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U of A Student President

Ashley Shepherd

March, 2009



Hi all,

I am sure that all of you were greatly pleased with the quality speakers we had at our winter meeting in Sierra Vista. The majority of the speaker presentations are available now on our web site <http://azrangelands.org/>. I would like to thank all of the board of directors, agenda committee, registration desk volunteers, committee members, auctioneers, section members, and Bill Edwards for helping make this winter meeting a great success.

A brief report is in store for our representation at the SRM parent society Advisory Council (AC) meeting on February 8 and 9, 2009 in Albuquerque. The Arizona Section was well represented by Al Medina (President Elect), Don Luhrsen (Vice President), and yours truly.

The parent society annual meeting in 2010 will be held from February 7-11 in Denver with the Weed Science Society of America and the 2011 meeting will be held in Billings from February 5-11. The 2012 meeting will be in Spokane. A discussion ensued among the AC about possible locations for the 2013 meeting. There has been discussion of a joint meeting with the American Forage and Grassland Council. Locations investigated included St. Louis, Omaha, Kansas City, and Oklahoma City. After listening to the various options and prices, the AC voted to recommend St. Louis as the first choice and Omaha as the second choice. If a joint meeting is held

President's Message

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

in 2013 with AFGC, it may require moving the annual meeting to the last week of February. The 2013 location options will be investigated further with and without a joint meeting. It was noted that Tucson would most likely still not have adequate meeting facilities to host an annual meeting by 2014.

We received a report from the Membership Task Force and under Jack Alexander's able leadership, with some good recommendations to the parent society. We currently have 16% enrollment from universities, 15% from NRCS, 9 to 10% from USFS and BLM, and about 300 producers in the 3,343 total SRM memberships. The need to attract young professionals was discussed. Approximately 65% of the SRM membership is baby boomers and most of those individuals tend to quit SRM after they retire. The "old guard" who preceded baby boomers tends to stay with SRM after retirement. The Gen X generation has been defined as "working to live" or to have fun in their off time. I am not putting a stamp of approval on the above characterizations, just reporting what was said. One idea that has been forwarded for the annual meetings is to have training certification "tracks" for agency employ-

ees that could be worked on during the meeting. Tracks for producers were also mentioned. Personal contacts to expired members need to occur from a section leader after a second notice is sent. Membership renewal notices need to be sent by email and be correctly catalogued into the database when they are received. The AC passed a motion to the SRM Board of Directors advising them to provide adequate funding for the Membership Task Force to develop a marketing and business plan with professional input.

Improvements to the SRM website and online database that should be made were discussed. It should not take numerous clicks to migrate to the place you need and the abstract submittal process needs streamlining. The SRM Board of Directors has made it clear that they have heard the message about the need for improved access and performance for the web based database SRM is using.

A resolution to suggest holding a wild horse seminar (possibly on a regional basis) within two years was passed.

After a quite lengthy discussion, the AC recommended that the SRM Board of Directors develop a guidance document for quality abstracts and provide additional guidance

or peer review of papers submitted for presentation at SRM annual meetings. There would be a choice made for peer review or not when submitting an abstract.

The AC recommended that the SRM BOD work collaboratively with sister societies to assemble the appropriate science related to the issue regarding interactions between domestic and wild animals and from that information develop a position statement and create educational material that would be available. This passed after another long and involved discussion.

Opportunities for Center for Professional Education and Development sponsored workshops were showcased in some of the discussions.

These were some of the major discussions from the AC meeting in Albuquerque.

On a personal level, I quite enjoyed the presentations made in the *Development of Comprehensive Graz-*

ing Policy Guidelines: A Case for Adaptive Collaboration within the Rangeland Profession symposium moderated over by David Briske. As you know, Dr. Briske was the first author of a controversial article regarding rotational vs. continuous grazing that was published in *Rangeland Ecology and Management*. I thought it was commendable that he would host a workshop where the premises he made in his article would be challenged. The difficulties of small-scale paddock research representing larger scale pastoral systems in an inherently adaptive ranch production system were discussed. Much discussion ensued regarding how we can accommodate some of this inherent variability into peer-reviewed research.

Finally, work on the summer meeting to be held in Payson is in progress. Contact Al Medina for details or look for more information in the

next newsletter almedina777@hotmail.com (928)-853-1391.

If you are aware of possible corporate sponsors who may be willing to help underwrite the costs of this meeting and future meetings please let Al know.

If any of you have agenda items you would like to have the board of directors consider for the next board meeting or general membership meeting, please let me or any of the board members know.

See ya,

Jim Sprinkle



Ken Johnson, Executive Vice-President from the Parent Society



Erin Mathews (NRCS) and Jim Sprinkle use Xplore touch pad computer and VGS software developed by Del Despain for field monitoring at the 76 Ranch near Jakes Corner. basis) within two years was passed.



Payson Area Ranchers Attend Forest Service Potluck

The Payson Ranger District of the Tonto National Forest held a potluck lunch with its grazing permittees, ranch managers and their families on February 20th at a Houston Mesa Horse Camp group site. Eleven of the 17 active grazing allotments had representatives at the gathering. This was intended as an informal platform to exchange ideas and information between the forest and the ranching community. A local high school student, Vivianna Hernandez, attended the potluck as part of a job-shadowing exercise with the Forest Service. The future of local ranching depends on getting younger generations involved. This was demonstrated by the presence of 3 young people, Lacey and Lexi Cline and Wes Hendersen, with their ranching parents. The District Ranger, Ed Armenta, grilled hamburgers for the group. Other attendees for the Forest Service included the Forest wildlife biologist, Fred Wong, District biologist, John Wilcox, and District range personnel, Chris Thiel, Bill Barcus, and Vanessa Prileson.

An excellent lunch was followed by introductions, several short presentations, and group discussion. The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) gave a presentation on the success of the local habitat partnership committee in securing funding for projects that benefit wildlife and livestock. The AGFD has recently partnered in funding a grassland restoration project on the forest that has already thinned juniper trees over 600 acres and is projected to treat over 3,000 acres over several years.

Several ranchers shared their experiences in securing funding through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). This program allows for Farm Bill appropriated money to be spent on improving federal grazing lands. The program was touted as a success by those involved, with cost-share funding received for several new water developments and miles of new pasture division fence. The Forest Service provided updates on Travel Management Planning, fire and fuels management, economic stimulus proposals, and endangered species issues.

Woody Cline, board member for the Gila County Cattle Growers and local ranch manager, provided the group with information concerning the upcoming yearling sale, and his experiences managing his herd through a recent outbreak of the disease, Trichomoniasis. This is a cattle venereal disease that causes infertility in cows and heifers and can cause abortion of the fetus. The meeting concluded with a discussion of how the Forest Service could better serve the ranching community. One rancher offered the comment that resource specialists should be familiar with on-the-ground conditions before making recommendations for Forest management. The meeting was organized by Forest Service range management specialist, Vanessa Prileson. She saw the meeting as an opportunity for the Forest Service to re-connect with the ranching community in a relaxed environment without being issue-driven, while allowing for improved communication between ranchers. The District hopes to make this an annual event.

Ranch Representatives:

Cross V Ranch (Little Green Valley complex allotments) – Ray and Patti Tanner; Fred and Paty Henderson; Mike Henderson and son, Wes

Muleshoe X Cattle Co. (Cedar Bench allotment) – Sally Randall

Gisela Allotment – Ralph Hale

Cedar Bench and Hardscrabble allotments – Kathy DeWulf

LF Ranch (Bull Springs allotment) – MaryAnn Pratt

Christopher Mtn/Ellinwood allotments – Woody and Letha Cline, daughters Lacey and Lexi

Arizona Game and Fish Department:

Craig McMullen, Patrol Supervisor

Henry Apfel, wildlife manager, unit 22

Christine Thiel
Director North



District Ranger Ed Armenta served as the grillmaster for the potluck BBQ. Vanessa Prileson (right) organized the event.

Range Manager of the Year

Anita Waite and Sherwood Koehn of Mohave County have owned the Cane Springs ranch since 1996. The ranch is located in 15 miles northwest of Wikieup on the eastern slopes of the Hualapai Mountains. Anita and Sherwood have been advocates of cooperative conservation since the start; coordinating management decisions and practices with the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Bureau of Land Management, Arizona State Land Department, Arizona Game and Fish Department and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Previous to the current ownership, the ranch was checker-boarded State Land, BLM Land and deeded owned by a developer. Through cooperative efforts, the ranch is currently approximately 109 sections; 67% BLM 29% SLD 4% deeded. Many ranch improvements have been installed by Anita and Sherwood to better improve livestock and wildlife distribution. Permanent monitoring has been established in various sites to gauge the implications of the current management decisions.



The ranch is host to many wildlife species including the Endangered Hualapai Vole and many species of large game. The owners are working on an agreement to raise the Endangered Bonytail Chub in a stock tank located on the ranch. There is also potential habitat for the Longfin Dace and Desert Tortoise where Anita and Sherwood are working to mitigate management practices in the habitat. The Cane Springs ranch has access agreements with the AZ Game & Fish Dept for hunters to access hunting grounds

through private lands. They also sponsor a fishing day tournament for local children in coordination with the AZ Game & Fish.

The Cane Springs Ranch has demonstrated outstanding stewardship & proper management of natural resources for sustainable agriculture. Anita and Sherwood are deserving recipients of the Arizona Section of the Society for Management, Range Manager of the Year Award

Professional & Technical Guidance - Art Meen

In 1988 Art went to work for the Natural Resource Conservation Service as a Soil Conservationist in Fredonia, Arizona. Art worked with producers to evaluate and publish information about livestock nutrition, assisted with the Bureau of Land Management's development of a vegetation management program and helped to coordinate NRCS-assisted effort of vegetative treatments on public lands. Art was also responsible for ecological site correlation for the Grand Canyon National Park and Lake Mead Recreational Area soil surveys.

In 2003 he transferred to the Douglas field office as Resource Planner for the NRCS. Art has recognized the need resource managers have for practical application and proper technical guidance that is relevant for everyday operations. His quality of assistance to customers is

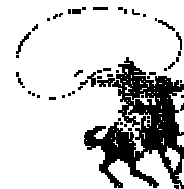
*Art's creative dedication
and leadership*



outstanding. From development of the conservation plans, through implementation of practices; Art's level of technical knowledge, combined with his common sense approach provides producers with the on-the-ground technical assistance they need. With his personal operation, Art produces a variety of native

seed, and works closely with the Tucson Plant Materials Center in helping to improve knowledge about growing and marketing native seed for conservation work. Art provides much needed leadership in helping agricultural producers and NRCS employees in southeastern Arizona learn about the newest technologies in agricultural production.

Art's creative dedication and leadership have made some very important changes in the southeastern Arizona rangeland community. Art is truly an expert in his field and is continually working to better understand and tackle the many resource issues we face in southern Arizona. We are honored to present Art with the 2008 Professional and Technical Guidance award



Outstanding Service - Kim McReynolds

Over the years, Kim has been a sound figure regarding issues related to range and vegetation management, noxious weed control and invasive species in southern Arizona. Kim provides exceptional leadership in general to the profession of range management but her recent contributions are predominantly noteworthy in two areas. These are her efforts on behalf of Natural Resource Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth, and conducting educational programs on noxious and invasive plants. Both are outstanding contributions to the Arizona Section.

As director of the NRCWAY, Kim spends countless hours of her own time lining up staff and faculty, recruiting students, soliciting donations and making the necessary preparations for the curriculum. She makes a special effort to personally welcome every participant and answer the questions of parents. Duties do not end on the last day of the workshop as Kim still acts as chaperone for the students selected to participate in the High School Youth Forum at the annual meeting of the parent society.

Kim's leadership in the area of educational programming for noxious and invasive plants is less well known. While she usually relies on subject matter specialist and other agency personnel more directly responsible for resource management for support, Kim is the driving force behind the organization of the local weed management area (WMA) and other elements of site specific research and education on noxious and invasive plants.

Her knowledge and natural intelligence have been repeatedly used to help others succeed in their goals for management of our natural resources. Kim is a strong leader and is an excellent

example for young and old range managers alike. We are honored to present Kim with the 2008 Outstanding Service Award.



Outstanding Young Professional - AMY HUMPHREY

Amy received her B.S. in Rangeland Science from the School of Natural Resources at the University of Arizona. While Amy was in college, help a research position and did volunteer work with range conservationists at the Safford and Tucson BLM field offices, mainly in the area of rangeland monitoring.

Amy strives to work with people both on the ground and within the agency. She relates well to for the Safford BLM Field Office. By doing so, she has helped re-initiate the monitoring program. Amy has also demonstrated excellent leadership throughout the Gila District by her mentoring new Range staff and was instrumental in moving forward with the cooperative monitoring agreement with the United States Forest Service and the University of Arizona.

Amy works equally well with her counterparts in other agencies. She has a strong reputation with NRCS, .Forest Service, AZ State Land Dept and AZ Game & Fish Dept for her knowledge and steady



James H. at auction



James & Joe in awe...



commitment. She is an advocate of cooperative management, often initiating and leading cooperative efforts.

Her involvement in the Section began when she attended NRCWAY as a high school student. She also attended several years as a counselor. Later, Amy served a one year term as the workshop coordinator for the camp. She has served as temporary treasurer when the Section treasurer was not able to complete her duties. Amy has also served on the Section's Information and Education Committee.

Amy is able to accomplish so much because of her love for range management and the people she works with. Amy possesses a unique quality and compelling personality that will enable her to continue her career, to make differences in the profession of range management and in the livelihoods of the people she works with on their ranches. Amy is a deserving recipient of the 2008 Outstanding Young Professional Award.

TIERRA SECA

U of A Student Chapter

Tierra Seca, the University of Arizona Student Chapter of the Society for Range Management (SRM), attended the 62nd Annual SRM Meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico from February 8-12, 2009. Seven undergraduates from the School of Natural Resources participated in the Undergraduate Range Management Exam (URME), where they competed against 173 students from 22 universities from across North America. The team, coached by Dr. Larry Howery, consisted of Ashley Shepherd, Andy Habgood, Teressa Van Diest, Steve Bluemer, John Hall, Brandon Bishop, and April Barron. The U of A team placed 6th overall, with Teressa Van Diest placing 2nd individually. As a result of her high placement, Teressa is now a Certified Range Management Professional. Ashley Shepherd placed 19th and John Hall placed

29th, helping the team secure the 6th place finish. Eva Osmer, a Rangeland Ecology and Management graduate student, presented a poster on her graduate research and competed in the Graduate Poster Competition.

In addition to their success in the URME competition, five students were offered jobs at the SRM Agency On-the-Spot Hiring Job Fair. Andy Habgood received a SCEP position with the US Forest Service in the Coronado National Forest, AZ. Eva Osmer and Steve Bluemer accepted positions as Rangeland Management Specialists with the US Forest Service in the Douglas District, Coronado National Forest, AZ. John Hall accepted a position as a Rangeland

Management Specialist with the BLM in Yuma, AZ. April Barron received a position as a Rangeland Management Specialist with the US Forest Service in the Mammoth Lakes District, Inyo National Forest, CA. Professionals at the meeting were very impressed by the strong showing of the U of A range students in both the student competitions and the job fair.

...five students were offered jobs...

The students raised funds for their travel through bake sales, shirt sales, and a contract for rock dam construction on the Santa Rita Experimental Range; as well as donations from the CALS Alumni Association, Arizona Section of the Society for Range Management and a variety of private individuals.

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The Editor, News Staff, Interns, Print Technicians and volunteers would like to thank the following people for making this issue become a reality:

Jim Sprinkle, Kent Ellet, Dennis Moroney, Chris Thiel, Alisha Phipps, Del DeSpain, John Brock, Shai Schendel, Al Medina, and James & Joe.

Past Presidents,
Dennis Moroney
&
Bill Edwards



Student Scholarship Recipients Recognized at Annual Meeting

At the Annual Meeting in Sierra Vista on 13 January 2009, 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 Wendy McCourt. She plans to graduate in Spring 2009 with a BS in Applied Biology with a concentration in Wildlife and Restoration Ecology from Arizona State University. Since start-



ing her academic career at Arizona State University, she has considered several areas to focus her attentions including soils, botany, watershed management and riparian restoration. After many field trips and conversations with SRM members, rangeland conservationists and ranch owners, she became more aware of the challenges and opportunities in rangeland management. As a result, she has focused her efforts in that discipline. This February she will attend the national Society for Range Management meeting, where she will compete in the plant identification and undergraduate range management exam contests, as well as present a poster in the Rangeland Cup. She plans to pursue a MS degree in Applied Biology at Arizona State University, with a long-term goal of

pursuing a career in rangeland management.

The recipient from the University of Arizona was Ashley Shepherd. She 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 Albuquerque. She will graduate in May 2009 with a BS degree in Natural Resources with an emphasis in Rangeland Ecology and Management. She was raised in the Phoenix area of Arizona. Her interests and skills in plant ecology and geographic information systems drew her to the rangeland ecology and management option. Her skills in those areas have grown with a combination of coursework and field assistant experiences including buffelgrass control and building erosion control structures on the Santa Rita Experimental Range. She hopes to attend graduate school to formalize her skills and interests in soils, plant ecology, and geographic information systems.

On a related topic, three University of Arizona students, Steve Bluemer, Ashley Shepherd and Teressa Van Diest were selected to receive the Marcelle E. Schmutz Memorial Scholarship given in memory of Erv Schmutz's father. Erv was a long-time faculty member in Range Management at UA. This is the first time in the 48 year history, that the award was given to more than one student in a single year, but the faculty found them all very deserving, and the differences between them too small to deny any of them

this recognition. Like Ms. Shepherd, Mr. Bluemer and Ms. Van Diest will graduate in May 2009 with a BS degree in Natural Resources with an emphasis in Rangeland Ecology and Management. Also, they will all participate in the undergraduate range management exam in Albuquerque next month. Mr. Bluemer was raised in Massachusetts, and moved to Tucson during his service in the U.S. Air Force. After his honorable discharge in 2005, he began his fulltime status as a college student. He currently works with the Natural Resources Conservation Service as a student intern at the Tucson Plant Materials Center. Upon graduation, he plans to pursue a career as a Rangeland Conservationist. Ms. Van Diest was raised in Palmer, Alaska and has spent the last four winters as a student at the University of Arizona. She was first drawn to rangeland ecology and management because of her interests in plants and plant ecology, but she has become increasingly interested in the livestock management aspect of the discipline. She served as Secretary/Treasurer for the Tierra Seca Student Club in 2007-08, and currently serves as Vice President. She is seeking experience working in the agricultural sector, with the eventual goal of working in agricultural development in a third world country.

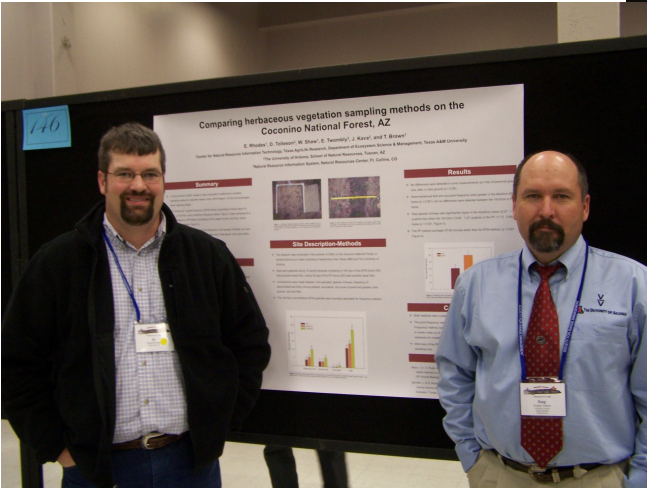


POSTERS
AT
ALBUQUERQUE

1.



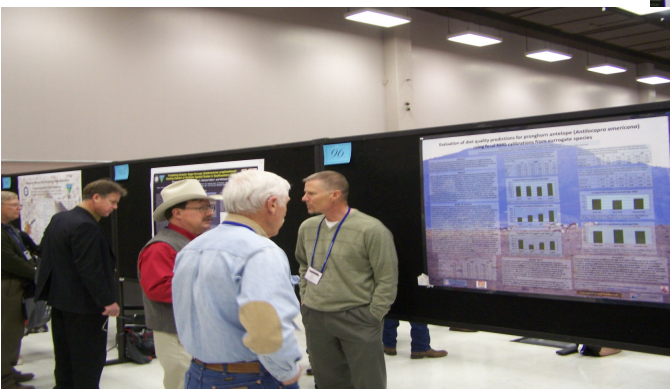
2.



3.



4.



1.—Emilio/Katie Range Manager of the Year poster

2. — Doug Tolefson/Ed Rhodes Veg Sampling on Coconino poster

3. — Chris Thiel Protein Supplement

4. — John Kava Diet Quality for Pronghorn Antelope



High School Student Competition

AZ SRM Public Affairs Report

I attended the American Deserts, Wildfires and Invasive Plants meeting held early in December in Reno. The Society for Range Management was the primary organizer of the meeting. The meeting raised further awareness of the role invasive plants (especially grasses) play in spreading wildfires and in many cases the need for restoration following the fire.

The last week of February 2009 was the National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week in Washington, DC. This event allows people to network with federal agency personnel, others with weed management issues and to visit their congressional delegation. There are times for direct contacts, with the congressional delegation (usually their staff) and federal agency people. However, the first step is to make an appointment, as walk-in meetings are virtually impossible in DC. But during NIWAW the agency people involved with invasive plants are present at the meetings. A major outcome at this meeting, was a follow-up to the Rocky Mountain Weed Summit held last June in Colorado. What has occurred is the formation of the **Healthy Habitats Coalition** made up primarily of people from the western states. The HHC is bringing together those interested in invasive plants and habitat restoration, like the Southwest Vegetation Management Association and the North American Weed Management Association (NAMA), plus wildlife and recreationist groups who realize the risks and damage invasive plants are having on habitats throughout the region(s). The HHC will provide a broad base from which "one voice" can put forth the message to state and national policy makers about the growing invasive plant problem and hopefully identify funding sources or new legislation to deal with weeds on the basis of ecosystems while still acting locally. One thrust of the HHC is to let people know that vegetation management is a source of "green" jobs to help the country heal environmentally and economically. I believe the SRM should make a concerted effort to support the HHC, while I have been involved with the conception of HHC, I have not have an "official" sanction from the SRM or the section to act in their behalf, hence this is something the AZ SRM Board of Directors and the parent society should address. While in DC, I visited Cindi McArthur with the US Forest Service who is the SRM Washington DC liaison. It was good to meet her, now I know the face and the person that goes with the name.

The AZ Invasive Species Advisory Council continues to work, despite no direct funding. The workgroups of the ISAC are actively populating a virtual "Arizona Center for Invasive Species". This web based site will substitute for the "studs and stucco with tile roof" center many of us envisioned. We plan the site to be a great location for people concerned about invasive species to find good information. You are always invited to attend any of these public meetings. Meeting times and locations are posted at: www.azgovernor.gov/ais/

John Brock

Doing More With.....MORE!

We are regularly required to do more with less. I invite you to consider doing more with more.

During a recent interview past President Bill Clinton advised President Obama to make time for his personal life stating that if the President worked 24 hours a day he would still leave work on the table. I often feel if I worked 24 hours a day I too would still leave work on the table. It seems there just aren't enough hours in the day or days in the week?

Years ago a farmer's could plow a couple acres a day with his 1 horsepower horse. Now, a farmer can pull 13 plows or a 45 ft. wide seedbed finisher in air conditioning comfort with a 475 horsepower tractor; doing much more with more.

I've found that most things in life that are worth doing, things that make a difference that can have lasting value require more than 1 "personpower" of energy. It's not that one person can't do great things. It's just that there is a limit on how much one person can do.

SRM members can do much individually but as an organization SRM can accomplish more. While a single turkey hunter could improve a small area for turkeys and other wildlife the National Wild Turkey Federation with its 500,000+ members can really make a difference. More locally, the Malpai Group, Upper Eagle Creek Watershed Association, Canello Hills Coalition and Gila Watershed Partnership, to name a few, have collectively received millions of dollars to help further their causes. The members of these groups have enjoyed success, a greater sense of security and made many friendships along the way.

The mission of the Forest Service is to Care for the Land and Serve the People. Early in my career I must admit my focus was more on the land and the people part of the equation was more of a second thought. Since then I've realized that if the focus is more on the people side of the equation, particularly in forming collaborative partnerships, then before you realize it managing the land has simply happened as a by product of that relationship.

As you consider what you are accomplishing and what you might want to do that is of great worth or if you desire to leave a legacy I invite you to do more with more. I invite you to get with your friends and neighbors and form your own group or get involved with organizations already functioning in your area to turn your own personpower of energy into the power of many. Come to the realization that even though you may be Superman there is a limit to what you can accomplish and if you really want to make things happen it will require the help of many others. *Kent Ellet*

CLASSIFIEDS

Range Technician**GS-0455-05****(One Seasonal Position not to exceed 1039 Hours)****Kaibab National Forest****North Kaibab Ranger District****Apply by April 6, 2009**

The District office is located in Fredonia, Arizona.

For more information about the position or the area, contact Dustin Burger, Range Management Specialist, at 928-643-8136 or dburger@fs.fed.us.

Position Title: Range Technician**Job Number: 42317****Job Code: 30300****Pay Grade: 23****Hiring Range: \$22,602. - \$34,762. / \$10.866 - \$16.713/hourly****Department: Mohave County Cooperative Extension****FLSA: 1.00 FTE Benefits Eligible**

This position is based in Kingman, Arizona, with most field work occurring on lands administered by the BLM Kingman Field Office. To apply, please complete an online application for **JOB # 42317** at www.uacareertrack.com

To receive a copy of the job announcement, contact the newsletter editor, dluhsen@fs.fed.us

Position Title: Research Technician (Temporary) .50 FTE (non-benefits eligible)**Job Number: 42315****Job Code: 30300****Pay Grade: 23****Hiring Range: \$22,602. - \$28,144. / \$10.866 - \$13.531/hrly****Department: UA Mohave County Cooperative Extension**

This position is based in St. George, Utah, with most field work occurring on lands administered by the BLM Arizona Strip District Office. To apply, please complete an online application for **JOB # 42315** at www.uacareertrack.com

To receive a copy of the job announcement, contact the newsletter editor, dluhsen@fs.fed.us

Do you know of anyone who has experience collecting data on range transects and who might like to do some contract work?

CONTACT: Karlynn Huling

Natural Resource Specialist (Range Department)

Williams Ranger District, Kaibab National Forest

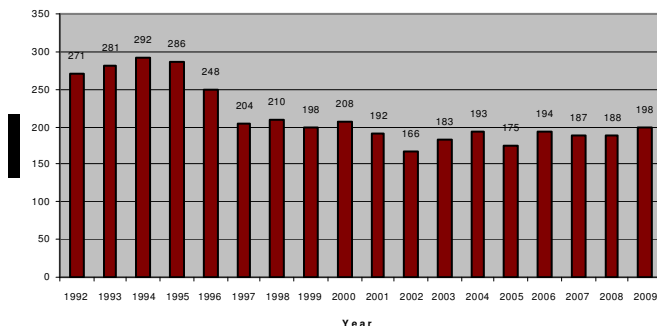
742 S. Clover Road

Williams, AZ 86046-9122

(928) 635-5621

khuling@fs.fed.us**January 2009 Expired Member Report**

AZ Section SRM Membership History



Member Name	Mem Type	Exp Date	Join Date
Amber Boyer	S	1/31/09	1/9/08
David Calderon	R	1/31/09	7/2/99
William E. Emmerich	R	1/31/09	12/11/86
Kenneth L. Gishi	R	1/31/09	1/22/05
Lacey E. Halstead	R	1/31/09	1/13/97
Richard W. Riggs	R	1/31/09	12/31/82
Leslie Valodez	S	1/31/09	1/9/08
Andrea J. Wages	R	1/31/09	11/24/03
Jerome W. Willie	R	1/31/09	12/22/03

A TIME FOR YOU IN AZ-SRM

There I was, a new player in the Society for Range Management Advisory Council at the 2009 Annual Meeting in Albuquerque. I listened intently, with fellow AZ-SRM officers Jim Sprinkle and Don Luhrsen, to discouraging news about membership and could no longer refrain from asking myself –Why? Why has membership dwindled to alarming levels – circa 3000+? How could we loose over 600 members in one year? Did they forget to renew or simply found a better option?

In February 2008, the Board of Directors appointed a Membership Task Force after noting declining membership. This team was charged with identifying reasons for the decline, values of SRM membership, costs, incentives for reversing the trend and demographics. The report from the team was dispiriting. Not one to take bad news silently or sitting down, I remarked to committee chairman, Jack Alexander, “You need professional help”! Drawing the audience’s attention and curious tentative laughter, I clarified my remark to suggest that given all the rationales, demographics, etc., “SRM needs to market membership to all persons in rangeland production, management and research”. To which, Jack concurred and the Council forwarded the recommendation to the Board. With declining interests in agriculture and more emphasis on sustainable ecosystem values, we need to emphasize that SRM’s mission is as applicable today as it was in 1948 when it was founded. People and environments have changed in response to technological advances, and with such come perceptions that ‘old is out’. To the contrary, many new organizations echo nearly identical purpose, perhaps in a “jazzier” context, but none more commendable.

I strongly believe that SRM has been our nation’s leading professional organization dedicated to “promotion of the professional development and continuing education of members and the public and the stewardship of rangeland resources” since its inception. Our mission embraces many facets that draw membership for managers, producers, and scientists. SRM has been a leader in developing, promoting, and applying rangeland science. Given today’s challenges of land stewardship and highly charged controversial uses of public lands, it is even more important to re-identify with the origins of SRM. To often we forget about what works! These roots are well illustrated in our Code of Ethics:

- *Foster an environment where all people are encouraged to participate in the Society and the management and enjoyment of rangelands;*
- *Use her/his knowledge, skills and training when appropriate to find ways to harmonize people’s needs, demands, and actions with the maintenance and enhancement of natural and managed rangeland ecosystems;*
- *Promote competence in the field of rangeland management by supporting high standards of education, employment, training, performance and recognition;*
- *Manage or perform services consistent with the highest standards of quality and integrity for the benefit of rangeland plants, soil, water, air and animal resources, and respect for the employer and the public;*
- *Disseminate information to promote understanding of, and appreciation for, values of rangelands to those with a direct involvement in rangeland management, and to the general public;*
- *Offer professional advice or assistance only on those rangeland issues in which they are informed and qualified through professional training and experience;*
- *In any communication, give full and proper credit to, and avoid misinterpretation of the work, ideas, and achievements of others; and*
- *Encourage the use of verifiable biological information in management decisions.*

Every livestock producer, manager and scientist can identify with these principles worldwide. Producers become members to avail themselves of technological advances and a forum for presenting their needs, as well as promoting their practical ‘common sense’ technology to the world. The public demands a well qualified and ethical professional to advise them on ecological issues. As professionals, it’s become increasingly important to demonstrate our competence and certifications. In a world with increasing specializations, rangeland management still encapsulates a large array of ecosystem sciences, e.g. wildlife, plant sciences, agricultural, watershed, soils. Many recent advances in invasive plant technology are due to SRM members. An example is “Targeted Grazing”, a recent advance in the use of livestock to manage degraded rangelands, including using livestock to deal with invasive species, e.g. lovegrass in SW. Contrary to some popular beliefs, livestock grazing can be a valuable tool in improving and sustaining rangeland health.

The membership committee issued a summary of incentives to enlist additional members from professional ranks. I would add the following message to producers. “You are very much integral to range management as you are most often the action instrument of change on the range. Your practical experience is essential to integrate the best of sciences – common sense and new technology. We should all work hard to bridge science with disenfranchised populations, which requires perseverance and daring. In short, I ask you to sustain your membership and assist in drawing new members. Join the challenge to demonstrate the science of range management alongside range managers and scientists. As always, feel free to contact me with any questions/offers/suggestions you may have as how I and AZ-SRM can serve you better.”

“There can be strength in numbers, but more so in fellowship and purpose.” – A.L. Medina

~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.

HISTORY SUPPLEMENT BY WILLIE SUMMERS TO FOLLOW

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A.L. Medina Membership supplement to follow...

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