



# Arizona Section Newsletter

MARCH 2014



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### *President's Message:*

A warm (and soon to be warmer) greetings to my fellow members of the Arizona Section. I hope this newsletter finds you all well and hard at work accomplishing many things. It has been very busy since we last saw one another in January. Looking back at the winter meeting, I am pleased with the outcome. There was a good turnout for the Range Animal Nutrition workshop at the U of A Farm, and the talks were well received. It was an interactive workshop, with participants being able to respond to multiple choice questions during the talks. Each participant was provided a remote control device, and could press a button corresponding to the answer to a question. The results were tallied up and shared immediately with the audience. That was neat to see, and a good way to learn.



Speaking of audience, I thank all of you who also attended the second day of the winter meeting about federally listed species and rangeland consulting. The management of rangelands to provide goods and services touches upon so many different disciplines, from economics to ecology. Federally listed species, and the establishment of critical habitat, is another aspect of rangelands we discussed back in January. We will continue to hear more about federally listed species as the mutli-species settlement agreement is implemented. In case you haven't been to our website lately ([azrangelands.org](http://azrangelands.org)), we now have posted the

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### **SRM Annual Meeting in Orlando: 2 High School Student's Perspective**

February 9 marked the start of a five day journey that laid a foundation for my future as I was able to attend the 2014 Society for Range Management National Youth Forum. At the beginning of the week, I knew that this amazing opportunity would provide me with knowledge about rangeland characteristics and management as well as the ability to practice my public speaking. What I did not know was that it would teach me far more than I could ever guess. The ability to give my presentation helped me share my passion about rangeland and feel connected to the field. I was also privileged to experience the other delegates' presentations and was amazed by the wide variety of topics and each teen's similar passion for range. I also benefitted from the opportunities to talk with professionals in the range management field as well as college students. This helped me network as well as learn more about careers available that fit my passion for range management. Throughout the week I was also able to learn about range specific to Florida. We took an ecological tour at the Merrit Island National Wildlife Rescue where we learned about conservation

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information for the 2014 NRCWAY, in addition to many of the presentations from our winter meeting. Thank you to our presenters.

Looking ahead, we are beginning discussions for the summer meeting. At this point, there is potential to hold our meeting in the Show Low area in August. Our next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2014 and this will be an important agenda item. In other news for the Section, we are currently in the process of transferring the Treasurer's files to Ashley Shepherd, who has agreed to become our Secretary Treasurer. Thank you Ashley for stepping up!

On a final note, we still have not filled our President-Elect position that was vacated when Iric Burden accepted a job out of state. I ask that each of you please consider stepping into this role! I can assure you that the Board of Directors will assure a smooth transition. So if you have been considering it, now is your time! Please let me know.

Regards,

*Willie*

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***SRM Annual Meeting .... continued from Page 1***

methods and how to balance agriculture and wildlife. The forum provided me with several wonderful opportunities to develop a better understanding of managing resources successfully, but it also gave me the amazing chance to connect with youth from several states, as well as Canada, who share similar passions. Through the educational experiences as well as fun activities like the dance we were brought together as a family and created lasting friendships and connections for the future. Thanks to this amazing opportunity, I was able to learn about rangelands all over the country, develop my communication skills, and connect with peers and professionals that I hope to see in the future along my path in rangeland management, and if I do not, I will still know that they helped direct me in the direction I want to go. I am very grateful to everyone who helped me receive this amazing, once in a lifetime experience to attend the National Youth Forum for Range Management.

*By: Nicole Van Eerd, Queen Creek*

2014 SRM Convention

When I went to Florida I had no idea what the next 18 months of my life would bring. I was undecided in a career, a college, or even where I would live. Going to the SRM convention and meeting so many professionals was incredibly valuable to me. I got to expand my network into social circles I never would have been able to reach without this opportunity. I was also able to make a decision involving school. I am now planning to attend NAU and obtain a bachelors in forestry. Then after I graduate I plan to pursue a career in the Natural Resource field. I have chosen this path for a very simple reason. All the people that I met that work in

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## McClaran Elected Fellow in the Society for Range Management

Professor Mitch McClaran was elected as a Fellow in the Society for Range Management on February 12, 2014 at the Society's 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL. McClaran joined the University of Arizona faculty in 1986, and is a professor of range management in the School of Natural Resources and the Environment. He has additional responsibilities as the Director for Research at the Santa Rita Experimental Range and Assistant Director of the Arizona Agricultural Experiment Station. He received his PhD in Wildland Resource Science from the University of California, Berkeley in 1986.

Fellows in the Society for Range Management are recognized for exceptional service in advancing the science and art of rangeland resources. In particular, McClaran was recognized for contributions to reviving and sustaining research and education activities at the University of Arizona Santa Rita Experimental Range; outstanding teaching and research contributions; revision and implementation of Accreditation Standards used by the Society to evaluate university programs; and contributions to the initiation and design of the Society's procedures for evaluating Certified Professionals in Rangeland Management.



Mitch McClaran

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### *SRM Annual Meeting .... continued from Page 2*

Natural Resources are always smiling. I can only assume why these people are so jubilant. Whether it be that they get to work outside, work with youth, or because what they do can actually benefit society, I cannot say. What I can say though, is that one day I wish to wear that smile that I saw so much at the Society for Range Management-High School Youth Forum in Orlando.

*By: Caleb Taylor, New River*



Nicole Van Eerd and Caleb Taylor

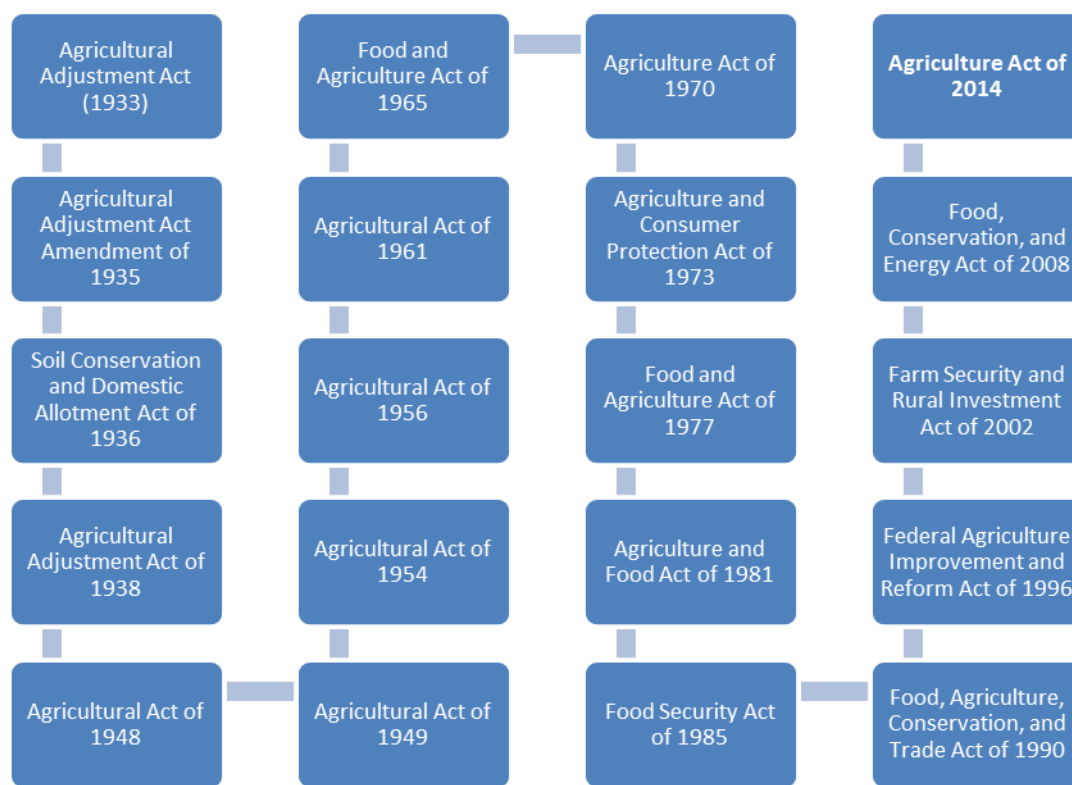


## Director North Report by Shai Schendel

I hope everyone had a great Holiday and New Year surrounded with family, friends and a lot of food! As we start our journey for 2014 it's inevitable we will face some changes this coming year, some will be good while others may require courage, wisdom and patience!

One of the new journeys already in motion is our new Farm Bill signed by President Obama on February 7, 2014. The Agriculture Act of 2014 (H.R. 2642) will authorize nutrition and agriculture programs from 2014-2018 with a budget of \$956 billion. Farm bills are usually passed every 5 to 7 years, as you can see from the timeline below they don't always fit into that category. Farm bills are very important pieces of legislation that affect everyone and anyone that likes to have a nice warm meal to eat each day. Given the importance of our new Farm Bill I felt it would be a good time to have a little refresher on the history of the bill.

Timeline of Farm Bills:



The farm bill was first created during the Great Depression to give financial assistance to farmers, who were struggling due to an excess crop supply creating low prices, and also to control and ensure an adequate food supply. The first farm bill, known as the Agriculture Adjustment Act (AAA), was passed by Congress in 1933 as a part of Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal. (Source: [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org))

Each farm bill that is passed usually covers the same issues but sometimes adds in new scopes of work to cover current issues or needs. The Agriculture Act of 2014 includes reforms to farm policy, food stamps along with additional reforms and regulatory relief. According to The House Committee on Agriculture, this farm bill will have the most significant reduction to farm bill spending in history by improving agricultural programs.

A great deal of work has been completed in the past with conservation efforts through the farm bill on our rangeland and cropland here in Arizona. As we move into 2014, future stewardship endeavors and efforts will progress and advance as we begin our new journey.

## Director South Report by Steve Barker

### News from the South...

It is hot and dry. Phoenix is headed for 90 degrees, and we have not hit March yet. The spring wildflowers that germinated with those nice fall rains are headed out and starting to dry. The wolfberry has already decided it is time to drop some leaves and conserve some moisture. This could be a tough summer.

I recently helped re-inventory a ranch in southern Arizona that was originally inventoried in 2000, just as the drought was starting. We relocated most of the original inventory locations, retook the photos, and re-estimated production and composition. The short story... that drought kicked the shrubs back into balance across most of the ranch. Shrub production is down 30-40 percent on average. Overall production is also down about 20-30 percent. That provides space for perennial grass to fill. If you are not working with your ranchers, on strategies to maximize potential benefits from the drought, now would be a good time to start.

In case you have not heard, the Agricultural Research Service is celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 60th Anniversary of the Walnut Gulch Experimental Watershed in Tombstone, AZ March 6-7, 2014. This highly instrumented watershed is a treasure for range scientists in the southwest. The ARS scientists in Tucson are among the best scientist I have had the opportunity to work with during my career. Do yourself a favor, and come to this event. You need to interact with these folks, and learn everything they know about how the hydrology and erosion on our southwest rangelands. They have a lot of fundamental knowledge about these processes that you need to learn.

Register online at:

<http://apps.tucson.ars.ag.gov/swrc60thanniversary/>

I am working on a project with ARS to evaluate the Rangeland Hydrology and Erosion Model (RHEM) they developed. The project is funded by the NRCS Conservation Effect Assessment Project (CEAP) <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/technical/nra/ceap/> We are looking at about 20-25 ecological sites in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah to evaluate how runoff and erosion change when the plant community changes on an ecological sites. I think the RHEM model can help us better define where the thresholds are between states, and better define the benefits when someone is willing to move rangeland from one plant community phase to another.

In case someone else does not mention it, we need one of our members to volunteer to step up and volunteer to take the position of President Elect. If you are ready to help us make the Arizona Section SRM better and stronger, we need your help. Give it some serious consideration, and let us know.

The Az SRM Directors North and South have been challenged to put on one day workshops, that don't cost anyone anything except the travel and time to get there. Mark down Saturday March 29<sup>th</sup> on your calendars for my first Director South Workshop. I will get us set up to spend the day on someone's ranch. We'll do some plant and ecological site id, and we'll get a rancher's perspectives on making range management decisions. I will post details on the AzSRM facebook site, and get an email blast sent out when I get it all set up.

## Tierra Seca Club has success at the 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society

From February 8th to 14th, eight students from Tierra Seca Club in the School of Natural Resources attended the Annual Society for Range Management Meeting in Orlando, Florida. At the event, all eight students participated in the Undergraduate Range Management Exam, where they were tested on their knowledge of range ecology and management along with other related information. With the help of advisor Dr. Larry Howery, the University of Arizona placed 5th overall out of 21 universities. Individually, every member placed in the top half out of 153 students. Out of those, three placed in the top ten: Alanna Riggs and Anna Collins tied in 8<sup>th</sup> place, and Mike McIntire was in 9<sup>th</sup> place. Scoring in the top 10% of all URME students automatically qualifies URME contestants to apply for Certified Professional of Range Management (CPRM) status. In addition to the URME, Anna Collins represented UA in the Extemporaneous Speaking Contest and Mike McIntire competed in the Plant ID Contest. Ms. Collins was elected as the President of the Student Conclave for the next 12 months.

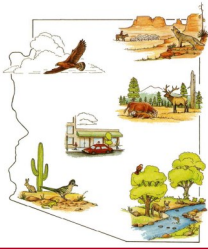
Tierra Seca is the University of Arizona Student Chapter of the International Society for Range Management (SRM). Dr. Mitch McClaran serves as Tierra Seca student advisor. Students raised funds for their travel through fieldwork for the Pima National Resource Conservation District, through t-shirt sales, processing and scanning samples on a mule deer diet quality study at the V Bar V Ranch and Grand Canyon Trust, and by assisting the AZ Section of the SRM with their Summer 2013 meeting. They also received donations from the School of Natural Resources and the Environment (SNRE), the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) Alumni Association, and from the Phil Ogden Endowment. Additionally, the students received donations at the Research Insights for Semiarid Ecosystems (RISE) Symposium and the CHS foundation, as well as from a variety of private individuals.

Congratulations to these folks for their hard work and dedication to SRM and for the many contributions of Tierra Seca to SRM and SNRE.



Photo: Bottom row (L-R) – Anna Collins, Alanna Riggs, Megan Hurrell, Emily Pecilunas; Top Row (L-R) –Eric Wagner, Trevor Chilcote, Emilio Corella, Mike McIntire, and Larry Howery (coach).





# Natural Resource Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth

## June 24 - June 28, 2013 James 4-H Camp

### Highlights

- Learn lifelong skills and create lifetime friendships.
- Explore and study Arizona's forests, streams, rangelands, soils, plants, and wildlife with expert instructors who will intrigue and challenge you!
- Lots of small group learning activities in the forests of the Prescott National Forest.
- Gain hands-on experience with hi-tech equipment, field testing, data collection and project design.

### Details

**Dates:** June 23 - June 27, 2014

**Where:** James 4-H Camp between Prescott & Jerome

**Tuition:** \$150 per student (Financial assistance is available. Please indicate on application if assistance is needed.)

Open to all youth entering **grades 8-12** in the fall of 2014.

**Limit:** 35 participants.

**Deadline for Applications:** Postmarked by **May 1, 2014**.

Applicants will be notified of selection results no later than June 1, 2014.

Upon notification of acceptance, the \$150 fee is to be paid unless other aid has been requested and awarded.

An exciting opportunity for you to explore the great outdoors and experience the thrill of a unique adventure. The 51st Annual Natural Resource Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth is an interactive camp bringing together the latest in science and natural resource technology.

Mingus Mountain, in the Prescott National Forest, is the setting for learning about water, soils, plants, and other natural resources. You will discover nature by conducting experiments and completing outdoor projects. A major focus will be on forestry and rangeland management. This is a hands-on workshop! Youth will have many opportunities to discuss and debate natural resource and management issues. Various group activities such as fishing, hiking, swimming, volleyball & horseshoes will be available during your free time.



### Eligibility

Youth entering grades 8-12 in the fall of 2014 are eligible to apply. Youth must have an interest and desire to learn more about the environment in which we live. No applicant will be denied attendance because of financial need. Selection is made based on the merit of the application.

### How to Apply

Complete the application or type the following on a single sheet of paper: Name, address, phone number, grade entering in the Fall of 2014, and email address (if available). Answer the following questions: 1) Explain why you would like to attend this camp. 2) Describe your interests and activities related to natural resources. 3) Describe any other special interests, hobbies, and involvement in community or school activities. 4) If appropriate, indicate the need for financial assistance.

Mail application postmarked by May 1st to:  
Kim McReynolds, Workshop Director,  
AZ Section Society for Range Management  
450 S. Haskell, Willcox AZ 85643

**Questions:** Contact Kim at 520-384-3594 or [kimm@cals.arizona.edu](mailto:kimm@cals.arizona.edu)

### Location & Accommodations

James 4-H Camp is located on a secluded 88 acre wooded site at an elevation of 6,500 feet on Mingus Mountain in the Prescott National Forest. Participants will be housed in rustic cabins with a central bathhouse consisting of modern bathrooms and showers.



## AZ Section Award for Dave Stewart

At the Arizona Section SRM winter meeting, Dave Stewart was presented with an award in recognition of his long and valued service to the Section. During his many years with the US Forest Service, Dave served at many locations throughout the US, and always remained an active member of the Society for Range Management.

Dave's career with the USFS began on the Coronado NF in 1964 as a seasonal Forestry Aid, one year after graduating from High School. He attended the University of Arizona between the years of 1963 – 1968 while working on and off seasonally with the Forest Service. He graduated in 1968 with a tri-major in Range, Forest and Watershed Management. In 1970 he started his professional career with the USFS as a Range management specialist on the Apache NF. During the 1970's and 80's he served at all levels with the USFS; District Staff and District Ranger, National Forest, Washington DC staff and Regional Offices. After serving 4 years on the USFS National Range Management Staff in Washington DC from 1991 – 1995, he came back to the Southwest and served in the Regional Office in Albuquerque, as Assistant Regional Director for Rangeland Management. He was appointed as Regional Director of Rangeland Management for the Southwestern Region in 2008 and served 6 years in that capacity before retiring in January of 2014. His career with the USFS extended over a period of 45 years.

Dave's retirement does not spell the end of his involvement with the AZ Section or his activities with Rangeland management. He has pledged to continue his membership in the Section, and we all look forward to seeing him at future Section meetings.



Mike Hemovich, Dave Stewart, George Ruyle



## Student Scholarship Recipients Recognized at Annual Meeting

At the Annual Meeting in Tucson on 09 January 2014, recipients of the Section’s three scholarships were announced. Those scholarships are Outstanding Undergraduate at Arizona State University and University of Arizona, and the S. Clark Martin Memorial Scholarship. The Outstanding Undergraduate Student Scholarships recognizes the outstanding student in a degree program emphasizing rangeland management. Each recipient received a check for \$300. The S. Clark Memorial Scholarship recognizes the undergraduate student at either university with the highest rank score for a competitive contest at the national meeting of the Society for Range Management. The recipient received a check for \$300 in Spring 2013.

The recipient from Arizona State University was Matthew Kilford. He is an undergraduate student in Environmental Resource Management in the College of Technology and Innovation at Arizona State University. He expects to graduate in May 2014 with a dual focus in rangeland ecology and wildlife management. He is a member of the Arizona State University chapter of the Society of Range Management (SRM), and will compete in the rangeland plant identification contest at the SRM annual meeting in February in Orlando, Florida. Mr. Kilford is currently working on the Tonto National Forest under the Pathways Program in the Rangeland Management Field.



Alana Riggs

The recipient from the University of Arizona was Alana Riggs. Ms. Riggs was born and raised on a working cattle ranch in southeastern Arizona, which is what inspired her to pursue a degree in rangeland ecology and management. She wanted to continue the family tradition and take care of the ranch. After graduating in May 2014 with a double major in Spanish and Rangeland Ecology and Management, she plans to do a bit of traveling and doing seasonal range jobs in exciting places until it is time for her generation to take over the ranch. She is currently the President of the student chapter called Tierra Seca and in that capacity was instrumental in the group raising the funds needed to attend the SRM meeting in Orlando, FL in February 2014, where they will compete in the Undergraduate Range Management Exam.

Kelsey Hawkes earned the S.Clark Martin Memorial Scholarship by placing 5th individually among 219 contestants in the Undergraduate Range Management Exam at the annual meeting in Oklahoma City, OK in 2013. Kelsey was the top finisher from the University of Arizona. Ms. Hawkes graduated from the University of Arizona in December 2012 with a degree in Rangeland Ecology and Management. She is now employed as a Rangeland Resource Area Manager with the Arizona State Land Department.

On a related topic, Emily Pecilunas and Eric Wagner were selected by the University of Arizona faculty to 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 University of Arizona. Ms. Pecilunas was born and raised in Peoria, AZ but now lives with her parents in Cary, IL. She accepted a summer 2014 internship to do restoration work for a local conservation group near Cary, IL. After graduation she hopes to join the workforce in a position involving rangeland education/extension. Mr. Wagner was born and raised in Tucson. He has always been interested in rangeland ecosystems and the species that inhabit them. He believes that the study of rangelands is important because of its all-encompassing view of land management that intertwines academic knowledge and research with cultural traditions and livelihoods. Following completion of his degree in May 2014, he will search for either a federal job or will continue to gain experience working as a private environmental contractor. Eventually he is interested in pursuing a master degree in rangeland management or another related natural resource field. Both students are members of the University of Arizona team competing in the Undergraduate Range Management Exam at the SRM Meeting in Orlando, FL in February of 2014.



Emily Pecilunas

Eric Wagner

# Calendar of Events



**2014 NAIPSC Web Course**

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

**NAIPSC Webinar Series  
March 6**

**Jeremy James, University of California**  
**“Plant traits driving seedling establishment following  
invasive plant control” [More Information](#)**

**March 14 & 15, 2014**

**Cattleman’s Weekend  
Prescott Livestock Auction  
Chino Valley, AZ <http://www.cattlemansweekend.com/>**

**March 29, 2014**

**Director South workshop Quarter Circle U Ranch near the  
Superstition Mountains  
Contact [SteveBarker.Az@gmail.com](mailto:SteveBarker.Az@gmail.com) for more info**

**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

