



# Arizona Section Newsletter

March 2017



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## *President's Message - James Heitholt*

I would like to take a moment to introduce myself as your incoming Arizona Section President. I have lived in Arizona since the early 1990s and attended the U of A to get my Bachelor's Degree in Range Management. I have been working for the Forest Service since 2004 where I have held various positions in Range Management on the Coronado National Forest. My passion is in range management and I am honored to be your Section President. Thanks to the members we were able to pull off two great section meetings last year, both of which were centered around practical implantation practices for restoration and adaptive management. The recent Annual Winter Meeting was a huge success with just under 90 registrants for the Thursday symposium session that centered on the theme of "Adaptive Management Strategies on Rangelands in Arizona". We had a number of great presentations from ranchers and their land management agency partners on some great techniques and issues that were pertinent in their part of the state. We wrapped up the Thursday session with a presentation of the Collaborative Drought Project that the University of Arizona has been conducting with the Tonto National Forest, and Friday the membership had a chance to test drive the tools from this project in a great workshop facilitated by Dr. Mitch McClaran. All of the presentations from the Winter Meeting are available on the Section Web Site. My hope would be that we continue to build on these meetings and we find topics that are relevant to the membership. I am excited about the upcoming year and the theme of "The Year of Native Range" for our upcoming annual meetings and ranch tours. This is an exciting opportunity to showcase management on some of our largest and diverse landscapes in Arizona. Stay tuned for more specifics on those meetings from our President Elect Iric Burden.



## The Year of Native Rangelands Arizona SRM Meeting Status Update

Hello to all my fellow Range Partners,

I would like to first start by congratulating James and all those who helped organize both the summer and winter meetings, what a great turn out for both and terrific information was provided as well.

This year I would like to introduce the year as "The Year of Native Rangelands". We will be having both the summer and winter meetings hosted by a tribal reservation within Arizona. We have sent out a request to Tribes within Arizona to see who would like to show case their rangelands. *(...continued on Page 2)*

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**The Year of Native Rangelands....Continued**

Summer meeting: We have had interest and are working on solidifying the time and place, but please make sure to mark the first two weeks of August on your calendar as dates for the meeting to take place. We hope to have all the particulars nailed down by mid-March. An official "Save the Date" flyer will be sent out shortly after mid-March to all members, through email chains and postings on website/Facebook.

Winter meeting: Will be a conventional style conference with presenters from all over the state, who manage Tribal rangelands. We will be soliciting a call for papers by May and hope to have representation from as many Tribes as possible on their success stories.

In addition, Spring and Fall tours: We are planning to have a **Spring Tour on April 11 and 12** on Hualapai lands presented by Hualapai Tribe, University of Arizona, NRCS and Arizona Society for Range Management. Also, we would like to have a fall tour and are working out the logistics of that now. Please keep these in mind and look for the upcoming dates soon.

I have had the pleasure of seeing many success stories on Tribal rangelands here in northern Arizona and would like to have the hard work put in by administrators/grazing officials/ranchers of Native rangelands showcased for all to see. Thank you and I look forward to seeing all of you in the field!

Sincerely,

Eric B. Burden  
President-Elect

**Vice President's Report - Andrew Brischke**

"Plants identify themselves to him. He knows all the Latin scientific names of plants, in Greek. Soil pits dig him. He is, *the most interesting man in range.*"

No they don't, no he doesn't, he doesn't own a shovel, and he is really quite a bore these days. But he is your new Vice President for the AZ Section of SRM.



Hello Rangers! The name is Andrew Brischke, or Brewski, however you know me and somehow I got appointed to be your new VP. In a heated race of one. But I didn't get vetoed, so I'll take that as vote of confidence to represent the section for the next few years.

A bit about me...after 14 short years at The University of Arizona, I graduated with a BS (2006) and MS (2015) in Rangeland Management and Ecology. I worked as a Research Specialist in Rangeland Monitoring for an eternity (2007 – 2016) for UA Cooperative Extension in Cochise County. I recently began a new position as an Agriculture & Natural Resources Area Assistant Extension Agent for Mohave & Coconino Counties. I've been a member of SRM since 2008 and have done a few things here and there for the section. I'm looking forward to serving the AZ Section in a more significant role as I've enjoyed many of the aspects the Society has given me. I'm excited to work with the membership to make AZSRM as productive as possible.

### Director South Report - Doug Whitbeck

This winter sure has flown by. Guess that's what happens during field season for us in Southern Arizona. It sure is nice running transects in the Sonoran Desert National Monument without feeling like you're melting. It has been a mild winter for us though. We only had a handful of mornings where a light layer of frost coated our windshields and for some of us, our gardens...

The winter rains have blessed the deserts surrounding Gila Bend with above average precipitation. The cotyledons of *Plantago*, *Erodium*, and *Schismus* carpet the ground beneath the creosote as far as the eye can see. With ephemeral use requests rolling in, our range staff have been busy clipping and weighing which is oddly therapeutic between juggling all of our other responsibilities.

It is also training and conference season which has kept many of us agency folks here in Southern Arizona very busy. However, the SRM national meeting is always worth the trip. Between the great symposiums and seeing old friends, SRM helps melt away the worries and deadlines of day-to-day life and helps remind you of why you chose rangeland management as a profession. Anyways, great job to all of the students who participated at SRM this year and hope to see more of you at meetings to come.



## Director South Report - *Rachel Turner*



From a recent trip to Cheyenne, WY

While in Utah, I was awed by the beauty of the red rocks and mountain formations. Every day I am surrounded by the gorgeous views that Arizona provides, yet it was nice to explore unfamiliar areas while enjoying nature. In closing, I am excited to serve as a Director South and increase my involvement within the Section. Some of the things I'd like to see the section achieve this year are an increase in membership numbers and participation. There are more great events being hosted by the AZ SRM section in the upcoming year and it is my goal to attend as many as possible. I look forward to getting to know and work with more of you while I serve on the Board of Directors!

Hi everyone! My name is Rachel Turner and I am excited to serve as a new Director South for the Arizona SRM Section. Just to give some background, I am a master's student at the University of Arizona in the School of Natural Resources and the Environment studying cattle diet and the use of fecal near infrared spectroscopy on the Santa Rita Experimental Range. Currently I am serving as Treasurer for the University of Arizona student chapter of SRM, Tierra Seca. I received my bachelor's degree in 2015 from the University of Arizona in Rangeland Ecology and Management with a minor in Animal Science. I also completed an honors thesis focused on local food in Arizona. During my time as an undergraduate, I participated on the university's Undergraduate Range Management Exam study team and the Plant ID team. As a graduate student my free time has become more limited, but any chance I get, I love to spend time with my boyfriend and our two dogs hiking while taking photos.

Since the New Year, there have been some great events within the Society for Range Management. I was fortunate enough to attend the Arizona SRM Winter Meeting in Tucson as well as the SRM Annual Meeting in St. George, Utah. Both meetings were terrific opportunities to develop skills and network with other professionals working on rangelands. Not only are these meetings important for learning and dissemination of information, they also allow us to socialize with likeminded individuals and discuss a shared passion. At the Annual Meeting, I personally enjoyed presenting my graduate project during the poster session and attending the University of Arizona Social. It was great getting to see old friends and meeting new people!



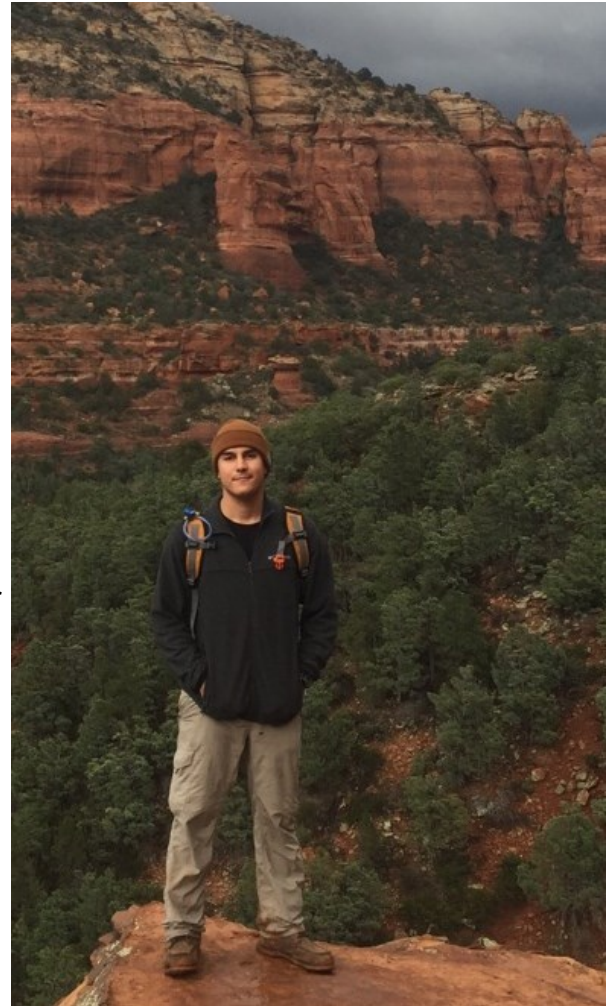
Zion National Park – Emerald Pools Trail

## Director North Report - *Joey Dahms*

Hello all, my name is Joey Dahms and I am the new Director North serving along with Erin Boyd. While still relatively new to the Society (coming up on 3 years of membership) it holds a place in my heart and I'm glad to be able to be a part of it. Not too long ago I graduated from the University of Arizona (May '16) as an active member of Tierra Seca and settled into my current role with the NRCS in Flagstaff. While I grew up in the southern portion of the state the North is starting to grow on me with its extreme diversity and milder temperatures.

Some news from the North! While the shadow of drought still hangs over much of the state many people have mentioned having above average winter precipitation on their places! We're also looking good from a water supply standpoint. Melting snow within the northern watersheds that originated from a few large snowstorms within the last few months causing many of our water reservoirs to fill above average for the time being! The only question is if it will continue to rain and snow in the future?

On another note, in accordance with the "year of native range" we are currently working on setting up a spring workshop and field tour with the Hualapai Tribe. The Hualapai reservation is located northeast of Kingman and off of the south rim of the grand canyon and while we don't have complete details yet keep your eyes and ears open for more information within the near future.



Sedona, AZ

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### Don't forget about our Arizona Section Website!

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

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

Our website has copies of the recent meeting minutes from our Board of Director meetings, a contact list of all of the members of the board, copies of our recent newsletters, and much more!

Check it out!



## National SRM Recognitions at All Levels in St. George



# 70TH ANNUAL SRM MEETING

Technical Training & Trade Show  
January 29 - February 2, 2017 • St. George, UT

It was a very successful year at the National SRM Meeting in St. George, UT this year. Particularly for three individuals representing the Arizona Section.

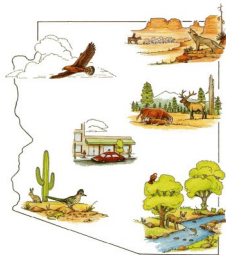
At the Professional level, Dr. Del Despain from The University of Arizona was recognized by our parent society by receiving the Outstanding Achievement Award. The award, as the title suggests, recognizes eminently noteworthy achievement in any rangeland management-related area. Dr. Despain's research and development of VGS software for monitoring rangelands certainly fits the description. VGS started in 2008 as a small project with only pockets of users throughout Arizona. Since, the program has ballooned and evolved and has been adopted by multiple range professionals throughout the West. Dr. Despain continues to develop the VGS program in order to accommodate the various needs rangeland monitoring requires. Congratulations Dr. Del Despain, very well deserved!



At the graduate student level, Hennessy Miller from The University of Arizona won 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the Masters Student Poster Competition. Ms. Miller's poster, co-authored by Jeff Fehmi and Hannah Farrell - also from UA, was titled *Geomorphological Change Analysis of Ephemeral Rangeland Streams in the Altar Valley, Arizona*. As the first place winner, Hennessy will receive a \$200 certificate and an announcement published in the next SRM Range Flash. Congratulations Hennessy and co-authors for winning the MS Poster Competition, it was a fantastic poster!

At the undergraduate student level, Amber Ford from The University of Arizona took 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in the Undergraduate Range Management Exam (URME) Competition. Almost 200 undergraduate students from across North America participated in the competition. For placing 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Ms. Ford is exempt from taking the exam to become a Certified Professional in Range Management (CPRM) and will be eligible to apply for her certification after she completes five years of professional experience. Congratulations Amber! Third Place is an amazing accomplishment for a very difficult test! Congratulations also to Dr. Larry Howery who has coached the University of Arizona URME team for many years and who must have felt very proud to present this award to Amber as the 2017 President of the Society for Range Management.





# Natural Resource Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth

July 17 - July 21, 2017 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.

An exciting opportunity for you to explore the great outdoors and experience the thrill of a unique adventure. The 53<sup>rd</sup> 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 natural resource basics and management techniques. This is a hands-on workshop! Youth will have many opportunities to discuss natural resource 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 2017 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 2017, 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 with \$75 deposit, postmarked by May 1<sup>st</sup> to: Kim McReynolds, Workshop Director, AZ Section Society for Range Management, 450 S. Haskell, Suite A, Willcox AZ 85643

**Questions:** Contact Kim at 520-766-3602 or [kimm@cals.arizona.edu](mailto:kimm@cals.arizona.edu)

## Details

**Dates:** July 17-21, 2017

**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 2017.

**Limit:** 35 participants.

**Deadline for Applications:** Post-marked by **May 1, 2017** and include \$75 deposit.

Applicants will be notified of selection results no later than June 1, 2017.

Upon notification of acceptance, the remaining \$75 fee is to be paid unless other aid has been requested and awarded.

## 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.



**53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Natural Resource Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth  
Application for the July 17-21, 2017 Workshop**

[http://azrangelands.org/nrcway/NRCW\\_AYflyer.pdf](http://azrangelands.org/nrcway/NRCW_AYflyer.pdf)

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **T-shirt size (adult):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_** **Grade Entering in Fall 2017:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail Address (if available):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Explain why you would like to attend this workshop:**

**Describe your interest and activities related to natural resources:**

**Describe any other special interests, hobbies and involvement in community or school activities:**

**If appropriate, indicate the need for financial assistance:**

**Application must be postmarked by midnight May 1, 2017 along with a \$75 deposit.** Applicants will be notified of selection results no later than June 1, 2017. Upon notification of acceptance, the remaining \$75 is due unless financial aid has been requested and awarded. Enrollment is limited to 35 participants.

**Mail Application to:**            **Kim McReynolds, Workshop Director**  
   **Society for Range Management - Arizona Section**  
   **450 S. Haskell Ave., Suite A, Willcox, AZ 85643**

**Questions: Contact Kim McReynolds at (520) 766-3602 or [kimm@cals.arizona.edu](mailto:kimm@cals.arizona.edu)**

Sponsored by the Society for Range Management, Arizona Section  
and **UA CALS Cooperative Extension & 4-H Youth Development**



## 2017 High School Youth Forum (HSYF)

In 1966, the SRM recognized a need to involve youth with the range-related activities at the annual meeting. As a result, each year since this time, the SRM has sponsored a forum at the high school level to provide an opportunity for deserving high school students to learn about rangelands and other related resources. The first year that the Arizona Section sponsored a student to the forum was in 1987. Students are selected based on their participation at NRCWAY.

The HSYF this year included 25 students from 14 sections. The week was jam packed with educational opportunities. The program began on Sunday evening with orientation and students practicing for their presentations. Each section delegate is responsible for researching a range related topic and presenting their information in a 6-8 minute presentation.

Monday was the ecological tour with stops at Pipe Springs National Monument with discussion about the Arizona Strip and the history of the area, lunch in Kanab with speakers from BLM on their landscape conservation partnership, a tour through a pinyon-juniper removal project, a visit to the Coral Pink Sand Dunes with a discussion about a threatened milkweed and tiger beetle, and a tour through Zion National Park with a presentation on wildlife in the park. The day ended with a professional interaction dinner and more practice on presentations for the next day.

Tuesday was the highlight of the week with the student presentations. Talks varied from hydrology to prescribed fire. Arizona delegates did well with their talks on "The Problems with Crayfish" (Eveline) and "Bats: Preserving a Keystone Species of the Rangelands" (Mattie).

The rest of the week was spent with visiting poster sessions and the trade show, a workshop on invasive plants, a business meeting, and the awards presentations. Student evaluations show that they enjoyed the forum, learned new things, and made life-long new friends.



Mattie (l) and Eve (r) at the speaking podium following their presentations in St. George, UT.

## Thank You!

Dear SRM President,

This year, I had the honor of representing Arizona at the High School Youth Forum and it was such an amazing experience. I enjoyed every moment of the trip until the day we left. I hope that next year somebody else gets to enjoy the HSYF and all it has to offer.

Eveline Peterson, Glendale, AZ  
HSYF Representative, AZ Section  
2017

Dear SRM Arizona Section,

I just wanted to say thank you SO much for sponsoring me to go to the High School Youth Forum in St. George, Utah. It was truly an amazing, life changing experience that I will never forget. I met some of the kindest people I have ever known, and I can honestly say I hope to stay friends with them all for the rest of my life. All the delegates got some amazing experiences, especially on the ecological tour and during the presentations. I got the opportunity to go to Zion National Park, which has been on my bucket list for a really long time. I also enjoyed listening to the other delegate's presentations and giving my own. At the end of the forum, I saw a huge increase in my presentation/public speaking skills and confidence. I just wanted to take the time and say thank you to the Arizona Section for sponsoring me, and encourage them to keep sponsoring Arizona delegates in the future for the HSYF. I have seen firsthand what a wonderful experience it is, and know what a huge honor it is to be selected. Thank you again!

Sincerely,  
Mattie Mitchell, Peoria, AZ  
HSYF 2017

## Student Scholarship Recipients Recognized at Annual Meeting



From left to right: Joey Dahms, Joshua Sutter, Elena Dosamantes, Dr. Mitch McClaran

At the Annual Meeting of the Arizona Section of the Society for Range Management in Tucson on 05 January 2017, 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 Winter 2016.

The recipient from Arizona State University was Marina Copeland. Marina is a Junior at Arizona State University majoring in Natural Resources and Ecology with an emphasis in Range and Wildlife Management. She is currently president of the Wildlife and Restoration Student Association at Arizona State University. Marina works in Watershed and Range in the Pathways program on the Tonto National Forest. Her career goal is to work in the Range and Watershed field.

The recipient from the University of Arizona was Joshua Sutter. Mr. Sutter was born and raised in Colorado Springs CO and has been a Tucson, AZ resident since the age of twelve. After high school, he went into the welding industry for four years before pursuing a college degree. He had interests in pursuing an agriculture degree but was unsure what path to choose; however, he did discover a special interest in soil science. After taking a few courses and meeting the faculty and students in the School of Natural Resources and the Environment, he decided to pursue a degree in Ecology, Management and Restoration of Rangelands. He will graduate in May 2017, and plans to work for a government agency in soil conservation and management. He says that "I would like to gain a few years' experience before deciding on grad school, as I would like to broaden my skill set further on the agricultural side." Mr. Sutter has been the 2016-17 President of the Tierra Seca Student Club, and participated in his second Undergraduate Range Management Exam competition this year at the annual meeting of the Society for Range Management in St. George, UT.



## Student Scholarship Recipients...*Continued*

Joey Dahms from the University of Arizona received the S. Clark Martin Memorial Scholarship for the highest score among Arizona Section students competing in the contests at the annual meeting of the Society for Range Management in Corpus Christi, TX in February 2016. Mr. Dahm's scored 9<sup>th</sup> of about 250 contestants, which is well-within the top 5% of all contestants in the Undergraduate Range Management Exam, and his UA team placed third overall in the contest. He graduated in May 2016 with a BS in Natural Resources with an emphasis in Ecology, Management and Restoration of Rangelands. He is currently a Rangeland Management Specialist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Flagstaff, AZ. He describes his situation as having the "best job in the world."

On a related topic, Elena Dosamantes and Brett Myers were selected by the University of Arizona faculty co-recipients of 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.

Elena was born in Tucson, Arizona, and was raised in Cananea, Sonora. She will graduate in May 2017 with a degree in Natural Resources with an emphasis in Ecology, Management and Restoration of Rangelands. During her academic career she has worked as technician and crew leader for a research project investigating long-term ecosystem effects and trade-offs of woody plant encroachment on grazed rangelands in the University of Arizona's Santa Rita Experimental Range. In addition, she was part of the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Consortium's (UROC) PREP/STAR Program where she completed a research project on wild horse and burro population growth rates. She competed in the Undergraduate Range Management Exam at the annual meeting of the Society for Range Management in St. George, Utah.



Brett Myers was born in Columbus, Ohio and spent his youth living in Alabama, Florida, and Michigan. He will graduate in May 2017 with a degree in Natural Resources with an emphasis in Ecology, Management and Restoration of Rangelands. Brett enlisted in the US Marine Corps in 2006, was stationed in 29 Palms, and served two deployments to Iraq as an infantryman. He then followed the open skies to Tucson, Arizona where he fell in love with Western rangelands. Ecology was a strong interest for him throughout his adult life, and so he naturally took an interest in rangeland with the integration of plant communities, soils, wildlife, livestock use, and watershed function. He joined the University of Arizona in 2015, and began working as a student trainee (rangeland management) for the NRCS in Sells and Tucson, Arizona. During this time, he realized that helping ranchers conserve natural resources was the best career anyone could have! After graduation, he hopes to continue to assist ranchers with the knowledge and experience he

gains from completing his degree in Ecology, Management, and Restoration of Rangelands. He competed in the Undergraduate Range Management Exam at the annual meeting of the Society for Range Management in St. George, Utah.

## University of Arizona Chapter Activities

### **Tierra Seca** **Student chapter for the Society for Range Management** **University of Arizona**

This year has been a very busy and exciting year for the student rangeland club, Tierra Seca, at the University of Arizona. From gaining experience in the field with professionals to competing in different competitions within natural resources, our student members have made the effort to further themselves both professionally and socially. This past semester has brought us together as a close-knit team of club members in which we benefit from one another while creating an environment where we can prosper as students and professionals.

The most recent major event and accomplishment of our chapter is attending and competing at the annual Society for Range Management conference in St. George, Utah. Our team consisted of 11 contestants, 10 of which competed in the undergraduate range management exam (URME) and 3 in the Plant I.D. contest. Overall, we placed 9<sup>th</sup> as a team in the URME competition, and one of our remarkable team members, Amber Ford, placed 3<sup>rd</sup> individually amongst the rest of the contending students. Aside from the various contests, we had the pleasure of attending various presentations on issues within the natural resources and have further built our professional connections through the conference.

As students, it is sometimes hard to get exposure to real world experiences that we can write down on our resumes. The annual SRM conference helps to fill that void along with our diverse activities throughout the semesters. Recently, we had the opportunity to send some of Tierra Seca's members to help with monitoring work on the V-Bar-V Ranch. Along side this, the Altar Valley Conservation Alliance and the Elk Horn Ranch reached out to our club for volunteer work on an ongoing watershed project. Our club has brought together some of the most dependable and active individuals that will help further and strengthen Tierra Seca for years to come.

We look forward to the upcoming year and what it has in store for us, and the opportunities that might be around the next corner.

Best,

Joshua Sutter  
 President

[joshuasutter@email.arizona.edu](mailto:joshuasutter@email.arizona.edu)



**Buffelgrass pull, Spring 2017**  
**Photo by: Clara Miller**



**URME Team, SRM Conference 2017**

## 2016 Annual Award Recipients

### **2016 Range Manager of the Year Bar T Bar Ranch, Bob and Judy Prosser Winslow, AZ**

The Bar T Bar Ranch is owned and operated by Bob and Judy Prosser and was established in 1924 by Judy's grandfather, Napoleon Warren "Boss" Chilson. The Bar T Bar covers about 326,200 acres of private, State, and Forest Service lands between Winslow and Happy Jack, AZ. The ranch spans across portions of the Colorado Plateau and Mogollon Rim, encompassing both winter and summer ranges for year-round grazing.

The Prossers exemplify excellence in land stewardship, striving for high quality rangeland condition and beef for consumers as well as strong relationships with collaborative partners. The Bar T Bar partnered with the Flying M Ranch in 1993 to form the Diablo Trust. The Trust is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to sustain healthy land resources and open space through education and active involvement of the broader community in maintaining ranches as long-term, economically viable land stewardship enterprises.

The Bar T Bar meets its goals and objectives for land stewardship via regular vegetation utilization and trend monitoring, extensive network of water developments and other improvements to improve livestock distribution, adaptive stocking rates, pasture rest, conservative stocking during periods of drought, and collaborative land management plans. The last 30 years of monitoring data indicate an improvement in rangeland trend since the early 1990's.

Congratulations to the Prosser family for their hard work and dedication to sustainable management of Arizona's rangelands! Show some support for the Bar T Bar Ranch by stopping in for a burger at Diablo Burger restaurant in Tucson or Flagstaff (coming soon to Phoenix!).

Bar T Bar Website:  
<http://www.bartbar.com/>

Diablo Burger Website:  
<http://www.diabloburger.com/>



**Bob Prosser, Judy Prosser, and Iric Burden**



**Bar T Bar Ranch** (Photo from [http://www.bartbar.com/about\\_location.html](http://www.bartbar.com/about_location.html))

## 2016 Annual Award Recipients...*Continued*

### Outstanding Service Award Arizona Rangelands Partnership Team

The Arizona Rangelands Partnership Team is comprised of librarians, rangeland specialists, and IT experts. The team has spearheaded a 20-year initiative to inform and engage multiple audiences about important issues related to sustainable rangelands management, including public and private land managers, researchers, Extension professionals, educators, and the public. The initiative began in 1996 as an “Arizona” project, but expanded to several other institutions in 2002. The expansion resulted in the founding of the “Rangelands Partnership”, a collaborative that now includes members from 18 other land grant universities in the Western and Central Plains of the U.S. The Rangeland Partnership maintains many communication and resource outlets, including various levels of websites and social media pages (YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest). The Rangelands Partnership Team has recently produced a variety of video presentations including topical introductory clips, local knowledge interviews with Arizona ranchers and land managers, and short documentaries, two of which have been shown on the PBS show, *Arizona Illustrated*. The Rangelands Partnership holds annual meetings and is a recognized multistate Western Extension Research Activity (WERA 1008) by the Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Stations. Most recently, the Arizona Team is helping to coordinate an international effort to gain an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists designation through the UN General Assembly. The purpose of an International Year is to raise public awareness of the importance of sustainable rangelands management to food security, economic development, and healthy ecosystems. Members of the Arizona Rangelands Partnerships Team include: Barb Hutchinson (Coordinator), Dr. George Ruyle (Extension Specialist), Jeanne Pfander (Science Librarian), Mat Rahr (IT Specialist), Sheila Merrigan (Media Specialist), Amber Dalke (Rangeland Specialist), Sarah Noelle (Rangeland Specialist), Kelly Arizmendi (Web Support), Craig Boesewetter (Web Designer), Cody Sheehy (Video Production), and Matt Decker (Video Production).

Congratulations to the Arizona Rangelands Partnership Team!  
Thank you for your hard work!

<http://globalrangelands.org>

<http://rangelandswest.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/RangelandsWest/>

<https://www.twitter.com/RangelandsPartn>

<https://www.pinterest.com/RangelndsPartnrs>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/GlobalRangelands>



Sarah Noelle, Barb Hutchinson, Jeanne Pfander

## 2016 Annual Award Recipients...*Continued*

### Professional and Technical Guidance Award The Hopi Tribe Office of Range Management

The Hopi Tribe Office of Range Management was established in 1991 when the Tribe took over the Office of Land Operations (Bureau of Indian Affairs) via the Indian Self Determination Act. The staff consisted of a director, office secretary, a range specialist, and three range technicians. Their function was to implement a program of rangeland management on Land Management District Six, the portion of the Hopi Reservation that is exclusively for Hopi use. The area covered consists of 15 large range units on over 600,000 acres of desert grassland and Pinyon Juniper woodland and grassland. In 2001, the Hopi Tribe took over an additional 900,000 acres of rangeland known as Hopi Partition Lands, on which grazing use is regulated with grazing permits issued to individual livestock owners. Currently, the Office of Range Management administers and manages grazing on 1.6 million acres of rangeland used by hundreds of individual livestock owners. Routine activities include monitoring of vegetation use and livestock counts, coordinating with individual livestock owners, responding to trespass issues, control of feral livestock, fence, road, and water development conditions, monitoring precipitation and water supplies, conducting range and livestock workshops, and tracking locations of noxious plant species. Of special note, the Hopi Range staff have been working diligently over the past four years to develop and implement a system of regulated and permitted livestock grazing on District Six rangelands. Needless to say, this has not been an easy task: after years of “customary use” where anyone can do their own thing on rangelands (within class and/or village constraints), it is no surprise that there was plenty of opposition to this effort. However, the hard work paid off and the Hopi Tribe recently signed into law the Grazing Ordinance and livestock permitting system on District Six rangelands. Rangeland conditions on the Hopi Reservation are for the most part in good condition with positive apparent trends. This is largely due to the “hands on” approach of the Hopi Office of Range Management in working with people on the land to solve problems and use the land within its limitations. The Office of Range Management includes: Priscilla Pavatea (Director), Robinson Honani (Range Specialist), Robert (Chuck) Adams (Range Technician), Jerry Shabi (Range Technician), Dewey Sahmea (Range Technician), Irwin (Rick) Nasafote (Range Technician), Marilyn Sakeva (Office Secretary), and Marilyn Polivema (Office Manager). Congratulations to the Hopi Office of Range Management for your many accomplishments and challenges you’ve overcome. Keep up the great work!



**The Hopi Tribe Office of Range Management Team**

## 2016 Annual Award Recipients...*Continued*

### Outstanding Young Professional Award Shai Schendel

We are proud to honor Shai Schendel with the 2016 Outstanding Young Professional Award in recognition of her many accomplishments as a rangeland professional.

In addition to four years of military service (thank you, Shai!), Shai has dedicated over twelve years to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), with eight years as a Rangeland Management Specialist and four years and counting as a District Conservationist in Flagstaff, AZ. Shai has provided long-term consistency and leadership to Northern Arizona NRCS and associated rangelands.

In her positions with the NRCS, Shai has achieved many on-the-ground benefits, including over 600,000 acres of brush management, hundreds of miles of pipeline and associated watering facilities to improve livestock distribution, countless hours of inventory and monitoring, development of numerous plans in order to conserve natural resources, participation in Snow Survey Team that provides valuable information to the State of Arizona, and high involvement in collaborative groups, including the Diablo Trust, Rim Grass Range Group, and management of the largest CSP contract with Hopi 3 Canyon Ranches.

Shai has been an active member of the Society for Range Management for over twelve years. She has served as the Chair for the Arizona Section Membership Committee for over six years and served as a Director North for two years in 2013-2014. In addition, Shai promotes youth education in natural resources via 4H, Girl Scouts Leadership, the Range Rocks Program, and Hopi Youth Education Workshops.

Shai is highly respected among her peers and is valued by all ranchers within her work area and beyond. She is extremely professional and always willing to pitch in to help with events and meetings. Shai maintains a positive outlook and always overcomes obstacles and barriers. Most importantly, Shai is a mother to two wonderful, well-adjusted daughters.

Congratulations Shai! We are proud to have you as a part of our Arizona rangelands family.

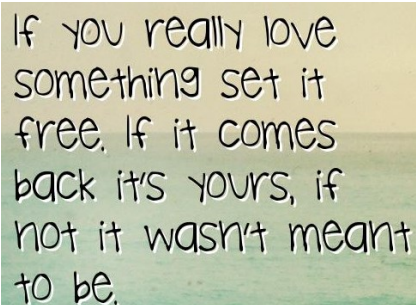


**Shai Schendel and Iric Burden**



## Field Follies, by Andrew Brischke

### *If You Love Something...*



If you really love something set it free. If it comes back it's yours, if not it wasn't meant to be.

“If you really hate something, set it free. If it comes back it must be long-term vegetation monitoring, if not you’re luckier than me.” –Brewski

Maybe hate is a wee bit strong. After 9 years of field work and monitoring research, monitoring and myself have a rocky relationship. At best. I do like the data, the results, the interpretation, the information we gain from it, and even talking about it. I’m not the biggest fan of actually doing the work. The hiking, the heat, the stickers poking me through my flip-flops, but above all - the monotony. No surprises there. It may just be the case that monitoring and I simply need more time apart.

I wrapped up my heavy monitoring field work around December 2015. I was able to avoid most of the heavy field work until about November 2016. 11 months apart. Either monitoring really missed me or it came back with spiteful vengeance.

I woke up late, really late. The night before the power had been knocked out and I had to reset my clock and alarm. Without thinking I flipped the alarm switch to “on” and went about my business. Later that night I thought to myself, “I had better turn that alarm on,” so I went back and thinking I turned the alarm on, I turned it off. I woke up with first daylight and knew I was already about 1 ½ hours late. I threw on my clothes, fed the dogs and rushed out the door in about 10 minutes. I told the crew I was helping that day to start without me and I’ll find them.

I followed their directions without a hitch and parked next to them. Then I had to figure out which direction the site was. I wandered around looking for tracks and happened upon some flagging. It looked new so I decided to follow it. Up and over a ridge and I found them, hiking out. They’d finished and I had wasted a hike.

We drove to the next site together and tried to find a pull-out to park, hopefully close to the site. After ½ hour of searching we found a spot for each vehicle and snaked our way through the heavy chaparral. I mean heavy. Shrubbery above our heads and dense thickets. We did our best and found our spot as close as we could by GPS. No pictures, no t-post, no monument. Not a big deal, until the monitoring protocol really showed its vengeance.

It was only a flesh wound but I felt my arm had been cut off when I heard we were using the CNVSP Protocols for the PHYGROW model. Yippee! If you’ve never had the pleasure, you should. Only because misery loves company. It’s 200 frames of misery, with some additional clipping - and collecting litter. What would usually take 1 – 1 ½ hours would take 4 hours; in dense, heavy shrubbery, 5 hours. But my dear monitoring, I can also be full of spite and vengeance. We only did 100 frames. Have at you, monitoring! Now let’s see if more time apart will heal our wounds, or I’ll run away.

# Calendar of Events

- March 10, 2017 The Verde River State of the Watershed Conference, Clarkdale, AZ
- March 14, 2017 UA Range Livestock Nutrition Workshop, Safford, AZ
- March 15, 2017 UA Range Livestock Nutrition Workshop, Holbrook, AZ
- March 16, 2017 UA Range Livestock Nutrition Workshop, Kingman, AZ
- March 21, 2017 Cross-Watershed Network Annual Workshop, Thatcher, AZ
- March 29-30, 2017 2nd Annual Arizona Wildland-Urban Interface & Firewise Summit, Flagstaff, AZ
- April 4-6, 2017 Arizona-Utah Range Livestock Workshop & Tour, St. George & Orderville, UT
- April 11-12, 2017 Arizona Section Spring Tour, Hualapai Tribe
- May 1, 2017 Deadline to submit applications for Natural Resources Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth (NRCWAY)
- July 17-21, 2017 NRCWAY camp
- July 26-28, 2017 113th Annual Arizona Cattle Growers Association Convention, Prescott, AZ



Arizona Section-Society For Range Management  
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