



Arizona Section Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2014



President's Message:

Greetings,

Although I don't get out in the field like I used to, some of the areas I have seen received decent summer rainfall. For instance, a rancher near Wickenburg told me he has been in that area since 1960 and it was the wettest August he could remember. Given the large areas of land we work and manage, conditions vary from place to place.



Speaking of place, it sure was nice to call Show Low home for our summer meeting. Our group campground managed to avoid any heavy rainfall, which was lucky as the monsoon was active around us. In this newsletter you will find a summary of the meeting provided by Mary Nichols. Let me just say that the meeting overall was great, and there was plenty of discussion to go around.

Moving ahead, we are developing our winter meeting topic (please read on in the newsletter) and beginning to review our nominations for awards like Range Manager of the Year and Outstanding Young Professional. At our general membership meeting, we talked about having a fall range tour, possibly in the Yuma area. Our Director South and Secretary-Treasurer, both located in Yuma, have driven some serious miles to attend AZSRM events. I look forward to visiting their area and learning from them.

Lastly, we have an opportunity for someone to serve as the Rancher Committee chairperson. Terry Wheeler, who has served in this capacity, is looking for a replacement. Based on our

Continued on Page 2

2014 Summer Arizona SRM Meeting Summary

The 2014 Summer Meeting was held August 14 and 15 in Show Low, Arizona and the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. This year's meeting was held jointly with the White Mountains Grassland & Forest Ecosystem Restoration Conference & Field Tour. The Arizona Section of the Society for Range Management would like to thank the UA Cooperative Extension Service for the opportunity to combine our meeting with the restoration conference.

Large fires in northern Arizona including the 2002 Rodeo-Chediski Fire, the 2011 Wallow Fire and the recent 2014 San Juan Fire have heightened awareness of wildfire risk and need for thinning to reduce fuel loads and restore forest health. A series of presentations on Thursday provided an excellent overview of regional history and collaborative efforts to push for thinning projects in the local forests.

An all-day field tour on Friday included a visit to a juniper removal/ grassland restoration project that is supporting local businesses through use of the juniper for biomass fuel. This stop was followed by a stop at the Springerville Ranger District -Mineral Creek Restoration area where a first-hand view of the impact of forest thinning was seen. Untreated areas were filled with closely packed burned tree stems that stood in contrast to the

Continued on Page 3

Inside this issue:

President's Message	2
Consider voting electronically	2
2014 Summer AZSRM Meeting Summary	3
Range Manager of the Year Award Over the Last 54 Years	4
Welcome New Members	4
Range Manager of the Year Update	5
NRCWAY	5
Director North Report	6
Pictures from 2014 Summer AZSRM Meeting	7
Field Follies	8
Calendar of Events	9

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Guidelines for Section Officers and Committee Chairpersons (revised August 2010), the committee serves as a liaison between the Arizona Cattle Growers Association and to promote projects applied on the ground by ranchers. If you are interested in serving, please contact me for more information.

On that note, enjoy the rest of the newsletter, and stay tuned for more information on a fall range tour and the winter meeting.

Take care,

Willie

Fellow SRM Members:

I have a special favor to ask each of you. As our election of officers/directors approaches, please consider voting electronically. SRM operates on a tight budget and this is an easy cost savings.

Last year's hard copy ballots cost us almost \$600 in postage (that was at the bulk rate for US mail pieces!) and over \$1,000 for materials, including ballots, candidate statements and envelopes. This cost doesn't even include the considerable staff time required to assemble the mailing, handle the returns, and coordinate a count.

Please take a moment to log in to the Members' side of the website and check your ballot preference in your record, as well as your contact details. If there is any way possible for you to vote electronically, please select that option. The paper ballot is the default option unless you have previously selected the electronic ballot; you must manually change your preference to vote electronically.

[Click here](#) for instructions to view or change your ballot preference online. You may also contact membership@rangelands.org for assistance. The electronic vote will only count one vote per member. It is fast, easy and incredibly efficient.

Some sections are also using electronic balloting and for those choosing that option, you are saving your section money as well!

I realize not all of you use and are familiar with your member profile and the features available to members within our website. Simply follow the instructions provided in the link to access your member profile. The feature I probably use the most is the Member Directory, where you can look up contact information on fellow SRM members. You can also access past minutes, section directories, etc. It is through your member profile that you can also register for Annual Meetings and some Section Meetings. Two of the ESD workshops are available to members only.....lots of good stuff behind that member's only door on the website!

There are so many good things going on these days in SRM, I can hardly contain my excitement for the future. Watch the RangeFlashes and Rangeland News to keep up. We are moving forward and doing our very best to serve you in a cost effective and efficient manner.

Please join me in voting for SRM leadership electronically!

Jenny Pluhar, SRM President 2014

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2014 Summer Arizona SRM Meeting Summary...continued from Page 1

thinned areas where fire was able to move through without killing the remaining trees. A great lunch was hosted by Wink Crigler at the X Diamond Ranch. During a lunch presentation, Wink described forest restoration treatments surrounding the ranch headquarters area and the role they played in limiting fire risk during the Wallow Fire.

The meeting and field tour was followed by a Saturday Better Photos-Better Rangelands photography workshop. The workshop was taught by Arizona Highway photographers and was set up by the University of Arizona's V Bar V Range Program. A lot of great information was packed into a few hours followed by very helpful hands on session that included direct feedback from the instructors as photos were being taken. We are all better off for knowing a little bit more about what all of those dials and buttons are for, and everyone can expect to see many great range photos in the near future.

The AZ SRM general membership meeting was held Thursday evening at the Lewis Canyon Campground, followed by pie and time around the campfire. Mary Nichols proposed that the topic of "***Change in Arizona as observed by scientists, land management personnel, and land owners***" be considered for the next winter meeting. Changes are occurring and presentations might include observations of weather patterns, precipitation, temperature, phenology, and vegetation communities and distribution. The topic for the winter meeting was proposed to initiate discussion and start the planning process. If you have any thoughts or feedback on the winter meeting, please contact Mary Nichols. Finally, a big thank you to Kelsey Hawkes for organizing the 4th consecutive summer meeting plant ID contest, which was won by Ashley Shepherd. Lastly, thank you to the ASU and UA student chapters for cooking breakfasts.



Panel of Experts



Doug and George moderating



Lunch at X Diamond Ranch

Range Manager of the Year Awards Over the Past 54 Years

Recipient	Year	Recipient	Year
Jack Wilson	1960	Billie Riggs	1987
Kel Fox	1961	John Donaldson	1988
William Riggs	1962	Alan Kessler	1989
Ernest Chilson	1963	Stan Mazanek	1990
Carl "Dutch" Webb	1964	Rukin Jelks	1991
Kenneth Winfield	1965	Brent & Clayton Atkin	1992
Delbert Pierce	1966	Alfred & Dale Cline	1993
Pete Phelps	1967	Donald Roberts	1994
Vincent Ogurek	1968	Chuck Backus	1995
Bert Wood	1969	Larry Todd	1996
Lewis Grizzle	1970	Heaton Livestock Association	1997
Homer Byrd	1971	Tony Lunt	1998
* -----	1972	Elory & Eve Bundy	1999
Victor Larson	1973	John & Pat King	2000
Howard & Fred baker	1974	Smallhouse Family	2001
Joyce & Virgil Mercer	1975	Jeff & Carolyn Homack	2002
Wilbur Gavin	1976	Beatrice Zueger & Chuck Lange	2003
Lee & Dixie Jones	1977	David & Diana Cook	2004
Van Mackelprang	1978	Richard & Diane Collins	2005
Bob Bowman	1979	Mike & Jeannie Hayhurst	2006
Dwight Cooper	1980	Les & Judy Shannon	2007
Clay Howell	1981	Anita Waite & Sherwood Koehn	2008
Jack Brooks	1982	Ron Fish	2009
Delbert & Steve Pierce	1983	ZZ Cattle Corp./Bell Family	2010
Dwight Bilyk	1984	X Diamond Ranch (Wink Crigler)	2011
Don Lackner	1985	Fred Ruskin	2012
Paul Haas	1986	Charley & Mary Miller	2013

* An award was not given out due to logistic problems

Welcome New Members

Kelly Bedson - Payson
William Kuvelsky - Kingsville, Tx.
Bec Veerman - Gilbert



Range Manager of the Year Update

Fall is a busy season for Charley and Mary Miller, 2013 Section Range Manager of the Year award recipients. They typically welcome numerous visitors from all over the world for an experience on a real ranch. Charley has continued his brush clearing work this summer. After an exceedingly dry winter, we're avidly awaiting the monsoon season and watching water carefully. This past winter, we've completed all the work on a revision to our Coordinated Resource Management Plan. This is a particularly interesting revision, as it incorporates much of the erosion control work and other principles being encouraged by the Altar Valley Conservation Alliance. This project has really demonstrated the strength and importance of Elkhorn Ranch's partnership with NRCS and the importance of the working relationships with our Range Conservationist and other NRCS staff.

The Millers and I encourage you to nominate someone you believe deserves recognition for their work and passion as the next Range Manager of the Year.

Andrea Jamie Wages



NRCWAY

The 2014 workshop was a success with 26 students and many staff members enjoying the outdoors while learning about Arizona's natural resources. The theme this year was forestry and rangelands. Students learned how to use a compass and GPS receiver, had sessions on forest health and silviculture, wildlife, rangeland management, monitoring and inventory. There were also sessions on archery and even mist netting of bats. The students worked in groups throughout the week studying these subjects. Each group was given the task of creating an interpretive sign for the camp focusing on things they had learned in either the forestry or rangeland field. Groups presented the information from their interpretive signs to staff and family members the last day of camp.



The students did a great job on their service project this year. Students learned about native plants growing at the camp and labeled plants along the road and trails. Now visitors and other camps will be able to know what these plants are. Plant mounts collected in previous years were put into frames and now hang on the porch of one of the cabins for people to browse through, learning the grasses, forbs, shrubs and trees of the area. Swimming, fishing, birdwatching, and playing sports were popular free time activities.

Three delegates were selected to attend the upcoming High School Youth Forum at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Range Management in Sacramento, California. They are Madison Frary (Buckeye), Leighton Dimler (Claypool), and Joshua Troub (Buckeye). They will be selecting rangeland related topics and preparing presentation for the Forum. Be sure to stop by the Forum on Tuesday of the meetings to support them.

We hope that you will help us in recruiting young people to attend NRCWAY in 2015. Thanks to the Arizona Section for your continued support of this program.

Director North Report - Shai Schendel

Greetings from chilly Flagstaff! As our Monsoon season is coming to an end, varying amounts of precipitation were received across the state. Within my travels around Northern Arizona some areas have received quite a bit of precipitation creating abundant production on the rangeland while other areas have not been as lucky. Quite a few of the dirt tanks are full while others did not receive enough flow to fill them up. You never know what you are going to get with our weather patterns.

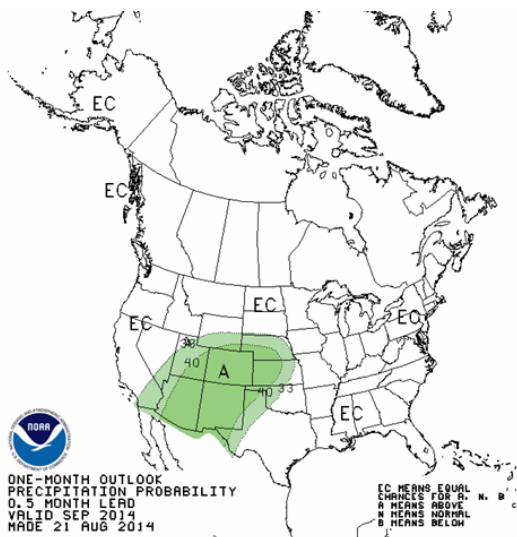
Weather has been very sporadic and intense all at the same time. It seems as though we are seeing more and more intense storms that are isolated over specific areas. The most recent have been the Phoenix area and New River flooding events that occurred in August.

In July, heavy rains and quarter inch hail pounded down on Mt. Elden in Flagstaff. The weather service reported up to 2 inches in a short amount of time where some of the homeowners in the area reported 2.65 inches of rain mixed with hail within a 30 minute period. These types of storms wreak havoc on homes and infrastructure.

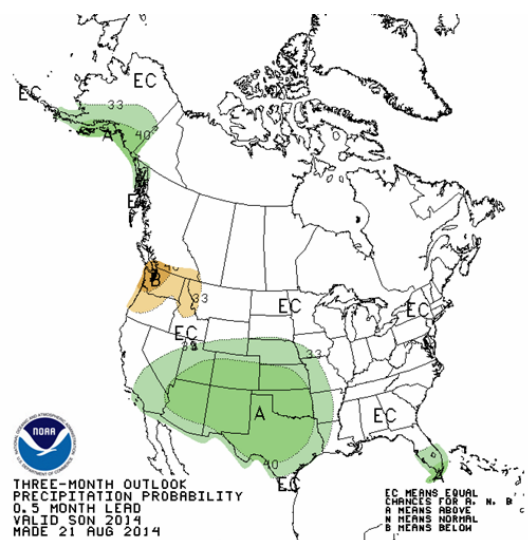
In July of 2013, an intense rainfall event occurred in Ash Fork. The downpour was within a two to three mile radius where the area received up to 5 inches of rain in a 2 hour timeframe. The average rainfall in July for the area dating back to 1904 is 1.84 inches. Prior to this storm the same area had already received 3-3.5 inches of rain creating already saturated soils. Because of the severity of this storm several dirt tanks were breached, fence sections were wiped out, excessive erosion occurred in washes and infrastructure damaged.

Attempting to plan for these types of events may not seem reasonable given the uncertainty of the storm event, when and how it will occur. If there are known issues in an area that you can attempt to address it may be worth your while. Otherwise, a ranch, farm, or homeowner may have to look at their options after a storm. What programs are in place to assist producers and landowners? What an insurance policy may or may not cover? What obstacles might the event create with financial resources? You never know what Mother Nature has in store but being prepared and educated in the options available may help alleviate some of the stress and heart ache after an event.

Keeping with the theme of weather patterns I wanted to try and get an idea for what is in store for the next few months. This month the Climate Prediction Center released their new long range weather outlooks for temperatures and precipitation. I copied the maps for the precipitation to give an idea of what type of weather patterns we” may” receive here in the near future. The 1 month and 3 month outlooks are showing above normal precipitation for September and September through November for most of Arizona. I am hoping it continues through the winter months also to make up for last year’s lack luster snowfall!



One month precipitation outlook for September 2014. (Climate Prediction Center, NOAA)



Three month precipitation outlook for September 2014. (Climate Prediction Center, NOAA)

2014 Summer Arizona SRM Meeting Pictures



Evening Entertainment



Breakfast, Yum!



Field Trip Woolgrowers



Field Trip Stop

Field Follies (Food Edition) Andrew Brischke

The conclusion of the AZSRM Summer General Membership meeting was one of the highlights of the AZSRM Summer Meeting for me. Sure, the dessert served at the end was the main reason for this, but not for the reason you may suspect...

Each member that stuck it out in the rain until the end was treated to a slice of Pecan Pie. I didn't even have any (honestly!). It wasn't because there wasn't enough, there was plenty. It wasn't because it wasn't any good, from all reports it was delectable. It wasn't even because I was too full, I can always hammer down some more food. The Pecan Pie was a highlight of the summer meeting for me because it brought back one of the best memories and desserts I've ever had in my life. It was the dessert that effectively forced me into retirement from eating dessert. It would be like getting a hole-in-one and then immediately throwing my clubs into a lake. It wouldn't get any better than that. Absolute perfection.

Now I can't really fault people for taking one look at me and reaching the conclusion that I have enjoyed a few too many desserts in my time. In full disclosure, before I retired I only ate a few desserts: ice cream, pumpkin pie, strawberry/rhubarb pie and cheesecake. Worse than that, I only enjoyed these select desserts when other people made or brought them. But this last dessert forced an insurmountable chasm between it and all other desserts that I didn't have a choice other than retirement.

We had just finished lunch at NRCWAY and were waiting for registration to begin. A staff member walked in to the dining hall holding a travel pie carrier. He said that he had brought some leftover dessert for us to try that he had just made. To be fair, I was hesitant at first. He had a low percentage of hitting my dessert sweet spot. But then he opened up the case to reveal a cheesecake. Not any old, typical cheesecake, a raspberry/rhubarb cheesecake. I'm a sucker for anything raspberry, and rhubarb-and to combine it with cheesecake?! My excitement was growing. The ball had just landed on the green and it was rolling toward the hole. Then, I took my first bite...

The Big Bang just went off in my mouth. Worlds collided. My knees buckled. And I was sitting down. I wept. Really, I did. Openly, in front of the entire NRCWAY staff. I wasn't prepared for this explosion of delight. It took the rest of the NRCWAY staff a while to notice my tears (I can only speculate they were experiencing the same feelings). Soon they started to laugh at me. This made me laugh-while crying. I didn't know these emotions were possible. But there I was in a heap of tears and laughter all from a dessert. From the perfect dessert. I had tasted my hole-in-one, and I retired.



Calendar of Events



2014 NAIPSC Web Course

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

September 27, 2014

Yavapai Cattle Growers Association Calf Sale - Peeples Valley

January 30-February 7, 2015

**68th SRM Annual Meeting & Trade Show
Sacramento, California**



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Range Management
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