

Arizona Section Newsletter

November 2012

President's message:

You say “te mā tō”, I say “te mā tō”

As of this writing, I am sitting in a hotel room in Texas. I am here doing some research and guest teaching. Last week I traveled out to the Edwards Plateau in southwestern Texas to work with undergraduate range students on their ranch plans for a capstone course. The field trip to this particular ranch has been part of the class for the last 30 years. Looking back at the pictures and data collected over that time indicates that a lot has changed in 3 decades. In fact I was still an undergrad the first year the class came out here. Differences in hairstyles, clothing styles, and student demographics are obvious. There are no sheep and goats here now, there are more white-tailed deer, more exotic ungulates and more feral hogs; thus, changes in animal populations are dramatic. So too is the change in vegetation. Fire, brush removal, and grazing management have been applied on this ranch and have had various effects depending on where, when, and how they were applied and as usual; where, when, and how much rain fell. In the 7 years I have been helping with this class, I have had the opportunity to see and discuss with students, several range “improvement” projects on the ranch. Or should I say “restoration” projects? Listening to the students last week, it probably depends on who you ask. Does a cow care if the increase in forage quality and quantity she is enjoying was the result of a habitat restoration project? Would a Black-capped vireo be insulted if she knew she was nesting in a low growing shrub that came about by way of range improvement? Would any of us be too disappointed if a given management effort created better living conditions for sheep, sparrows, and pseudomonads all at the same time? Probably not.

Ok, so what is the point? The point is that although things do change with time, sometimes all that changes is what we call them or how we look at them. Now I know that there can be very real distinctions between some range improvement and some restoration

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Arizona Section Society for Range Management Winter Meeting Something for Everyone

Fall is in the air and that means the Winter Meeting cannot be far ahead. Circle January 23-25 on your calendars now, because we think you are not going to want to miss this expanded version of our annual winter gathering. The completely remodeled Prescott Resort has offered us great room rates (\$60 plus tax, which is less than half of regular peak season rates), outstanding free meeting rooms and excellent dining facilities and meals. Prescott is of course, a renowned winter resort area and is a perfect place to take the whole family and friends. The Prescott resort features an on-site casino, full fitness center, and indoor pool. The town has a wide array of places to dine, numerous antique shops and art galleries, and the historical “Whiskey Row”. We are currently locking in the agenda and speakers but here is a preview of what we are hoping to present.



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Movers and Shakers



- ◆ Dave Evans, Rangeland Management Specialist, Chino Valley District Prescott National Forest has accepted a position at the Supervisors Office Apache Sitgreaves National Forest.
- ◆ Kenneth Gishi has been selected as the Arizona NRCS Area I Range Management Specialist.
- ◆ Steve Barker is retiring from NRCS after 30 years of service in Arizona



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

September

Thomas Thode Yuma, AZ

October

Eric Wagner Tucson, AZ



We need photos for our newsletter banner! Each issue will feature a picture from a section member capturing our wonderful Arizona rangelands. This issue's photo was submitted by John Kava taken at the Orme Ranch.

Submit your photo to:

AZSRMnewsletter@gmail.com



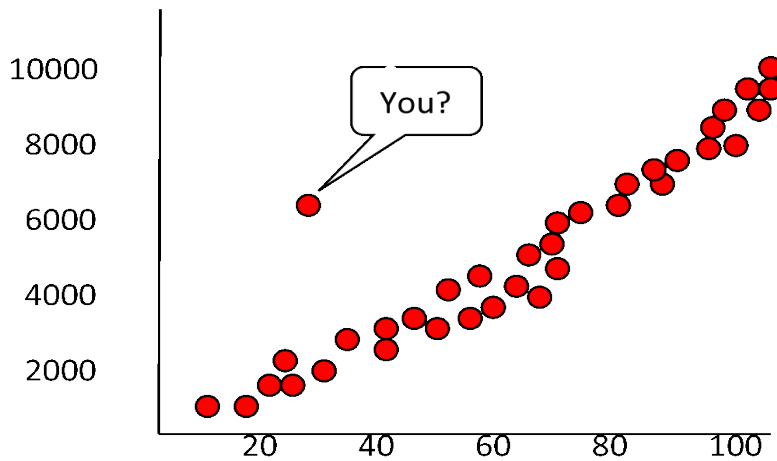
President's Message Continued from Page 1

practices, and especially the desired outcome for some organizations that put money into them. But... a lot of the time when you get right down to it, the end result is healthier, better functioning rangeland either way. Here are a few definitions to think about. Restoration is: "... the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed." (USFS), or "...the application of ecological principles to restore degraded, derelict, or fragmented ecosystems..." (paraphrased from The Free Dictionary). Alternatively, the term range improvement refers to "... any activity or program on or relating to rangelands which is designed to improve production of forage; change vegetative composition; control patterns of use; provide water;

stabilize soil and water conditions; and provide habitat for livestock and wildlife..." (Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978) or, "... Any practice designed to improve rangeland condition or facilitate more efficient utilization of the range..." (ramyturf.com). Yes, there are some philosophical as well as biological points of separation between range improvement and range restoration but I think I agree with some of the discussion I heard from the students, i.e. a lot of that just sounds like semantics, and it takes good range science and management to accomplish either. So, you say "te mā tō", I say "te mā tō"... either way if you add peppers and onions you get good hot sauce.

Doug

Escaping the Cult of the Average



http://www.ted.com/talks/shawn_achor_the_happy_secret_to_better_work.html?quote=1291

Some of you may know that I served in the United States Air Force for 20 years as an enlisted man. We live in a decade of war that has little effect on most Americans. Those that have a connection to the military see this war differently. We know the cost of freedom: young American lives. Those who have served our country should be remembered on Veteran's Day, November 11th. Within our Section we have had members deployed to the Middle East. Many of our members now have sons and daughters who are serving on Active duty or in the Guard or Reserves.



I know firsthand that the United States Military is the most educated, well trained and equipped military in the world. I am proud to have served, and am proud of those who are serving today, and I want to thank fellow veterans for their service. I want to thank Mothers and Fathers, Uncles and Aunts, Brothers and Sisters for supporting our service men and women.

Finally, one of the rights our military protects is the right and responsibility of citizens to elect officials to govern over the affairs of the state, and nation. We are also electing officers for the Section. Be an informed voter, and vote.



John Kava
Editor

Director North Report

I want to put a jab in at folks for my last newsletter as Director North. I wear several different hats, and I enjoy it. Gives me an opportunity to stay connected and help out where ever needed. Maybe that is my nature, stay involved and keep a dialogue going. One of my many hats is as Awards Committee chair. I am directly aware of all the awards processed, and to be honest, the pickings are a little slim. I was ready to sit down read tens of applications for people doing great work. Now granted, we had our Tonto Family Day a couple weeks ago, and I thought those small awards seemed silly, but I was the cynical one. In times with stretched budgets, time constraints and a myriad of other reasons, we need to feel appreciated. We need to encourage others to look outside the box, or even better, outside of all boundaries. In times of drought, down economy, etc. we need that motivation. Now nominate someone, even if they aren't part of our society. We need to give some encouragement out to the folks that do so much great work. We have nominations open for Range Manager of the Year, Outstanding Service Award, Professional and Technical Guidance, and Outstanding Young Range Professional. If you need a nomination form, please send me an email ajwages@fs.fed.us.

Jamie Wages



Check out our Arizona Section Website!



Have you ever wondered what the Board of Directors has been up to between our general meeting?

Have you ever wondered how to get in contact with a member of the board, but don't have their contact information?

Well our section website has the answer!

Visit <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, much more!

Also, don't forget to keep your information current with our parent organization. [Visit http://www.rangelands.org/](http://www.rangelands.org/)

Natural Resources Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth



The 2013 Natural Resources Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth will take place June 24-28, 2013 at Arizona 4-H Camp at Mingus Springs, located in the Prescott National Forest, between Prescott and Jerome. Youth entering grades 8 through 12 in the fall of 2013 will be able to explore the great outdoors as we bring together the latest in science and natural resource technology. They will gain hands-on experience as they learn about rangelands, forestry, water, wildlife, soils, plants, geology, and GPS.

AZSRM Winter Meeting... Continued from Page 1

Wednesday afternoon Doug Tolleson and the U of A Extension will present a “Range 101” type program focusing on the Northern rangelands of Arizona. This session should attract many people involved in range management on Tribal lands, and will also afford SRM members an opportunity to hear about the unique problems and issues facing those managers. This session may well set the stage for a future SRM meeting on tribal lands where we can see first-hand the results of range management efforts in that area of Arizona.

Wednesday evening will be devoted to a general membership meeting where everyone can participate in a discussion about the issues facing our Section. It is always worthwhile for the entire membership to become involved in the financial status, the future direction of the Section, committee reports, and it is the best time to let Section leadership know what concerns you have.

Thursday morning Al Medina is putting together a session titled, “Excess Horses on Arizona Rangelands-A Manager’s and Rancher’s Concern”. As Al explains, “The Native Range Committee of AZ-SRM will host a technical session with technical horse management experts of the Forest Service, BLM, State and Tribal to discuss the status of the problem and seek practical solutions that managers can employ. For several years rangeland managers have been tackling issues related to excess (feral) horses on public and tribal lands of Arizona and New Mexico. The problem has been magnified with the effects of drought, declining range conditions, wildfire, and legal issues of protection and disposal. Tribal range managers consider the problem an “**emergency need**” for land managers to address. Some experts estimate that 1000’s of feral horses impact rangelands that provide valuable habitat for Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species (TES), as well as impacting range conditions, and ultimately impact all resources. This session seeks to provide useful information for ranchers, managers, and the general public of one of the most important range management concerns of our times. (For further information contact Al Medina- 928 853-1391, almedina777@hotmail.com).

Thursday afternoon Terry Wheeler has organized a session devoted to challenges and issues facing ranchers and permittees today. Undoubtedly this session will be stimulating, and perhaps controversial, and will hopefully elicit arguments from all sides of the issues. We are attempting to attract a well known guest speaker during this session and future emails about the winter meeting will keep everyone informed on the final list of presenters.

The varied membership of SRM dictates that all of us collaborate, negotiate, educate or cooperate during our daily activities. We have identified at least 9 cooperative groups in Arizona that are concerned with rangeland issues. Friday morning we will have several of these groups describe their collaborative partnerships and how they address ecological challenges in their area. We hope to hear from all nine groups during the course of several AZ Section meetings. Frank Hayes and Jamie Wages are organizing this session which promises to be an enlightening and informative morning for all of us.

We hope to have the U of A and the U of A Extension program present a mini “cattlemen’s college” program which will feature new research and science on rangeland matters that is being produced at the U of A. This program will be held on Friday afternoon and will hopefully include a report from Dr Jeff Stone on the results of is erosion studies conducted on the Bar X allotment which we all witnessed during the summer meeting.

The always popular and fun awards banquet and auction will be held Thursday evening. Clare Hydock is already spending hours organizing our annual auction but she needs all of our help. Start now in thinking about what you can donate for the auction.....remember....this auction is our one and only annual fundraiser which directly helps our youth and student members.

The meeting is shaping up to be one of the larger and more substantial events that we have held. There should be.....**Something for Everyone** in it. Future emails will include the final agenda, mail –in registration forms, hotel information and instructions for on-line registration. (For more info contact Mike Hemovich, 928 462-3743, mh520@aol.com).

2013 SRM Officer Nominee Biography - Vice President

My name is Eric Burden, and it would be an honor to serve as the Arizona SRM Section Vice President for 2013. I grew up in Sonoita Arizona, which is unarguably the most beautiful part of the United States. I am a Rangeland Management Specialist with NRCS in Flagstaff, Arizona. Prior to NRCS I worked for the Forest Service on the Coconino National Forest, Red Rock Ranger District as a Range Tech. I had a long stint in the great state of Texas as General Manager/Director of Conservation for Spanish Trail Land and Cattle Company. I received my B.S. in Wildlife Biology from Washington State University and M.S. in Range & Wildlife Management from "THE" Sul Ross State University. I have been fortunate to assist with and support conservation projects in the United States, Mexico, Africa and Tajikistan, as well as, managing 750,000 acres of ranches. I can say that I am very proud of where I have been and what I have accomplished. However, these accomplishments would not have occurred if it were not for the working and personal relationships I developed over the years. I hope to continue this trend with the Arizona SRM Section as Vice President for 2013. Thank you for your consideration.



2013 SRM Officer Nominee Biography - Director North



Hello, my name is Shai Schendel and I would like to have the opportunity to serve as Director North for the Arizona Section of the Society for Range Management. I am a Rangeland Management Specialist with the NRCS in Flagstaff, AZ and have worked for the NRCS for over 8 years now, time has flown by! I am an Arizona Native and grew up in the great town of Humboldt. I received my B.S. in Environmental Resource Management from Arizona State University with a concentration in Watershed Ecology. What I like most about my job is having the opportunity to work alongside the agricultural producers in our state that provide us with the food and fiber we utilize in our homes. Being a part of the planning process from inventory to implementation on rangeland projects is a great aspect of my job along with witnessing the practical knowledge that is applied through many years of experience. I have been a member of the AZ SRM Section since 2004. I appreciate the educational sessions, collaboration and networking that the Arizona SRM section offers. Serving as Director North would be an honor and would give me the opportunity to further my involvement with the AZ Section.

Director North and Native Range Report
Alvin Whitehair



I attended the Native Range Section meeting put in place by Al Medina and Bob Alexander in Gallup, NM. The meeting about “Excess Horses,” turned out very well and I wish to thank the Gallup Lions Club for helping out with a meeting place. Various Tribal leaders, producers, and different Government Agencies from the southwest showed up to address the feral horse issue on Tribal Lands and Reservations. It should be noted, according to different government and Tribal statistics, more than 60,000 feral horses are currently roaming the Navajo Reservation. The meeting focused on identifying the excess horse issues and requirements with AZ and NM Tribes.

More plans are in the works for the winter meetings, for everyone, regarding the excess horse issue. A workshop on basic/fundamentals of range management, a hands on workshop for Tribal (ranchers, permittees, and the like) that will address the fundamentals with an emphasis on carrying capacity. Basic native plant ecology information, including utilization levels, production, and how to sustain plant communities. We also hope to address the consequences of poor range use with a field tour to witness poor and good range conditions. I am also soliciting ideas of what is needed at the simplest levels with a talk about stocking basics and why sheep and cows may be more useful on Tribal Ranges, than horses.

To readers who have an interest in the Native Range Program or any kind of interest with American Indian involvement in the SRM I need your help with ideas for more active recruitment, involvement and topics for the Winter Native Range session.

Lastly, you have seen and heard very little from me this past half year. That’s because in April I got a new job in Hanksville, Utah as a Rangeland Management Specialist. The dust storms in Chinle, AZ were not too favorable for my health and mental well-being. When I arrived in Hanksville I got well. I then did two fire details in Mt. Pleasant and Fishlake, Utah. Now that I am better situated I plan to finish out in good standing. I also do a lot of work on the Arizona strip and would also like to increase participation from folks who are involved with Rangelands on the AZ strip.

AZ SRM 2013 Ballot

Vice President

Director North

Iric Burden

Vanessa Prileson

Write In

Shai Schendel

Director South

Write In

Steve Barker

Write In

Email your choice for Vice President and Director North and South to erin.mathews@az.usda.gov by December 31, 2012
You can use the Postal Service to mail your ballot to:
Erin Mathews
USDA-NRCS101 E Beale Street Suite C
Kingman, AZ 86401

We're in search of items for this year's auction.
Proceeds go to NRCWAY, U of A, and ASU Scholarship Funds.
So please get to your local vendors and ask for donations.
Handmade items from local craftsmen and women are also welcome!

Please submit a photo and/or brief description of your items to Clare Hydock at chydock@fs.fed.us

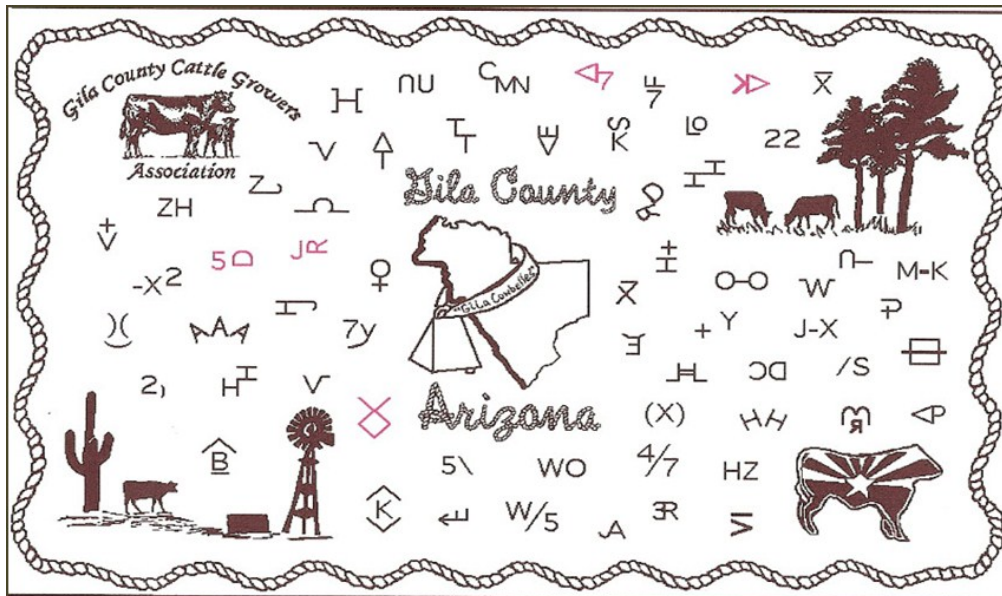
Some of last year's awesome Auction Items!



Beanpod Candle Melter and Southwestern Bowl



Babbitt Ranches Saddle Blanket



Gila County Brands Sofa Throw

Thank you!

2013 SRM Officer Nominee Biography - Director North

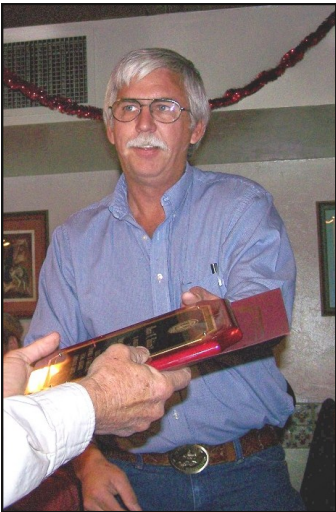
My name is Vanessa Prileson and I would love to serve as Director North for the Arizona Section of SRM. I am originally from Boston, Massachusetts and moved to Tucson, AZ at age 7 when I fell in love with horses, cattle and most importantly, rangelands in the western United States. I worked on the Empirita Ranch during the summers in high school, becoming more familiar with cattle management in the desert southwest. My goal of bringing viability to livestock ranching drove me to study Environmental Economics, Policy & Management and Rangeland Ecology & Management at Oregon State University (OSU). I also acquired a passion and taste for locally raised range-finished beef and had the opportunity to merge range ecology, local beef marketing and horsemanship on the San Juan Ranch in the San Luis Valley of Colorado following graduation from OSU.



The San Juan Ranch experience was a turning point for me and I decided to take everything I learned there to the US Forest Service in Payson, AZ. As a Rangeland Management Specialist working to coordinate with multiple agencies, ranchers, and conservation organizations towards similar goals, I believe that maintaining relationships and recognizing how we treat each other is what creates successful land management. Recently, I managed to find a way to Argentina (see photo), my favorite place in the world, through a Master of Range Science degree at New Mexico State University. I challenged myself to improve my Spanish in a working rangeland setting. Since my return, I have a better understanding of the value of honest and sound communication on the range.

I hope to continue widening my understanding of diverse ways to manage rangelands as Director North for AZ SRM Section in 2013. Thank you for your consideration.

2013 SRM Officer Nominee Biography - Director South



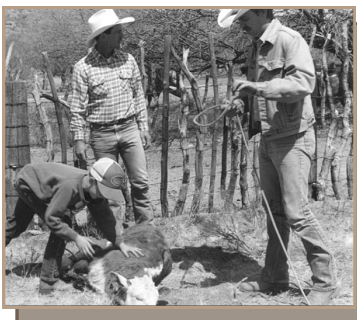
I earned my Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Resources in Agriculture, with a rangeland management emphasis, from Arizona State University in 1982. Since that time I have worked for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. My first 3 years were spent at the Buckeye Field Office as a Soil Conservationist followed by 11 years as a field office and area office Range Conservationist in Chandler and Tucson. From 1996 to 2006 I was the State Rangeland Management Specialist. Since that time to now I have been the NRCS State Resource Conservationist.

I have been a member of the Arizona Section since 1980. I have served the Section as Director South, and as a member of the Research Affairs and NRCWAY Committees. I have also participated in the NRCWAY camp as an instructor for many years, and experience I have found to be very rewarding and educational.

I believe that this Section has done many things to be proud of and appreciate the hard work and dedication that our current and past officers have contributed to our Section.

Comments about Steve Barker and his retirement from Arizona NRCS...

Through his effort and leadership, Arizona NRCS has improved the natural resources of the state and has provided support to producers for 30 years. His commitment to the Agency's core mission is unquestionable and we thank him for his many years of service." Keisha Tatum, Arizona State Conservationist.



EVENT CALENDAR

- ◆ November 15 2nd Annual ACGA Calf Rollover Auction, Marana Stockyards
- ◆ November 17 Yavapai Cattle Growers meeting. Valley View Restaurant in Camp Verde at 10:00 a.m.
- ◆ December 6 Range Livestock Nutrition Workshop, Willcox
- ◆ December 7 Range Livestock Nutrition Workshop, Payson
- ◆ December 27 - 31 Arizona National Livestock Show 2012
- ◆ January 19 Yavapai Cattle Growers meeting. Paul and Grace Hicks home in Prescott at 10:00 a.m.
- ◆ January 23-25 Arizona Section Winter Meeting Prescott, Arizona
- ◆ February 3-7 SRM Annual Meeting Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- ◆ February 20 AZ Section Newsletter item submission deadline
- ◆ June 24-28 Natural Resources Workshop for Arizona Youth (NRCWAY)



Arizona Section-Society For Range Management
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Prescott, AZ 86303

