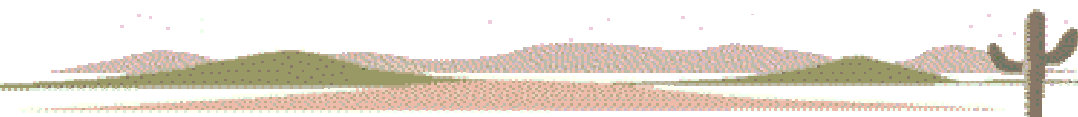


# Society for Range Management



## ARIZONA SECTION

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**ASU Student President**

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Michael.P.Sorensen@asu.edu

November, 2009

### President's Message

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



Hi all,

Well, the monsoon sputtered in most places. As the oldtimers have said, "Rain in June, no monsoon." In many of the places I have been involved in monitoring this fall, 2009 forage production has been about 35% of that observed in 2008. Consequences of the drier year necessitate more forward planning in applying conservative grazing until spring. Monitoring allows us to look both forward and backward in time while standing in the present.

As all of you know, at the end of the growing season we can estimate the amount of forage available for livestock and wildlife until spring. This allows us to better plan livestock numbers and movements to better practice adaptive management. For the winter of 2009-2010, I hope for the return of El Niño to bring much needed winter moisture and to help give a start to warm season grasses this spring. However, I believe that effective contingency plans would have us plan for the worse while still hoping for the best. So, careful observations of both livestock and rangeland condition are in order over the next several months. Mangers may need to practice more frequent pasture rotations than what would ordinarily be practiced as well as better distributing livestock with herding, salt, water, and protein supplements.

By cataloguing rainfall data from several locations on the ranch <http://cals.arizona.edu/yavapai/anr/hort/byg/archive/homeweathermonitoring.html> and by collecting monitoring data, you can build an "archive" of forage production and rangeland conditions over time. For example, this summer would be considered to be an anomaly and by comparing forage production and utilization with livestock numbers and utilization, one could build a history of grazing in a drier year and use this to better plan out management actions in other years with poor summer moisture. For instance, suppose that most years with typical summer moisture has utilization in the pasture mapped out to 35%. In a drier year, water sources in part of the pasture dried up and with no management actions, utilization in parts of the pasture that are better watered equaled 52%. If the grazing target was 40% utilization and the cattle were in the pasture 120 days, then cattle should have been moved at around 90 days **AND/OR** water needed to be hauled to the parts of the pasture that was not utilized and cattle herded to that section of pasture.

Days grazing or cattle numbers \* Desired use = adjusted target or 120 days \* 40 = 92 days

Actual use

52

By looking both forward and backward in time with monitoring data, we can be more flexible and better practice adaptive management in our widely fluctuating Southwestern environment.

Al Medina and his agenda committee have assembled a very impressive set of topics and speakers for the winter meeting on January 18-20 in Prescott. I hope to see all of you at Prescott. Look for more details on the winter meeting with a more specific agenda to be posted online <http://azrangelands.org/> as those details become finalized. As noted in this newsletter, the registration is now available online.

Till Next Time,



*Jim Maynard of Southwest Resource Consultants, LLC and his son Asa of Las Cruces, NM collect monitoring data on the **Bar X Ranch in Young.***



## Arizona Section International Society for Range Management

### 2010 WINTER MEETING

Prescott Resort, Prescott, AZ

January 18-20, 2010

#### THEME

**“Livestock-Wildlife-Native Fish Interactions:**

***What Do We Think We Know?”***

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

**SRM's MISSION:** *to promote the professional development and continuing education of members and the public and the stewardship of rangeland resources.*

The Arizona Section will host a workshop addressing “Livestock-Wildlife-Native Fish Interactions as part of the 2010 Annual Winter Meeting on January 18-20, 2010 at the Prescott Resort, Prescott, Arizona. Conflicts involving livestock grazing are an important concern to land managers, farmers, ranchers, conservation organizations, and the general public. Ranchers and land managers witness these conflicts in the form of stocking reductions, exclusions or other restrictions. Wildlife and fishery managers attempt to fulfill the legal requisites of State and Federal laws to protect and conserve species of interest. Most often, there is a lack of scientific information from which to base sound decisions to mitigate conflicts. Given the variety of wildlife and fish of special interest in Arizona, it is difficult to comprehend the scope of conflicting issues, given the expanding list of species of interest.

This workshop seeks to invoke a dialogue between scientists, managers, ranchers, and the general public about “what we *think* we know about livestock interactions”. The program consists of 3 sessions: wildlife, fish, and policy and management considerations. Technical experts will present their understanding of the current knowledge on interactions, examine information and management needs, and offer recommendations for mitigating direct and indirect conflicts with selected species and their habitats. In addition, examples of ranching operations that have proactively taken up challenge of conserving wildlife and native fish will be featured. Graduate research related to range management and wildlife at Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University, and the university of Arizona will also highlighted in a poster session, as well as selected poster presentations by wildlife conservation organizations.

*Program and Registration details follow.*

**GENERAL PROGRAM****Monday**, January 18

General Membership Meeting 7:00 – 9:00 pm **Sedona/Verde Rm**

**Tuesday**, January 19

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Rick Danvir – The Deseret Ranch Experience

Session I: Wildlife (Fur/feathers) - 8:00 – 12:00

Elk, pronghorn, willow flycatcher, other birds,

Working example – U Bar Ranch

Questions & Discussion

Session II: Fish/Amphibians/Reptiles – 1:00 – 4:45

Leopard Frogs, garter snakes, amphibians, reptiles, Native Fish

Working Example

Questions & Discussion

NO-HOST SOCIAL & AUCTION 5:15 – 6:45 pm

BANQUET 7:00 – 9:00 pm

**Wednesday**, January 20

Session III: Policy & Management – 8:00 – 12:00

USFS, BLM, State Directors

Student Scholarships— Mitch McClaran

Board of Directors Business Meeting – 1:45 – 3:30

**CONFERENCE HOTEL**

Prescott Resort, 1500 E. State Route 69, Prescott, AZ 86301-5640 (928) 776-1666  
[www.prescottresort.com](http://www.prescottresort.com) . A block of rooms has been reserved for all attendees at the rate of \$75.00/ nite until December 18, 2009. This rate is fantastic !! Thereafter, rooms will be available at prevailing rates. Reference your reservation to the “**AZ Society for Range Management**” to get meeting rates. Make your reservations EARLY!

Certified Professionals in Rangeland Management will receive CEU's for participation.

**Arizona Section International Society for Range Management**  
**WINTER MEETING REGISTRATION**  
**Prescott Resort, Prescott, AZ**  
**January 18-20, 2010**

**THEME: "Livestock-Wildlife-Native Fish Interactions: *What Do We Think We Know*"**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse & Guest Names: \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL-IN REGISTRATION OPTIONS**

Full Meeting	<u>Fee</u>	x ( ) =	<u>Number</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>
SRM Member	\$120	x ( ) =	_____	
Spouse	\$120	x ( ) =	_____	
SRM Student	\$80	x ( ) =	_____	
Non-Member	\$135	x ( ) =	_____	

**Partial Meeting**

Spouse/Guest (lunch & banquet) \$85 x ( ) = \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest (banquet) \$45 x ( ) = \_\_\_\_\_

Session 1 (Tuesday morning) \$30 \_\_\_\_\_

Session 2 (Tuesday afternoon) \$30 \_\_\_\_\_

Session 3 (Wednesday morning) \$30 \_\_\_\_\_

**Late Registration (post 12/31/09) \$25 x ( ) = \_\_\_\_\_**

DONATION TO NRCWAY \_\_\_\_\_

AZ-SRM SPONSORSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Note:** Indicate your preference for meals on Tuesday:

LUNCH : Beef \_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_

BANQUET: Beef \_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_ Vegetarian \_\_\_

Use ctrl+click [Arizona 2010 Winter Meeting On-line Registration](#)

To follow link for electronic registration.

\*\*\*\*\*

**MAIL-IN PAYMENT PAYABLE TO: ARIZONA SRM** (SRM TIN: 23-7161064)**MAIL THE REGISTRATION WITH CHECK/ MONEY ORDER TO:****Attn: Kendall Brown**, USFS - Coronado National Forest, 303 Old Tucson Rd., Nogales, AZ 85621Phone: 520-237-3702 FAX: 520-670-4598 Email: [kbrown03@fs.fed.us](mailto:kbrown03@fs.fed.us) (SRM TIN: 23-7161064)**INFORMATION CONTACT:** Al Medina [almedina777@hotmail.com](mailto:almedina777@hotmail.com) or (928)-853-1391.- This registration form is available at the AZ Section Web Site: [azrangelands.org](http://azrangelands.org) .**For Online Registration, visit SRM – “news & Events” Website:** <http://www.rangelands.org/whatsnew.shtml>**RANGELAND ASSESSMENT & MONITORING: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ARIZONA INPUT TO THE NATIONAL SECTION****Pete Sundt****Director South**

I have been asked by the AZ SRM Board of Directors to represent our section at the national meeting in February of the Rangeland Assessment & Monitoring (RAM) Committee. This committee is one of six in the Science & Ecology Division of the national society. Here is the committee's mission statement:

*The purpose of the Rangeland Assessment and Monitoring Committee is to coordinate the Society for Range Management's (SRM) efforts to provide professional leadership related to the development and implementation of rangeland assessment and monitoring by government agencies, other organizations, and private individuals, and to assist the Board of Directors in implementing SRM rangeland assessment policies. SRM's aim is to ensure that such methods are objective, scientifically sound, and consistent with professional experience.*

The RAM committee is a descendant of the famous Task Group on Unity in Concepts and Terminology, chaired by Lamar Smith. Early in the 1980s Range Science faculty from a number of the western land-grant universities developed a Western Coordinating Committee (WCC) to review rangeland monitoring protocols in the 11 western states. A goal of the WCC was to recommend a single, unified assessment method to facilitate development of the National Resource Inventory report. By 1989 efforts by WCC led to the creation of the Task Group on Unity in Concepts and Terminology under the direction of the Society for Range Management, composed of university faculty and range management experts from various state and Federal land management agencies. During the 1990s the Task Group provided input to the National Resource Council's Rangeland Classification Committee which was reviewing rangeland assessment concepts and methods for the Academy of Sciences, culminating in 1994 with the publication of "Rangeland Health: New Methods to Classify, Inventory and Monitor Rangelands". The Task Group published an influential paper in 1995 and recommended the creation of the committee on Rangeland Assessment and Monitoring (RAM) within the Society for Range Management.

According to its Handbook the RAM Committee is responsible for promoting coordination among the major professional groups involved in research, development, and implementation of rangeland assessment and monitoring, and with improving the scientific basis for such procedures. It is also supposed to conduct training programs related to rangeland assessment and monitoring for the continuing education of SRM members and other groups, and to assist the SRM in developing policy and position statements regarding rangeland assessment and monitoring issues.

Some of these functions are quite similar to those of the WERA-40 committee, which is organizing a symposium on State/Transition Models at the February SRM national meeting. The WERA-40 committee is one of a number of coordinating committees sponsored by the western Agricultural Experiment Stations, and is composed of faculty and extension specialists from land grant universities and scientists from federal research agencies (ARS and USGS). The group meets once annually and strives to advance the implementation of ecological site descriptions and state/transition models through field tours, symposia and associated publications, like synthesis papers in REM. Larry Howery and Mitch McClaran of Arizona SRM both attended the WERA-40 field tour to the Santa Rita in January 2009 but are not active members of the committee. David Pyke of USGS--co-author of "Indicators of Rangeland Health"--is the only person to serve on both the RAM and WERA-40 committees.



Because of the similarity in the missions of the RAM and WERA-40 committees, and because there has apparently been a rather low level of activity in the RAM committee in recent years, it has occurred to me to question whether the RAM committee is superfluous. Certainly it seems that the tasks of coordination among agencies and practitioners, and of scientific development and standardization of methods is being met by the relatively active WERA-40. However the tasks of education and training of SRM members in particular and recommendations on policy for the SRM Board are still the province of RAM.

One issue I will take to the RAM meeting in Denver will be to clarify the relationship between WERA-40 and RAM and to help determine whether RAM continues to have a useful function. I can think of a couple other issues of importance to the Arizona membership with regard to monitoring. There are extensive areas in Arizona that lack up-to-date soil surveys and therefore the basis for mapping ecological sites and developing state/transition models. It might be useful to bring pressure to bear on NRCS at the level of the national SRM for attention to specific areas in Arizona. Members who know of such areas are encouraged to contact me. There are also issues with the application of inappropriate monitoring protocols; for example the use of the standard 40cm frequency quadrat in sparse vegetation where even a 1m quadrat fails to capture the key species at >20% frequency. I am confident that members of the Arizona section have other issues and concerns that could be communicated with the national section through the RAM committee, and I encourage you to bring them to my attention.

### New Concepts for Assessment of Rangeland Condition, JRM 48 (3)

Briske, D.D., B.T. Bestelmeyer, T.K. Stringham, P.L. Shaver. 2008. Recommendations for development of resilience-based state-and-transition models. *Rangeland Ecology & Management* 61:359-367.

## SRM Officer Nominee Biographies – Fall 2009

### Vice President – Doug Tolleson

Howdy, my name is Doug Tolleson and I would like to serve you, the Arizona Section of the Society for Range Management, as Vice President in 2010. As range professionals, I am sure you would like to collect a little “monitoring” information before you make a decision so let’s start with current condition. I am an Assistant Extension Specialist/Research Scientist in Rangeland Management for The University of Arizona. I am located at the V Bar V Ranch near Camp Verde. My wife, Lana, my youngest son Marshall (16), and I have been in Arizona since January, 2007. My oldest son, Ross (21) is attending Texas A&M University, and has worked for the Beaver Creek District, Coconino NF as a wildland fire fighter on an engine crew the past two summers. Since starting to work for the U of A, I have been involved in the Arizona Section, attending summer and winter meetings, and was on the summer meeting planning committee in 2008. I also presented research results at the recent summer meeting in Payson. As far as extension activities, the V Bar V Range Program has initiated **Range Rocks!**, a range oriented youth education activity and **Blue Collar Plants**, a plant collection/website to help young and old alike with identification of plants at various seasons, stages of growth, and herbivory. I am conducting or cooperating in several research projects dealing with topics such as: grazing utilization of weeping lovegrass, nutritional monitoring of range cattle, and development of real-time landscape-scale fire fuel/forage mapping capabilities. For up to date information about range extension/research at the V Bar V, please visit the **Rimrock Report** (<http://cals.arizona.edu/aes/vbarv/rangenews.html>), our quarterly newsletter. Historical data would include a PhD in Rangeland Ecology and Management, a MS in Reproductive Physiology, and a BS in Animal Science, all from Texas A&M. Prior to my time in Arizona I worked as a Research Specialist/Herd Manager for the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station in Booneville, as a Research Associate for the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station in Uvalde and Vernon, and as Director of the Grazingland Animal Nutrition Lab in College Station.

I have been fortunate enough to work on rangelands with livestock, wildlife, and people in the US, Mexico, Africa, and Mongolia. In closing, I believe that our rangelands have agricultural, ecologic, and societal values. My desired condition is to spend the next few years working with all of you in Arizona to make sure that continues to be true. I hope you will consider voting for me as your next vice president.



## Nominees for Director South – Dick Collins, Dave Arthun

### Richard Collins

Richard C. Collins, born and raised on a farm/ranch in the Salt River Valley, educated at ASU and UA in Animal Science/Entomology/Veterinary Science, I have owned and operated farms and ranches in southern Arizona from 1983 until present; including the C6 Ranch in the Canelo Hills of Sonoita/Patagonia where I helped form a watershed-based, rancher initiated partnership (The Canelo Hills Coalition) for monitoring rangeland and riparian health in Red Rock Canyon, Santa Cruz County. The watershed amounts to 20,000 acres, includes four grazing allotments on the Coronado National Forest, and has a perennial-intermittent stream with Gila Topminnow, an endangered species. Over the past 10 years, the Coalition ranchers worked with the Forest Service, UA Rangeland management program, and granting agencies (ADEQ, USDA, EQUIP, ADA, AZG&F, and others) to establish on-going vegetation monitoring protocols, installing over \$700,000 in new waters and fencing to improve cattle distribution over the four ranches.



### Dave Arthun



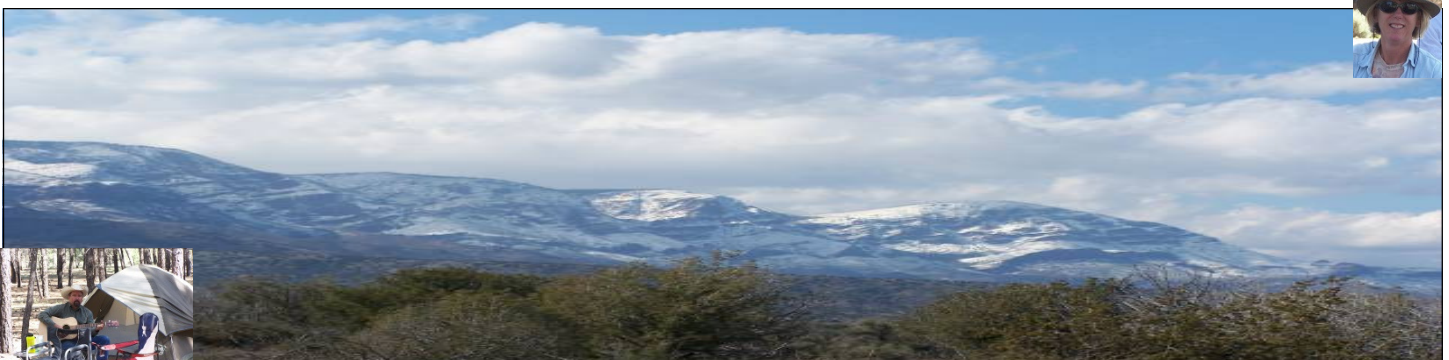
I grew up in Montana, graduated from Montana State University in Range Science. I did my graduate work at New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, where I got my first taste of the desert. Nothing like the smell of creosote after a rain!! Although I was away from range for some years it's good to be back. I work for the Bureau of Land Management in Safford, Arizona as a Rangeland Management Specialist.

### REMINDER ABOUT:

This summer's meeting on "*Lessons Learned To Mitigate Future Catastrophic Fire Impacts on Arizona Rangelands*" resulted in many responses for personal perspectives. There is still time left to submit your comments. Comments will be summarized to develop a synthesis, which will post online in November. Submit comments to Al Medina.

### SPONSORSHIPS

AZ-SRM is seeking sponsorships to host the Annual Winter Meeting. Contact Al Medina for details.



The Editor, would like to thank the following people for making this issue become a reality: Jim Sprinkle, Pete Sundt, Al Medina, Bill Edwards and the candidates.

All input, articles, pictures, graphics, etc. will be considered for inclusion.

**Nominees for Director North – Clare Hydock and Alvin Whitehair****Clare Hydock**

I'm Clare Hydock and I want to be your next Director North!! I've been an SRM member since 1991 serving on various committees while in college and then during my employment with the Forest Service beginning in 1992. I've helped plan summer & winter meetings, gave presentations at meetings, and was Director North in 2000-2001.

My career as a Rangeland Management Specialist began on the Kaibab National Forest (Fredonia, AZ) where I stayed for 7 years. From there I went to the Prescott NF in Camp Verde for 3-1/2 years. I then moved to the Allegheny NF in Pennsylvania where I worked as a Botanist for 3-1/2 years. It was great having running water everywhere and not having to pack water for my dogs on hikes, but the lack of sunshine finally got to me and I returned to Arizona and the wonderful world of Range Management in October of 2006 (Kaibab NF, Williams, AZ). So it's been almost 3-1/2 years since my last move but believe me, I'm not going anywhere!! All in all I've worked on 3 National Forests in 2 Regions (Southwest and Northeast), had job details on 2 Forests (Gila and Shawnee), and worked seasonally for the Park Service, Forest Service, and BLM.

For fun I've been doing agility with my 3 dogs (2 German shepherds and a border collie mix). They are much more agile than me so it really keeps me on my toes! We've been exploring the area around Williams and yes, I'm back to carrying water for them. But it's worth it because there is so much cool country to see and hike in!

I look forward to serving as Director North as well as helping out with other committees. I really like being involved and keeping others involved and engaged in Section and National activities. I also like planning parties/meetings and feel that I bring a diverse perspective to the planning table. Thanks for considering me for this position.

**Alvin Whitehair**

This is the second time I will be asked to be nominated for the SRM Director North. I am very honored and humbled in the presence of so many accomplished and respected folks interested in the management of the natural resources. I grew up on the Navajo Reservation within the Navajo Hopi Land Dispute (Northeastern AZ) area. As a youngster, growing up most of the time was spent attending to chores—herding sheep, pushing cattle, and caring for a horse. My home setting consisted of a traditional Navajo home and grade school was attended at a boarding school 40 miles away. In my latter teenage years, I moved to Logan, Utah finished school at Logan High and later went to school at Utah State University. I got my first degree in Psychology and my second in Rangeland Management with John Malechek and Fee Busby as my advisors. I also received a lot of mentoring from Dr. Lyle McNeal and Dr. Margaret Lubke.

My early SCEP career was with the Forest Service on the Manti-LaSal National Forests (on the Moab and Monticello Ranger Districts in Utah) and Wasatch-Cache National Forests (on the Mountain View Ranger District, in Wyoming). Upon completion of my training, in 2002, I was hired as a full-time Rangeland Management Specialist on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests in Springerville, Arizona. In Springerville, I was nominated to represent the American Indians and their needs in Arizona and on the Forest. I have worked with many of the local neighboring tribes and participated in various programs. In late 2005, I left my A Bar S (Apache-Sitgreaves) family with a heartache and moved on to the Sierra National Forest, on the High Sierra Ranger District (near Fresno, CA) as a Range Management Specialist. This is where I also got involved more in fire and have become a member of a Type 1 Fire team in California (Team 4-Opliger, for more info, their web address is: <http://ca4.imtcenter.net/main/index.aspx>). On January 2008, I was hired on as a Rangeland Management Specialist with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Crownpoint, N.M., within Navajo Reservation. On September 28, 2009, I got hired as a Natural Resource Manager in Chinle, AZ. I believe this is where I am going to park it for a good while. In my short career as a land manager, I was taught and mentored by countless professionals and permittees. I am honored by all of them for endowing me with their special talents. For all the countless permittees, professionals, and volunteers I have worked with, I still remember each and everyone of you (from Utah, Wyoming, Arizona, California, and New Mexico) and thank you.

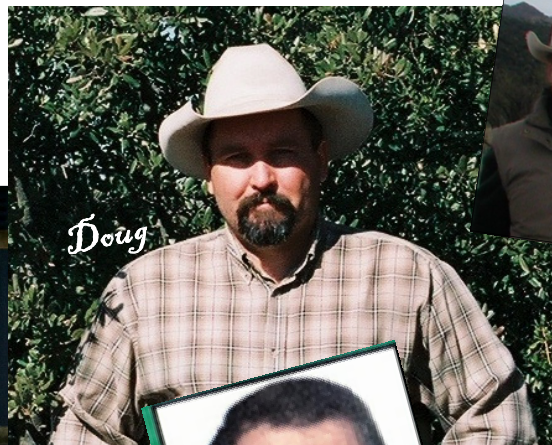
Once again, I am privileged to run for the SRM Director North of Arizona and am eager to teach and learn from everyone. I have been active with the Society of Range Management since 1999 when Fee Busby and John Malechek (Professor's at Utah State University) recruited me into the program. If elected I will do my best to serve and represent the Arizona North and to the whole SRM community to the best of my ability. I plan to take a more active role and attend all meetings in the Arizona Section SRM. I also strongly believe that SRM needs to continue to solicit input from American Indian professionals in the natural resource management field. I feel that this would be a great opportunity for me to spread the word about land and resource management, gain experience, learn from all with an open mind, and above all recruit more minorities into SRM and the field of Land Stewardship. I have established good working relationships throughout my career with many tribes, land management organizations, and universities in Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and California. I think that the Arizona section SRM is exceptional and therefore, I am asking for your vote so that I can contribute back to the Society and humankind, in general.

**Remember to locate the ballot, fill it out, and submit it.**





Alvin



Doug



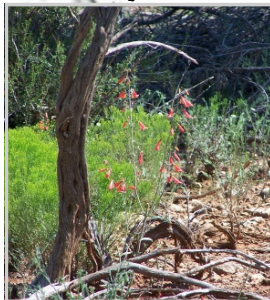
Dick



Clare



Dave



2010

# AZ SRM Ballot

Vice President

Doug Tolleson

\_\_\_\_\_

(Write-in)

Director North

Clare Hydock

Alvin Whitehair

Director South

Richard Collins

Dave Arthun

Or Mail to:

Alisha Phipps

3241 N. Romero Rd.

Tucson, AZ 85705

Submit to: Alicia Phipps, Secretary

[Alisha.phipps@az.usda.gov](mailto:Alisha.phipps@az.usda.gov)

~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](mailto:Shai.Schendel@az.usda.gov).

**\*\* MEMBERSHIP SPONSORSHIP \*\***

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

Arizona Section-Society For Range Management

2324 E. McDowell

Phoenix, AZ 85006

