



Arizona Section Newsletter

JUNE 2014



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President's Message:

Greetings,
 As I write this, I can't help but think about Alice Cooper's first major hit single "School's Out" also known as "Schools Out for Summer." Because once the school year ends in May it's time for summer vacation (I sure miss those days)! My hope is that you consider our Summer Meeting in August as a means to escape the heat, visit with other natural resource professionals, and learn from presentations and discussions in the field. This year our summer meeting will be in Show Low, with the focus on Forest Ecosystem Restoration in the White Mountain Region. The program and field tour has been developed by University of Arizona Cooperative Extension; the Arizona Section will make arrangements for group camping and morning/evening meals. More details to follow! Oh, and don't forget about the August 16th University of Arizona workshop 'Better Photos-Better Rangelands' taught by *Arizona Highways* photographers to improve the photography skills of ranchers, range and natural resource scientists, land managers, students and consultants alike.



In our last newsletter I indicated that our Section needs a President-Elect; hopefully you have heard that Mary Nichols has been approved by the Board of Directors. Thank you and congratulations! Mary is going to spearhead our summer meeting, along with assistance from the AzSRM Board of Directors. Our Section is in good shape, with Mary and Chris Thiel on deck as future Presidents.

Speaking of the future, I want to share some thoughts on our organization. Beyond Show Low in August, what are the plans for the Arizona Section, Society for

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2014 Summer Arizona SRM Meeting

Save the Date -

What: 2014 Summer Arizona SRM Meeting

Where: Lewis Canyon Campground Show Low, Arizona

When: August 14-16, 2014

The 2014 summer meeting of the Arizona Section of the Society for Range Management will be held in conjunction with a University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Service Conference on Forest and Range Restoration focusing on the forest ecosystems of the White Mountain Region.

In addition to the technical conference, there will be an AzSRM general membership meeting and a hamburger BBQ. The Lewis Canyon Campground in the area will serve as our lodging for the week.

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Board of Directors*President**Willie Sommers**wsommers@azland.gov**President-Elect**Mary Nichols**Mary.nichols@ars.usda.gov**Past President**Mike Hemovich**Mh520@aol.com**Vice President**Christine Thiel**cathiel@fs.fed.us**Secretary/Treasurer**Ashley Shepherd**AshleyS3@email.arizona.edu**Director North**Kelsey Hawkes**khawkes@azland.gov**Director North**Shai Schendel**Shai.schendel@az.usda.gov**Director South**John Hall**jahall@blm.gov**Director South**Steve Barker**SteveBarker.az@gmail.com**U of A Student President**Emily Pecilunas**epecilunas@email.arizona.edu**ASU Student President**Matt Kilford**mkilford@asu.edu***President's Message...continued from Page 1**

Range Management? Planning ahead takes dialogue, brainstorming and narrowing the focus to what is realistic and achievable. Is there a specific role for AzSRM that we need to emphasize more (or less)? At our summer meeting, I would like to have some open dialogue about the next 1-2 years of our organization. We will have our general membership meeting on Thursday night, so we can have the most participation from all of you. While we get together at least twice a year, and have very productive meetings, more dialogue is a good thing for our future!

With that being said, please stay tuned for information about our summer meeting; keep an eye on our webpage, and our Facebook page as well. And please, if you have any comments or suggestions, just let me know!

Regards,

Willie

2014 Summer Arizona SRM Meeting...continued from Page 1

The Conference will include a day of indoor talks (Thursday, August 14) followed by an all-day field tour on Friday, August 15. In addition, a photography workshop titled "Better Photos-Better Rangelands" will be held on Saturday, August 16 for those interested in improving their photography and photo monitoring skills. The workshop is limited to 50 participants.

Online registration and additional logistical details will follow, but please Save the Date and we will plan to see you in Show Low!

For further information on the AzSRM summer meeting contact Mary Nichols:

Mary Nichols
 USDA-ARS Southwest Watershed Research Center
 Tucson, AZ 85719
mary.nichols@ars.usda.gov
 520-647-9062

Welcome New Members**JANUARY**

Retta Bruegger

Grand Junction CO

MARCH

Tyler Mccafferty

Mesa AZ

Hal Moore

Gilbert AZ

Justin Poulter

Mesa AZ

APRIL

John Melko

Tucson AZ



Announcing:

Better Photos-Better Rangelands

This 1-day outdoor plant and landscape photography workshop offered by The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, and taught by nationally recognized **Arizona Highways Magazine** photographer, [Bruce Taubert](#) and photography editor [Jeff Kida](#) will be held Saturday, August 16, 2014 in Show Low, AZ just after the [Arizona Section, Society for Range Management](#) and [Navajo County Extension](#) meeting titled: **Economic Development, Ecosystem Services, Environmental Stewardship.**



Plant identification is the baseline skill for professionals in rangeland management and associated disciplines. A personal library of high quality images enhances ones field botany skills and helps familiarize novice or “off their range” participants during collaborative monitoring efforts.

Similarly, repeat photography is a critical rangeland monitoring technique as old as the range management profession itself. The quality of these repeat images impacts their utility to inform management or restoration decisions.



Workshop Agenda:

Saturday August 16, 2014. Show Low Arizona (Field Site TBD)
\$125/per participant, must pre-register to attend.



8:00 AM. Introductions and lecture on the basics of camera operation and use. The goal for this session is to ensure that participants have a working knowledge of their camera. Topics include:

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Aperture Settings | Shutter Speeds |
| Camera Modes | Iso |
| White Balance | Exposure |
| Focusing | Time Lapse |
| Composition | Depth of Field |

10:00 AM. Break.

10:20 AM. Lecture on close up photography. Most cameras need some lens modification to be used for macro photography and there are techniques that make getting a great photograph much easier. Using artificial lighting techniques, shade boxes, and other "tricks of the trade" can make the difference between a bad photograph and one that can be used for plant ID or whatever your needs.

Noon. Lunch (bring your own, we will have water, soft drinks, etc...)

1:00 PM. The goal of this session is to give the participant enough landscape expertise so that they never take another unusable landscape photograph. Lecture on Landscape photography including an introduction to all of the major field tools used to photograph landscapes. Topics include:

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| Lighting | Composition |
| Lens Selection | Time of day |
| Exposure | Tripods |

3:00 PM. Go out and take some photographs! If the participants bring their own or work cameras we will assist them in preparing the cameras for photo documentation. We will demonstrate close up and landscape techniques and answer any questions the participants have about cameras and photography.

5:00 PM. End of workshop.

Sponsored by:**Grand Canyon Trust****Yavapai County****The University of Arizona**

As a rangeland educator, my objective for **Better Photos-Better Rangelands** is to improve the photography skills of ranchers, range and natural resource scientists, managers, students, and consultants.



I encourage you to take advantage of this unique opportunity to learn photography from the pros; in the field among your plant ID and range management peers. Register now and stay tuned for more details.

It should be a *“great day to be in Arizona!”*

Doug Tolleson

Registration is limited to the first 50 participants. Cost is \$125 per participant. You must pre-register to attend, We will email field site location and other info as it becomes available.

Name
 Email
 Number of participants
 Their names, etc....

CC info _____
 Make check payable to University of Arizona
 Mail to
 Debra Pearson
 4005 N. Forest Road 618
 Rimrock, AZ 86335



Director North Report - Kelsey Hawkes

Hello fellow rangelanders!

I'd like to start by giving thanks to the section for voting me in as the new Director North. I know it must have been tough choosing between my name and that blank line next to it on the ballot! The section has done a good deal for me in the past as a student, and I am very happy to give back and do what I can to help the Society be successful. I have been learning the ins and outs of being a Director and doing what I can to help our committees meet their goals.

As most of you know, I recently graduated from the University of Arizona in 2012. Some of you may now be looking back and reminiscing on what life was like as a young range manager or rancher. For me, I can certainly say that I am having a great time saddling up horses, driving around to the middle of nowhere, rolling around in the dirt to get a closer look at a plant, and getting excited by the smallest amounts of water. I spend a lot of my time working directly with ranchers and other land management agencies to set and meet goals for the rangeland and livestock. The most frequent question that I hear from long-time, older generation ranchers when I first meet them is, "*How old* are you again?" To which I usually reply, "*How old* are *you*?" (fortunately laughing always follows).



This year was a tough year for the cool season ephemeral stocker operations that are within my management area. Some regions received a colossal 3-4 inches of rain in November and December, which gave the appearance of a good start for an even greater season. By January, we were excited to see dense landscapes full of annual forbs and grasses carpeted across the soil like a golf course. Ranchers were eager to get their cattle on the ground to get started. A couple more small rain events rolled through in February and we gave some small sighs of relief. With our fingers crossed, we passed into March. No rain had reached the soil for many days. And still no rain (we all know the story). The vegetation was starting to seed out and senesce all too quickly. Finally we had decided that the time had come to end the season. Cattle were gathered, weighed, sorted, and shipped away by mid-March.

While it wasn't the best grazing season, it was certainly a great year for practicing adaptive management strategies in times of drought. In Arizona, we are all aware that as rangeland and business managers, we need to be thinking one step ahead and be prepared for those good conditions to turn bad in an instant, asking questions like "what is my plan if...?" Reading the landscape, evaluating our options, taking risks, and making important decisions are constantly at the front of our attention. I was very excited to see how easily most of my ranchers had owned up to the fact that it was time to move out. There was no crying, whining, frustration, or trying to convince me that there was plenty of feed left. Even though some regions had received a couple inches of rain only a few days after moving out and others were rained on *as* they were moving out (like climate was laughing right in their faces), each rancher stood behind his/her decision to move out when they did. They understand the balance between the ecology and the management and the resulting long-term benefits. As a young professional with a long career ahead of me, I look forward to working with these and other ranchers on even tougher challenges yet to come.

In other news, if you're looking to escape the heat, there's plenty of opportunity up in the northern country including the summer meeting in Show Low! I look forward to helping out with that as well as NRCWAY in the upcoming months. Remember to submit your award nominations to Jamie Wages by the end of August. In the meantime, you can find me chasing ice creams trucks around Phoenix as the summer hits full swing!

Natural Resources Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth (NRCWAY)



We are excited and plans are well underway for the 2014 Natural Resources Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth. The workshop will take place June 23-27 at the Arizona 4-H Camp at Mingus Springs, located in the Prescott National Forest, between Prescott and Jerome. Youth will be able to explore the great outdoors as we bring together the latest in science and natural resource technology. They will gain hands-on experience as they learn about rangelands, forestry, water, wildlife, soils, plants, geology, and GPS.

IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO MAKE A DONATION.

The average cost per student attending is \$300 with students being asked to pay \$150 of this cost. The remainder is paid from donations received. Additional funds are used to provide scholarships to students unable to afford the \$150 workshop fee. Growing competition for our natural resources has made it increasingly important for today's youth, who will be tomorrow's decision makers, to have knowledge and appreciation of natural resource management. In order to keep the workshop affordable for all youth, your financial support would be greatly appreciated.

THE NRCWAY TRUST FUND CONTINUES TO GROW

In 1989 an endowment fund was established for the Natural Resources Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth. The goal is to build the endowment fund up to \$100,000 in order to provide a financial foundation to ensure the annual funding necessary for the perpetuity of this workshop. We are currently over half way there at \$54,000. We appreciate the support of all past donors who have contributed to the trust fund and we continue to request donations to reach our goal. The Natural Resources Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth is an excellent opportunity to invest in the future of Arizona's youth and its vital natural resources.

A gift can be provided in many different ways:

Cash gifts – outright or through a multiyear pledge

Memorial and tribute gifts – make a lasting tribute to the memory of family members and friends

Bequests – gifts by will, whether in the form of cash, securities, property or life insurance designation

Gifts in kind – gifts of property or equipment

To make a tax deductible donation. Your contribution should be made payable to AZ. SECTION, SRM - NRCWAY and mailed directly to Susan Pater, Financial Chair, NRCWAY, 450 S. Haskell Ave., Willcox, AZ 85643. AZ Section SRM Tax ID 23-7161064



THANK YOU TO OUR NRCWAY 2014 DONORS (as of May 17, 2014)

NRCD'S

Buckeye Valley Conservation District
Gila Bend NRC
Navajo County NRC Education Center
Pima NRC
Willcox San Simon RCEE District & NRC
Winkelman Resource Management Center

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS/BUSINESSES

Brock Habitat Restoration, LLC
Cochise-Graham Cattle Growers
Robinett Rangeland Resources

INDIVIDUALS

Austin, Josiah & Valer
Biedenbender, Sharon
Habgood, Mark
Hughes, Lee
Lunt, Tony
McClaran, Mitch
Miller, Keith
Piper, Bill & Posy
Thompson, Shane & Patina
Williams, Stephen

Nominate a Range Professional

Its that time of year again. Time to start considering and penciling down all those people who you find do Outstanding Service, who are exceptional Young and Professional, and provides Outstanding Professional and Technical Guidance. Also, who could leave out the opportunity to nominate a fantastic Range Manager for our 2014 Range Manager of the Year award. Remember, just because the award is presented at our 2015 meeting, their outstanding actions can span recent years. It is important to promote through in our fields that are doing stellar work, and I know many of you are. Just think, it is always nice to receive compliments for a good job well done. Don't fret; our nominees do not have to be Society members!

For Outstanding Service, that person must make significant advances and contributions to the art and science of range management in Arizona. This person should be pretty outstanding!

A Young Professional award nominee must be under 40 years of age (too bad we can't just be youthful at heart) who contribute to the betterment of range management through Arizona. Someone who works with 4H, or helps coordinate weed pulling events, or are asked to speak at a meeting. Any number of contributions would make a great nominee. Lets promote our young professionals.

Someone who is nominated for a Professional and Technical award can't be a rancher, or manager (save those people for our Range Manager award) but other individuals that are actively engaged in a professional field dealing with range management such as teaching, research, advice and counseling, technical assistance, or providing information via print or electronic media.

A Range Manager of the Year is a rancher or manager of a livestock operation that contributes to the art and science of range management (sense a theme). Do you know someone that is testing new or unusual methods, provides leadership, and worthy of special merit? If so, nominate these individuals.

Whoa, I already have a laundry list of people I can nominate, what about you? Just take one day, and think about those you enjoy interacting with, someone who you feel confident in, or enjoying having a cup of coffee with. What about those individuals make you feel good, I bet those are the types of people who should nominate. Arizona is a big state and there are endless opportunities. Send them my way!

Of course there are more to these short descriptions, so contact me and start the nomination process for a worthy individual.

Our deadline has been adjusted this year, please send your nominations to Jamie Wages at ajwages@fs.fed.us or call 928-402-6222. Deadline is August 30th 2014. Our committee needs ample time to go over nominations, plan field visits and get to know our candidates.

Dang, I just checked my email, no inquiries yet, I will be waiting.

Range Workshop

Steve Barker held a workshop on March 29 at Quarter Circle U Ranch near the Superstition Mountains. Topics included ranch history, long term monitoring on the Quarter Circle U, Beef quality improvement, Ceptometer plant growth study, ecological sites, and plant identification.



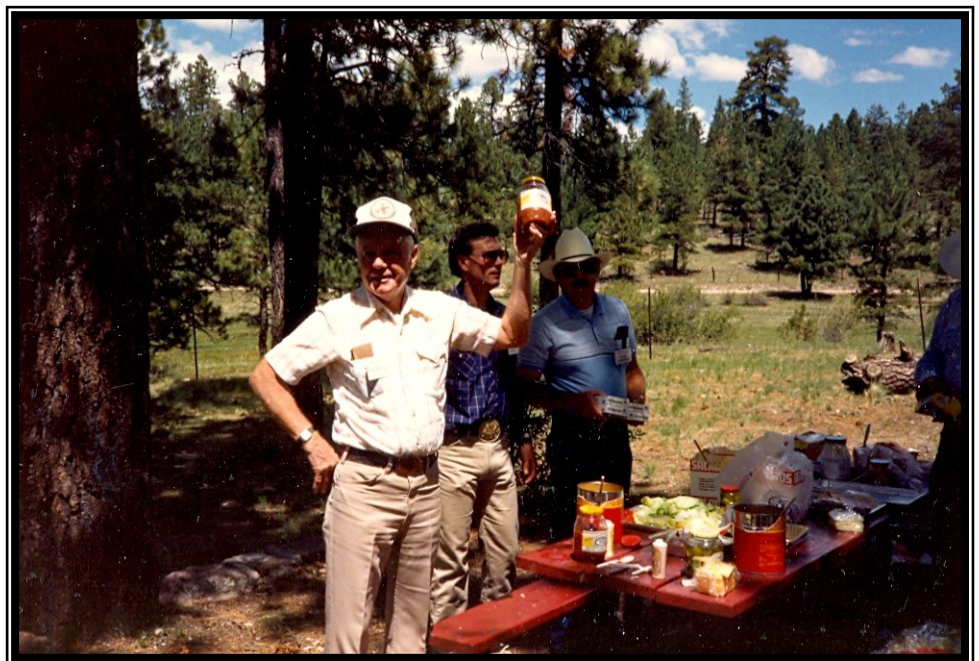
Workshop participants



Chuck Backus talks about Quarter Circle U Ranch history

From the Historical Files...

These two photographs are courtesy of Posy Piper, and were taken during the 1989 summer meeting. Based on our records, this meeting was held jointly with the New Mexico Section and had three topics: (1) Navajo Nation reforestation project, (2) Blue Water Lake watershed project, and (3) El Malpais National Monument Tour. For geographical reference, the meeting was held near Window Rock, Arizona and Gallup, New Mexico. And to be honest, I was not familiar with El Malpais National Monument, so I learned that the area features volcanic terrain like cinder cones and lava tube caves. There were only a total of 5 photos to choose from, but the two I picked are representative enough. I am not sure if the corn crop photo was taken on the Navajo Nation, but it is symbolic of summer and the old adage about corn being 'knee high by the 4th of July'. What can I say about the outdoor lunch photo? Well, I wonder about the jar of salsa being held up. Was it held up in high regard? Or was it made in New York City?



Calendar of Events



2014 NAIPSC Web Course

<https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1320350>

January 30-February 7, 2015

**68th SRM Annual Meeting & Trade Show
Sacramento, California**



Arizona Section-Society For
Range Management
1195 Solar Heights Dr.
Prescott, AZ 86303

