave my opinion of global warming and the politics associated with the topic, so I won't revisit that here. What I do want to touch on is the topic of carbon. Carbon sequestration is one of the mitigation strategies to help deal with climate change. It also happens to go hand in hand with good range management in many instances. We all know how variable rangelands are, in both space and time. And we know how finicky the weather that occurs in these ecosystems can be. Both these statements are related and both affect our ability to measure, model, and manage for carbon sequestration. I had the opportunity to attend a symposium on carbon sequestration on rangelands at the recent SRM meetings in Denver. It was a quality session with several good speakers. As usual the Q&A session was the most informative and entertaining part of the day. Not surprising, climate change became part of the discussion and I was pleased to hear that most of the panel felt we needed to expend more effort on planning for and adapting

to the climate than debating about it. If rain forests are the "poster child" of carbon sequestration, then rangelands are the "ugly stepsister". Range may not match forests in biomass per hectare, but at ~50% of the earth's land area, rangelands play an important global role in this function. So, we may not all agree on the extent or the causes of climate change and the contribution of carbon sequestration on rangelands, but I'll bet we all agree that sound, science based stewardship of rangelands is vital to our continued ability to deal with both issues. Keep up the good work.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM DENVER



I go to the national meeting to renew my passion for the field of rangeland management. What I see at SRM is a Society that has adapted to embrace new ideas, worked hard to involve young people, and serves as a connection point for the profession. I attended the social gathering for the "Wild Women of Range" in Denver. I admit I do not feel so wild anymore, and was somewhat intimidated to attend this gathering at previous meetings. What I found was a group of dedicated range professionals (some



wild men, as well) that meet for the purpose of recognizing their colleagues in range, and to nurture young professionals and provide a support network. Oh yeah, they are a bit wild, too.

This Society has adapted to changing views of rangelands. I attended sessions focusing on carbon sequestration, use of biochar for soil amendment, targeted grazing to achieve desired resource conditions, and grassfed beef production and nutritional benefits to consumers, to name a few.

Instead of anonymous job announcements, today's SRM offers employment workshops, a job fair staffed by potential employers, and an on-the-spot hiring event by Agencies. It's an exciting time to be a member. I am proud to be part of a group with a passionate resource ethic, dedicated to the application of our collective knowledge towards sustainable uses of our rangelands.

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Winter Meeting in Prescott — Day 1 Speakers

Left to right: Dan Dagget, Bill Miller, Jeff Sorensen, Dan Robinett, Doug Tollefson, Cecil, Schwalbe, Phillip Rosen,

Jeff Sims

John Rinne



Left to right: Roger Oyler, Steve Williams, Steve Spangle, Don DeLorenzok, Amy Unthank, Dennis Parker

Winter Meeting in Prescott — Day 2 Speakers



The Editor thanks all who contributed to this effort to keep our members and other publics informed about the Arizona Section of the SRM. My apologies for the delay in getting this published. Spring has sprung.



(Continued from Page 2)

As a member of the Membership Task Force, I report the committee has been working to develop a marketing plan to address our current and future membership needs. Every year there are fewer jobs in rangeland science/management. Agencies have become more diversified with specialists, and universities that offer range degrees are fewer. However, rangeland issues have not diminished. Every day important decisions about the future of rangelands are deliberated, some without input from rangeland professionals and producers. How does a diverse organization (SRM) meet today's needs and plan aptly for the future – build upon the strength's of the organization with a strong, informed, and unified membership. More on this later but suffice to say that the time is now to get things planned right and done!

The National Meeting were well attended and largely a success. The meeting was held jointly with the great folks from the Weed Science Society of America, and Wow ... twice the value. The SRM producer sessions were very well received and largely the talk of the day.

Arizona Happenings – Our winter meeting was a great success ... lot's of positive comments, e.g. "*provocative*", "*very educational*", "*ready for chapter II*". The summer meeting is in the planning stage, but mark time on the calendar to attend, probably sometime in late July, and probably in a cool venue.

In closing, I know we (BOD) have much work to do, but the rewards are plenty for years to come. I want to remind everyone ... I need your help in making AZ-SRM prosper, and be an example for other Sections. Simply said: "*I need your help in getting new members. So, write to me, call me, send me smoke signals as what you have to offer. Let me build on your contribution*"!

Your AZ-SRM President,

Alvin L. Medina

SRM's VISION: a well-trained and highly motivated group of professionals and rangeland users working with productive, sustainable rangeland ecosystems.

Our MISSION: to promote the professional development and continuing education of members and the public and the stewardship of rangeland resources.

New Members

As of Feb 28, 2010

Anna Masayesva

Michael C Raby

Antonio Lopez

Piero DeSimone

Cody Mosley

Sean Lockwood

David Womack

Shea f. Meyer

Elizabeth Anne Freniere

Stephen Christian

Jason M. Stevens

OUTREACH FOR RANGE TECH POSITIONS

I wanted to let you know we will have two seasonal Range-Tech positions (GS-4 & GS-5) to fill this spring on the Sawtooth National Forest, Fairfield Ranger District, in Fairfield Idaho. Employment will start beginning to mid May and go through August or September. The positions will have a primary responsibility of collecting baseline data for our riparian monitoring program. An understanding of riparian vegetation and identification skills is desired but not an absolute as we will be working alongside them and can provide a great deal of OJT.

After the primary data is collected on the riparian areas this spring there will be additional responsibilities directed at these positions during the summer months. Some of these responsibilities may include performing ecological site surveys, utilization mapping, compliance checks on livestock and correct pasture rotation, documenting maintenance on fencing improvements, and performing trough and waterhole inspections. Much of the field work will be performed via horseback or trail bike. These two positions will also receive training and gain experience in utilizing GPS units and the accompanying programs such as ArcMap, DNR Garmin, and Garmin Mapsource.

Any applicants to the positions will need to have a valid driver's license, a desire to learn, enjoyment of the outdoors, an ability to understand and utilize electronic gadgets, and experience with livestock especially horses and cattle. It is also necessary to be in decent physical condition as the job will require some hiking and generally 8 to 10 hour days. Other benefits to the position would be the opportunity to gaze on some truly beautiful country, and enjoy riding into remote areas in the performance of administrative responsibilities. As time permits, both positions could also assist the other disciplines in our office in activities such as performing wildlife surveys, trail building/clearing projects, and aspen enhancement projects.

If you know of any individuals who would like further information concerning these positions, and a foot in the door opportunity, they can contact Kevin Eldredge @ (208) 764-3465.

To fill out an application or post your resume for the position go to www.usajobs.gov/, click on **Search Jobs**, then **Advanced Search**, and type in **0455** in the Series Number Search. Make sure to highlight **Forest Service** under the heading Agriculture Department Of: before clicking on the **Search For Jobs** button. Select and click the Range Technician position you are qualified for and you will be redirected to AVUE Digital Services at www.avuedigital.com/ where you can fill out and submit the application. *It is necessary when filling out the application to list Fairfield, Idaho as the preferred work location.*

Kevin Eldredge
Rangeland Management Specialist
Fairfield Ranger District
Sawtooth National Forest
(208) 764-3465

'Blast from the Past' Photo ID Contest - The first person to correctly identify the three current Arizona Section members in this photo will receive a prize (no, it's not a belt buckle, you have to become President to get one of those). Of course, the three members pictured in the photo are not eligible to participate and should be suspicious of friends calling them out of the blue. Please send your answers to my email address and good luck!

Willie Sommers, Section Historian
(willie_sommers@hotmail.com)



~MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION~

Membership in the Society for Range Management is open to anyone engaged in or interested in any aspect of the study, management, or use of rangelands. Membership rights and privileges include: voting, committee service, nomination and election to offices, subscription to Rangelands journal and the SRM News. Arizona Section newsletter (for AZ Section members), discounted prices for publications, meeting registration fees, page charges and certification fees. For more information on membership in SRM or to request a Membership application, please contact Shai Schendel at the following e-mail: Shai.Schendel@az.usda.gov.

**** MEMBERSHIP SPONSORSHIP ****

The Board of Directors opted to sponsor a one-year regular membership to the Society for Range Management. Section members are encouraged to submit nominations of an individual who is not a SRM member, would benefit from participation and likely to retain membership. Deadline for submissions is November 30. A final selection will be made by the Board of Directors and announced at the winter meeting. Submit nominations to Al Medina (almedina777@hotmail.com) along with a brief description of merit.

Arizona Section-Society For Range Management

2324 E. McDowell

Phoenix, AZ 85006

