



Arizona Section Newsletter

September 2017



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President's Message - James Heitholt

Rangers,

I hope the rains have treated you all well this monsoon season. We certainly have had some good early rains here in southeast Arizona with many areas having a record July! Unfortunately it has slowed a bit on the rain front, but with any luck we can plug in the gaps with some September storms. The Section has had a busy August with our annual summer meeting on the Hualapai Reservation and a recent summer tour in the White Mountains. I attended the Section's summer meeting, and the Hualapai Reservation could not have been a better host. We saw some wonderfully managed rangeland and listened to some unique perspectives and management techniques to issues common to many types of rangelands across Arizona. President -Elect Iric Burden deserves a lot of credit for putting on such a great meeting.



With September upon us I am reminded that we need to get out and get monitoring! I am also reminded that we are getting late in the year and we have a couple of Board of Director (BOD) Positions coming vacant at the end of the calendar year. We are looking for a Director North, Director South and a new Vice President. Anyone interested in running for these positions are encouraged to contact a current BOD member so that we can get a bio from you to post in the winter newsletter. BOD elections will happen in person at the annual winter meeting. Be safe out there and see you in January!

CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS! Deadline September 15, 2017

Each year within the Arizona Section, we recognize and honor dedication to range management through the following awards:

Professional and Technical Guidance

Outstanding Service

Outstanding Young Professional

Range Manager of the Year

Nomination forms can be found in the June 2017 newsletter. The deadline date is especially critical for the Range Manager of the Year award, as time is needed for ranch visits in advance of the award presentation at the 2018 winter section meeting.

Please send nomination forms to Jason Martin (Committee Chair):

jmartin@blm.gov (email preferred)

Jason Martin, Bureau of Land Management, 711 S. 14th Ave, Safford, AZ 85546

Celebrating the Year of Native Rangelands in Arizona

SAVE THE DATE

Arizona Section Winter Meeting

January 3 – 5, 2018

Good day to all range professionals,

On behalf of the Arizona Native Range Committee, I would like to invite everyone to this year's Arizona Section SRM Winter Meeting and help celebrate "Year of Native Range in Arizona". As many know, we have had two field tours and the summer meeting conducted on Tribal lands this year. We have pulled together some of the most progressive young range professionals, ranchers and experienced agency range professionals to provide us with a diversity of information not readily known to those outside of the Tribal Range and Livestock Industry. We are extremely excited to be able to present this meeting to our Membership and all who are interested. We have the site narrowed down to two places and we will publish the location in the coming weeks. We look forward to seeing all of you this winter!

Sincerely,

Eric Burden, President Elect

Agenda

Wednesday, January 3rd:

- 5:00 pm Native Range Committee Strategic Planning Meeting #1
- 7:00 pm General Membership Meeting

Thursday, January 4th

- 7:00 am Continental Breakfast and Registration
- 8:30 am Welcome and Program Introduction
- 9:00 – 12:00 **Session I: Native American Young Professionals**
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 – 5:00 **Session II: Native American Rancher's Discussion**
- 5:00 pm Membership Social and Auction (Ballroom)
- 6:30 Banquet Dinner and Awards Presentation (Ballroom)

Friday, January 5th

- 7:00 am Registration
- 8:00 – 11:30 **Session III: Agency/Academic**

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2017 Arizona Summer SRM Meeting Highlights Hualapai Nation



Photo by Erin Boyd and Xavier Alfaro-Lopez

Wow! What a special 2017 Arizona SRM Summer we had at the Hualapai Youth Camp! Before going through the highlights, on behalf of the Arizona Section SRM Board and its Members, I would like to extend our gratitude and thanks to the Hualapai Nation for their kind services, use of facilities, and most importantly, the ability to interact with all of the people working on the land. Thank you to all of you from Hualapai that made this meeting a success!!!

The setting for base camp was at about 6500 feet in elevation in the Ponderosa Pine at a gorgeous brand new facility Hualapai will use for a variety of events, but primarily for their Youth Camp. The rains appear to have come on in late July and early August as the vegetation was flush with green. We had a head count of 50 people who attended the meeting.

Wednesday evening approximately thirty or so people gathered for the general membership meeting ran by our President Mr. James Heitholt. Dinner was served by the Buck-n-Doe 4H club and was a perfect meal. The post membership meeting saw a warm fire and lots of laughter to be had by all.

Thursday, well...let me put it this way, I put the agenda together and did not realize how much information was going to be provided! We were able to hear from BIA and Hualapai Natural Resource and Forestry Departments on timber management, the history of grazing on Hualapai to current day, the issues and resolutions they have come to concerning the issue of feral horses, the fire management strategies to be implemented by BIA in conjunction with the Tribe, and input from two members of the ranching community from Hualapai. We learned about Prairie Dogs and the presence of Blackfooted Ferrets and the brush management work that has been implemented.

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2017 Arizona Summer SRM Meeting Highlights Hualapai Nation

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I think the take home for everyone was, oh my gosh, there is a lot going on at Hualapai and the speed and efficiency with which they implement their management strategies is impressive to say the least! Thursday night brought a wonderful rain and lightning storm during a fantastic presentation on the History of Hualapai and their Culture. Again, the Buck-n-Doe 4-H club made a wonderful enchilada dinner served by the 4-H members.

Friday, well I will let the picture speak for itself, but what a beautiful view into National Canyon, a finger of the Grand Canyon. Some of us saw Bighorn Sheep, and those that didn't were the ones that didn't bring their glasses! One of us even spotted them with the naked eye to the disbelief of some. Hualapai Wildlife Staff went over the issues and complexities the feral horse problem is having on wildlife in and around the canyon seen in the picture, as well as, the overall recreation problems within the canyon itself.

On a side note...dang it, how could I not win the NRCWAY raffle! But, we appreciate all of those who bought tickets, as it most definitely will be going to a great program. Also...way to go Mr. Dahms from NRCS in Flagstaff for bringing the Plant ID Buckle to Northern Arizona!

Finally, I would like to thank all who attended as well as the 4H folks, what a special place to visit and come together as professionals! Thank you and I look forward to seeing everyone at the Winter Meeting!

Sincerely,

Iric Burden, President Elect

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!

Are you looking for a seasonal position?

UA Cooperative Extension is hiring two contract positions to assist with rangeland monitoring on the Tonto National Forest from October 2017—January 2018. Preferred skills include: plant identification and knowledge of monitoring techniques (dry weight rank, frequency, fetch, utilization). Work is primarily outdoors and involves physical exertion, including hiking, standing, crouching; it also involves extended driving of 4WD vehicles/ATVs over rough terrain, exposure to variable environmental conditions, and occasional overnight camping in remote locations. Personnel can be paid \$17-20 per hour, depending on experience. If interested, email your resume to Ashley Hall at ashleyS3@email.arizona.edu

Director North Report—*Erin Boyd*

Our Fall Field Tour was hosted by the White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT) Land Operations department. WMAT Land Operations is headed by Mr. Richard di Valentino and we began our tour with a brief synopsis of the federal Indian policy and the history of Hawley Lake. We learned that Hawley Lake and Davis Dam are monuments to the Tribe's battle for its water rights. It is also a testament to how WMAT's Safety of Dams Engineer, Waylon Truax was able to coordinate with the Tribe's own professionals, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Natural Resources Conservation Service to help the Hawley Lake project come together. While the history is complex, it is absolutely essential to understand because as the Tribe exercised its rights as a sovereign nation, it laid the groundwork for how its natural resources are managed today.



Lex Baha, President of the North Fork Livestock Association, and Ricardo Velasquez, Range Technician for the WMAT, discussed the challenges of ranching on the reservation. The most pressing of these challenges is the lack of youth involvement and interest in ranching and in agriculture in general. Sisto Hernandez, Rangeland Management Specialist for the Tribe, emphasized the importance of establishing credibility with his ranchers and refuted misconceptions about the wolf introductions and *Trichomoniasis* in beef cattle on the reservation. There was an interesting discussion about marketability of black cattle as opposed to the Hereford cattle most tribal members are used to raising. Range and ranch management continues to be an effort in people management just as much as it is about managing our natural resources.

I was very impressed with how the Land Operations staff were able to frame the history of the Tribe and their legal battles to explain how they currently manage their natural resources. The emphasis on utilizing tribal sovereignty allows the Tribe to build in flexibilities into their management that is not seen with other land management agencies. For instance, the Tribe manages their hunting in a way that takes into account the cultural significance of their wildlife and prefers to manage for quality over quantity in terms of accommodating hunts for non-tribal members. The Tribe and the Land Operations department, in particular, are able to make management decisions in the best interest of their people. I'd like to thank Richard, Waylon, Sisto, Ricardo and Jan for coordinating this tour. The Native Range Committee and the Section is always grateful when tribes welcome us on to their lands.

In other Native Range news, I am very excited to host the **Committee's first strategic planning session** at the Winter Meeting on **January 3, 2018**. Mark your calendars! See you all there!



Director South Report—*Rachel Turner*

Hi all, I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying their last bits of summer! I have been cooped up over the past couple months working on my master's thesis - If anyone wants to discuss cattle diet quality on Southern Arizona rangelands, feel free to give me a call!

However, I did manage to take a break and travel north with other Tierra Seca members for the summer meeting. The Hualapai Tribe were kind and generous hosts welcoming us to their gorgeous land. I enjoyed catching up with some old friends and meeting new SRM members during our time at camp. While all of the sessions were terrific and informational, I especially enjoyed our discussion regarding the current range management challenges and success led by the managers on Hualapai. Of course, travelling to the Grand Canyon was a highlight as well.

Thank you to all those who helped prepare, plan, and implement the meeting! While I was not able to attend the fall field tour, I know there were plenty of other great talks planned. These meetings are great for learning and gaining new experiences. I look forward to seeing everyone in the future this winter.

Best,

Rachel, Director South

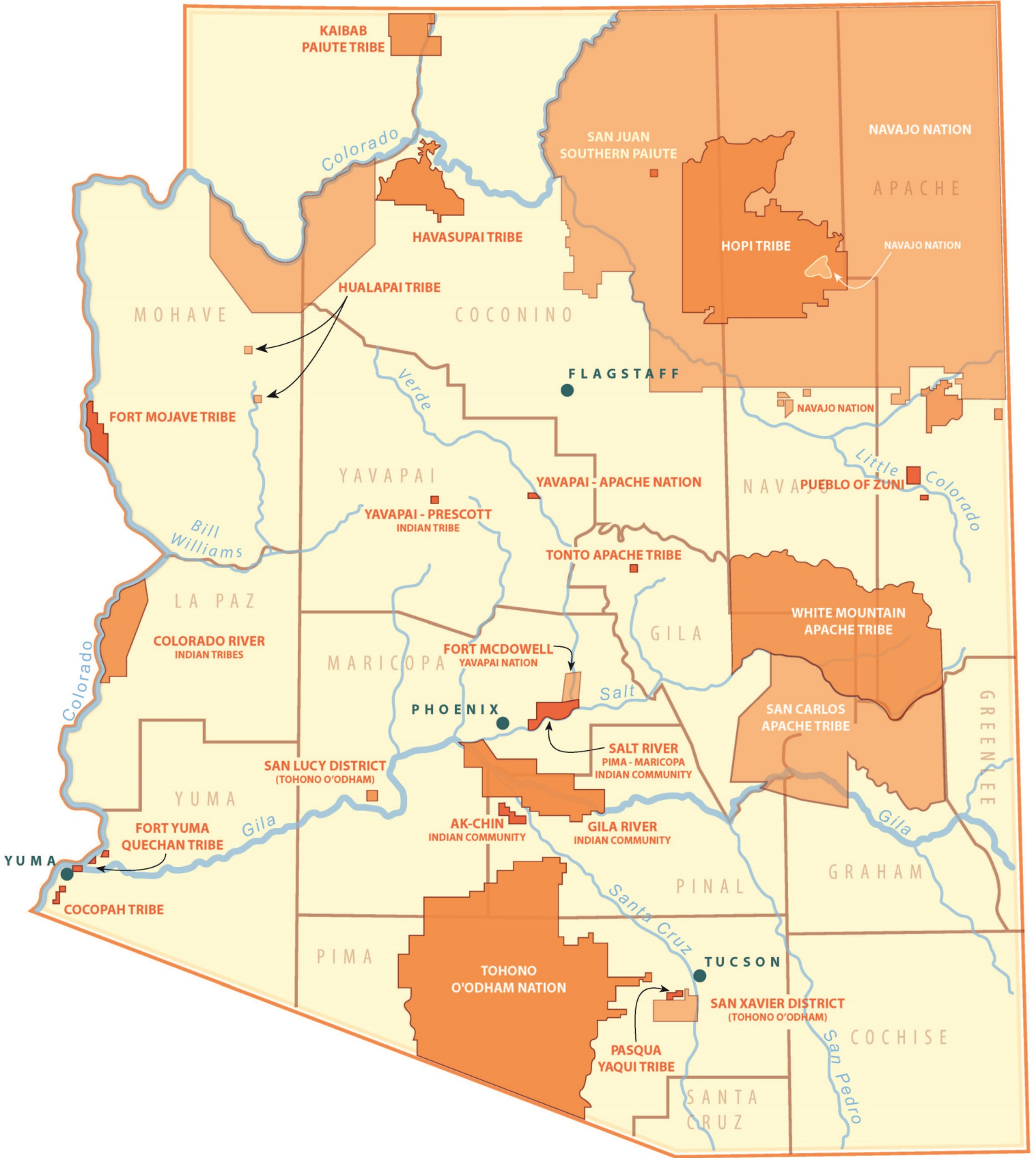


Previous Native Rangeland Activities

By Willie Sommers, Section Historian

As we embark on The Year of Native Rangelands, let's take a look at some of the previous meetings and activities pertaining to Native American Rangelands in Arizona. A review of the historical files shows that a number of meetings and tours were held. In 1957, the first reference to Native Rangelands can be found; the summer meeting was a field trip to Fort Apache Reservation (now known as the White Mountain Apache Tribe Reservation). The following summer, there was a field tour on the San Carlos Reservation, directly south of White Mountain Apache Reservation in eastern Arizona. In 1967, a summer field tour and discussion of range and livestock management programs/policies was held on the Navajo Reservation. And in 1971, the annual winter meeting was centered on "Rangeland Issues on Indian Lands" and included a tour of the Tohono O'odham Reservation.

There are a few more Native Rangeland meetings in our records. The 1976 summer meeting was about proper use, and had a field trip to the San Carlos Reservation. Fast forward to 1989, and the summer meeting held jointly with the New Mexico Section had a Navajo Nation reforestation project visit. The last reference to a meeting was the 1996 summer mine reclamation and Black Mesa Mining Complex tour also held on the Navajo Reservation. Now that we've visited the Hualapai Reservation, all five of the larger reservations have been visited by the Arizona Section.



NATIVE PEOPLES OF ARIZONA

COMPREHENSIVE MAP OF ARIZONA INDIAN RESERVATIONS



SOURCES:
 American Indian Tribes and Communities in Arizona.
http://www.epa.gov/region9/air/maps/images/AIR1100040_2g.gif
 Arizona Tribal Lands and Reservations
http://www.epa.gov/region9/air/maps/images/AIR1100040_2g.gif

Natural Resources Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth (July 17-21, 2017)



The 2017 workshop was a success with 33 students and many staff members enjoying the outdoors while learning about Arizona's natural resources. The theme this year was the "Ologies" - natural resource basics. Students learned how to texture soil, basic botany, ecology, geology, water quality, archeology, Arizona climate, and biological diversity. The students worked in groups throughout the week studying, measuring, and photographing their assigned plot of land. They developed a presentation describing two biotic and two abiotic factors found in their plots.

The students learned a little about noxious weeds as part of their service project this year. NRCWAY students learned to identify rosettes of non-native thistles and removed these plants from a meadow area near the pond. Swimming and fishing in the pond were popular free time activities, along with birdwatching, and photography.

Award winners were:

Outstanding Camper, Mattie Mitchell (Peoria, and 2017 HSYF Delegate)

Outstanding Student, Ayla Eweka (Seligman)

2018 HSYF Delegates, Kalee Quinones (Tucson) and Albert Young (Douglas)



Thank you to our 2017 NRCWAY Sponsors!

Arizona Revegetation & Monitoring Co. (Jim Koweek)

AZ Chapter SWCS

Big Sandy NRCD

Coconino NRCD

Faith Ryan

Gila Valley NRCD

Navajo County NRCD Education Center

Pima NRCD

Redington NRCD

Robinett Rangeland Resources, LLC

Santa Cruz NRCD Education Center

Patina & Shane Thompson

Willcox-San Simon RCEE

Stephen Williams

Field Follies

By: Andrew Brischke

I started my career with The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension as a Research Specialist in rangeland monitoring. Today, I supervise the Arizona Rangeland Cooperative Monitoring Program (ACRMP) in a different part of the state. When I inherited the ACRMP, I went down to check in with my Yuma team member. We started well before sunrise to beat the heat and cover the 3-hour drive to our first site.

We drove to within 50 feet of the site, got out and measured the rain gauge, laid out our tapes, took our pictures and began sampling. We finished reading the site in about 30 minutes and were off to our next. Rinse and repeat times three. It was at this point that I realized why my colleagues and team members enjoyed monitoring so much. Evidently when you don't have to hike up mountains and can sample the entire site in about half hour, monitoring can be fun! Honestly, I had fun monitoring that day.

So I opened my smart mouth at every opportunity to taunt my colleague and ACRMP team member for the next year about how easy they had it. Aside from leaving for the field at 4 a.m. and a 3-hour one-way drive to the field, monitoring in Yuma was a breeze.

Flash forward to Yuma Monitoring Week in late April 2017. The ACRMP team member from Yuma moved to a different position in Extension and we had not refilled the position. The work still had to get done so we hastily put together Monitoring Week and were fortunate to have the former ACRMP team members available for that week. As former team members with local knowledge, I trusted them to lead their respective teams and the team I led would get assigned the sites that were easiest to find.

The next day, my team monitored our assigned allotment. However, throughout the day of monitoring I began to notice these particular sites were far brushier than the sites I sampled a year ago. I also didn't remember these sites being as brushy as the photos I had seen while putting the files together. We had to snake the tapes through countless trees and shrubs throughout the day. We got scratched, scraped, and poked left and right by the tough Yuma vegetation. Then I began to think to myself, "these sites aren't any easier to find than any others right off the road." I soon suspected collusion between my two friends and former ACRMP team members. I thought to myself, "my smart mouth may have come back to poke me in the rear." Quite literally.

I confronted my 'friends' at the hotel when we got back. They didn't explicitly deny their collusion about giving me the most difficult sites of the lot, but I concluded their guilt from their maniacal laughter. I still had three more sites on that allotment the next day. Well played friends, well played.



Calendar of Events

2017

- September 08, 2017 Brush Management Strategies for Ranchers, Elfrida, AZ
- September 09, 2017 Arizona Domestic Well Owner’s Basics Workshop, Sierra Vista, AZ
- September 11-13, 2017 National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Pacific and Southwest Regional Meeting, Tucson, AZ
- September 15, 2017 Apache and Navajo County Cattlemen’s Meeting, Holbrook, AZ
- September 15, 2017 What’s New for Rangeland Brush Management, Invasive Plants, and Climate Change, Camp Verde, AZ and V-V Ranch
- September 22, 2017 Range and Livestock Workshop, Miami, AZ
- October 21, 2017 Research Insights for Semi-Arid Ecosystems (RISE) Symposium, Tucson, AZ

2018

- January 03-05, 2018 Arizona SRM Winter Meeting (Location TBA)
- January 28—Feb 02, 2018 Society for Range Management Annual Meeting, Sparks, NV
- January 31—Feb 02, 2018 Cattle Industry Convention & NCBA Trade Show, Phoenix, AZ



Arizona Section-Society For Range Management
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