



Photo: Grazing at Sunset in Show Low, AZ.
By Kevin York, ASU Chapter President

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Featured Quote: "Because grazed forage remains the least expensive source of nutrients to maintain the cow herd, matching cow size and milk production potential to forage resources...should be considered a drought mitigation strategy...Larger, heavier cows with greater maintenance requirements may have lower reproductive efficiency in constrained rangeland environments."
- Scasta et al. (2016) Drought Mitigation for Grazing Operations: Matching the Animal to the Environment. *Rangelands* 38(4):201-210.

President's Message



Andrew Brischke

G'day Rangers,

Obligatory weather/climate report from my area: It's dry. Very, very dry without any wet in the forecast. On to the official message.

I would first like to thank all involved in organizing and speaking at the Summer Meeting. I'm not going to mention names because I'll invariably miss one and I don't want them to feel left out, but you know who you are and again, thank you for your efforts. I thought it was an excellent meeting with a well-balanced mix of rangeland issues and discussion (Feral Horse Management), science and research (Feral Horse Research), resources for rangeland projects and wildlife impacts, fire effects on rangeland, another look at Juniper removal (tradition), and some very interesting tours I personally enjoyed. For those that weren't there, that was a lot of antler!

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President's Message—*Andrew Brischke*

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A major goal of mine this year was to increase the strength of our Section. I believe we can really increase our value to not only our Section, but to our membership through committee work. I would like to thank the many people in our membership for stepping up to fill our many vacancies in our Section Committees. I was very encouraged to see the number and diversity of our membership that wanted to get more involved.

I encourage each of the committee Chairs and members to be proactive and innovative in projects or directives they can bring to the section. Additionally, if you would like to become a member on any of these committees, please do not hesitate to ask, we would be happy to put you in contact with the Chair. We have some additional work to do to fill these committees completely, particularly with some increased rancher participation. If you know of a rancher who would be a good candidate to fill one of these vacancies, please let the Board know and you or the Board will reach out to them.

Another large project I have intentions of completing before my term ends is designing and implementing a new Section Website. I appreciate the commitment from the University of Arizona's Tierra Seca to take on this rather large task. Hopefully by our next winter meeting, we will have launched our new website.

Which brings me to my closing, and without stealing our AZSRM President-Elect Erin Thomas's thunder, I look forward to seeing all of you in Wickenburg, January 22-24, 2020!

Your Majesty ;-),

Andrew Brischke— AZSRM President

P.S. Apologies in advance if you receive any more emails about buying iPhone gift cards or stream wallets.

Committee	Chair/Members
Public Relations, Recreation, and Outreach	Xavier Alfaro-Lopez - CHAIR Joey Dahms - member Erin Thomas - member Ashley Hall - member
Newsletter	Kelsey Landreville - CHAIR
Honors and Awards	Jason Martin - CHAIR James Bradley - member Rancher Committee Member - Vacant
Auction and Fundraising	Alisha Phipps - CHAIR Ashley Hall - member
Membership	Joey Dahms - Chair
NRCWAY	Kim McReynolds - CHAIR Jeff Schalau - member Ashley Hall - member Andrew Brischke - member Josh Grace - member
Ranchers	Alanna Lonsdale - CHAIR Al Thomas - member One rancher from every region? - Vacant
Scholarship	Larry Howery - CHAIR
Historian	Willie Sommers - CHAIR
Science	Elise Gornish - CHAIR Josh Grace - member
Young Professionals	Brett Myers - CHAIR Johnathan Chee - member Claire Bigelow - member
Native Range	Erin Thomas—CHAIR Al Thomas—member Felix Nex, Jr.—member Helena Deswood—member Wade Biakeddy—member Jonathan Chee—member Heather Dial—member Iric Burden—member/advisor



ARIZONA SECTION OF THE
SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT

2020 WINTER MEETING



January 22-24, 2020
Rancho de los Caballeros
Wickenburg, Arizona



**Society for
Range
Management**
Arizona Section



arizona_srm



Arizona Section
of
Society for Range Management



arizona.srm@gmail.com

azrangelands.org

2019 Arizona Section Board of Directors and Website

President

Andrew Brischke
Brischke@cals.arizona.edu

Past President

Iric Burden
Iric.Burden2@usda.gov

Director North

JD Eddy
JEddy@azgfd.gov

U of A Chapter President

Brian Koppy
UofATierraSeca@gmail.com

President-Elect

Erin Thomas
Erin.Thomas@usda.gov

Secretary Treasurer

Ashley Hall
AshleyS3@email.arizona.edu

Director South

Alisha Phipps
Alisha.Phipps@usda.gov

ASU Chapter President

Kevin York
thekevinyork@gmail.com

Vice President

Emilio Carrillo
Emilio.Carrillo@usda.gov

Director North

Joshua Grace
JGrace1@email.arizona.edu

Director South

Kent Curley
Kent.Curley@usda.gov

Arizona Section Website

www.azrangelands.org/

Director North Report—*Joshua Grace*

The Section's summer meeting has come and gone. This year we were fortunate to have University of Arizona Cooperative Extension provide a workshop during the first day of our meeting. Dr. Mike Crimmins, Associate Specialist and Professor in Climate Science, educated nearly 50 participants on precipitation monitoring in a rangeland setting. Dr. Crimmins works to support resource management in several sectors, including rangelands and forests, by increasing climate science literacy and developing strategies to adapt to our changing climate.

The latter is particularly important to those of us in ecological disciplines or the livestock industry. Most of Arizona remains in a long-term drought, making each management decision increasingly important. Part of incorporating drought into management is through the process of "adaptive management." In adaptive management, land managers attempt to make informed decisions based on the available data. Decisions may consider vegetation trends, economic markets, livestock records, and yep, precipitation records.

Dr. Crimmins taught participants about precipitation monitoring best practices, including where to monitor and how many gauges to use, and how to build and use a rain gauge designed and tested by Dr. Crimmins and others. This gauge allows for easy rainfall measurement and emptying—each participant left with their own free gauge! Finally, we learned

about an online tool to help you track your rainfall over time to help make more informed decisions. <https://myraingelog.arizona.edu/> is a free website where users can create a profile for gauges and track the rainfall in an easy-to-use format. Users can input rainfall for gauges, map their locations with a built-in mapping tool, and chart rainfall for auto-generated reports.

Last, but not least, we learned about a project being conducted in Navajo County through Arizona Game and Fish Department, UA Navajo County Cooperative, and others. The project aims to promote Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mechanical (STEM) education with local high school students construct devices to help measure water depth in wildlife water catchments. Check out the newspaper article:

https://www.wmicentral.com/news/latest_news/student-ingenuity-helps-develop-water-catchment-sensors/article_dbade510-7596-5aff-834a-598bc5575384.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

The workshop was a great start to the Section meeting, and we were able to share information about our Section with participants who are not currently members! We hope you all enjoyed it and your rain gauges stay nice and full!



Summer Meeting Highlights—*Erin Thomas, Pres.-Elect*

We had our annual summer meeting in Show Low with the theme of *Managing Forest Rangelands* and I think that we did a great job of capturing the natural resource management complexities that are encountered in southern Navajo County and grazed forests in general. The meeting started with a Rangeland Precipitation Workshop organized by our very own Josh Grace. See his Director North Report for a recap of that.



A portion of the meeting that I would like to highlight was the wild horse and burro section (terminology is important here, I later found out). The goal of these talks was to start a conversation as a section and to capture some of the many perspectives surrounding the issue. It was critical that we included tribal perspectives (thanks to Dr. Francisco, Sisto Hernandez, Colin Tessier, Al Thomas and KC Curley for speaking). Arizona is comprised of about 25% tribal lands and we are sharing a lot of borders. This is really where collaboration begins. We hope that this discussion will be the starting point of developing a Section position paper on the Wild Horse and Burro issue. You can find the national SRM's Position Statement here: <https://rangelands.org/about/position-statements/>.

It should come as no surprise that the consensus after the wild horse and burro talks was that there needs to be collaboration, compromise and management. When range professionals talk about this issue, we are preaching to the choir, so the next step is find-

ing meaningful ways to address the issue and the development of a Section specific position paper would be a start.

We explored a variety of natural resources management issues with local ranchers, Arizona Game and Fish Department and the United States Forest Service. One of the most valuable experiences of being a range manager is being able to work with ranchers. At this meeting we had Rodney Porter, Frances McCauley and Jack Carlisle all speak to what it was and is like to raise cattle in Navajo County. They are our eyes and ears on the ground and their knowledge is invaluable.

We were honored to have the speakers from the US Forest Service, University of Arizona, and the Arizona Game and Fish Department and for the gracious sponsorship of the Navajo County Natural Resources Conservation District.

Our next meeting will be the AZSRM Winter Meeting, January 22-24, 2020 at the Rancho de los Caballeros Resort in Wickenburg. It's already time to start thinking about donating auction items and making your awards nominations!

You can make your reservations the resort by calling (800) 684-9565 and mentioning AZ Society for Range Management meeting. Room rates are \$133.00 per night + taxes. Please direct any questions to arizona.srm@gmail.com.



More photos from the Summer Meeting...



Call for 2019 Award Nominations!

Each year, the Arizona Section awards hardworking individuals and groups for their accomplishments in rangeland ecology and management. These awards are reliant on nominations from YOU, the membership.

Contact the Awards Committee Chair, Jason Martin at jmartin@blm.gov for questions, to submit nominations, and to acquire nomination criteria for the Range Manager of the Year, Professional and Technical Guidance, Outstanding Service, and Outstanding Young Professional Awards. Special recognition awards are also welcome!

Nominations are due October 31, 2019



Are you looking for a seasonal rangeland monitoring position?

University of Arizona Gila County Cooperative Extension is hiring a contract position to assist with rangeland monitoring on the Tonto National Forest from September 2019 to March 2020. Preferred skills include: plant identification and knowledge of monitoring techniques (dry weight rank, frequency, fetch utilization). Work is primarily outdoors and involves standing and hiking; it also involves driving 4WD vehicles/ATVs over rough terrain, exposure to variable environmental conditions, and occasional overnight camping in remote locations. Personnel can be paid \$17-\$20 an hour, depending on experience. If interested, email your resume to Ashley Hall at AshleyS3@email.arizona.edu.



Arizona Section Membership

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, access to Rangelands journal and SRM News, discounted prices for meeting registration fees, and invaluable networking, information sharing, and professional development.

ARIZONA SECTION MEMBERSHIP

We currently have 134 primary members with an additional 22 who claim Arizona as their secondary Section, for **a total of 156 active members**.

Our Section is strong, but it has the potential to be much stronger. Back in 1994, we had nearly double the members—a total of 292.

We now challenge YOU to recruit at least one new member by the end of the year! It all starts with a simple conversation starter: “Are you going to the Arizona SRM Winter Meeting in Wickenburg this January?”

Prospective members should know about the fun they are missing when the range enthusiasts unite! And importantly about the invaluable information sharing and networking that occurs at our meetings.

Membership information can be found at the following website:

<https://srm.allenpress.com/srm/MEMBERSHIP.aspx>

Call for Poster Abstracts and Oral Presentations for the AZSRM Winter Meeting!

January 22-24, 2020

Wickenburg, AZ

The AZSRM Winter Meeting Planning Committee invites undergraduate and graduate students to submit abstracts for scientific posters or oral presentations related to rangeland management, wildlife management, grazed forests and fire ecology. Oral presentations will be given January 24, 2019. Abstracts are due to Arizona.srm@gmail.com by November 1, 2019.

Contact AZSRM President-Elect, Erin Thomas for more information: Erin.Thomas@usda.gov



NRCWAY 2019 Recap—*Kim McReynolds*



Natural Resources Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth (July 15-19, 2019)

The 2019 workshop was a success with 29 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 the about forest health, silviculture, fire ecology, and how to measure the height and diameter for ponderosa pine trees. They also learned that 69% of Arizona is rangeland, used rangeland monitoring techniques, and collected, identified, pressed, and mounted plant samples.

This year the group project centered on coming up with a marketing campaign for a grassroots movement to have Black Grama (*Bouteloua eriopoda*) selected by the state legislature as our state grass. As part of the project, students learned how the state legislature works and how bills are passed. Nine students signed up to continue working on the project throughout the year with the eventual goal of talking to state legislators about introducing a bill for the state grass.

Applying what they learned about forest health, the service project this year was thinning an area of camp between the upper and lower buildings of small diameter trees. Students sawed down shrubs and trees to thin the forested area, leaving healthier trees to grow with less competition.

Award winners were:

- Outstanding Camper, Emory Burden (Flagstaff)
- Outstanding Student, Morgan Pepe (Tucson)
- 2020 HSYF Delegates, Rachel Noble (Phoenix) and Austin Seisinger (Prescott Valley)

Thank you to our 2019 NRCWAY Sponsors!

Apache NRC D
Arizona Revegetation & Monitoring Co.
AZ Chapter SWCS
Big Sandy NRC D
Chino Winds NRC D
Coconino NRC D
Dugas Ranch
Eloy NRC D
Gila Valley NRC D
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Santa Cruz NRC D
Shane & Patina Thompson
Triangle NRC D
West Pinal NRC D
Whitewater Draw NRC D
Willcox-San Simon RCEE
Winkleman Resource Mgt Center
Stephen Williams



Arizona State University Activities—Kevin York

Having taken over as the ASU Chapter President for SRM in June, I am just starting to ramp up for this coming school year. It was great getting to meet so many of you at the Summer Meeting—thank you to all of you who shared so much wisdom and advice with me! At ASU, SRM is part of a bigger wildlife organization which gives us a larger membership and more opportunities. Several of my classmates from the wildlife side came up Friday morning to help cook breakfast, which was much appreciated! My goal over the next year is to greatly increase ASU’s student participation in both the range program and SRM.

We had our first club rush event on campus Thursday and had a lot of interest in the organization, which is exciting! The majority of students were interested in the wildlife side of the group, so now my job is to convert them! Dr. Alford has unretired to teach a couple range classes this semester, and a new range professor is slated to begin teaching in the spring semester, so things are looking good on campus.

The club is busy planning several workshops and student outings throughout the semester, with one trip hopefully to a local ranch, a Sonoran Desert plant walk, and a workshop on map reading so far.

I am glad I got to meet so many of you, and look forward to seeing you all again at the Winter Meetup or the National Meeting. If you know of any opportunities for students, please reach out so I can pass them along to our membership.

Email: thekevinyork@gmail.com

Photos: (Top) Cooking breakfast at the summer meeting; (Bottom) “Club Hub” aka Club Rush Day at ASU.



Iric Burden featured on The Art of Range Podcast

Check out Episode 18 of The Art of Range podcast, where host Tip Hudson interviews Iric Burden (formerly Area Rangeland Management Specialist for NRCS in Flagstaff; now Kaibab National Forest Range Program Manager in Williams, AZ) about “Drought Response in Arizona Using Climate Tools.” Certified Professionals in Range Management may claim 0.5 to 1.0 Continuing Education Units after listening to each episode by completing the “Feedback” survey for each episode online: <https://artofrange.com/>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2019

- September 03 Ranch Estate Planning Class, Springerville, AZ (Contact Joshua Grace at jgrace1@email.arizona.edu)
- September 03 Ranch Estate Planning Class, Pinetop-Lakeside, AZ (Contact Joshua Grace at jgrace1@email.arizona.edu)
- September 20 Beginning Rancher Workshop Series: Ranch Funding Programs from USDA, NRCS, FSA and others, Location TBD (Contact Ashley Wright at awright134@email.arizona.edu)
- September 21 An Evening with Ed Robertson to benefit the Altar Valley Conservation Alliance, Mountain Oyster Club, Tucson, AZ. Contact sarah@altarvalleyconservation.org
- September 27 Beginning Farmer/Rancher Series: Noxious and Toxic Weeds, Springerville, AZ (JGrace1@email.arizona.edu)
- October 19 Beginning Farmer/Rancher Workshop (details TBD), V-V Ranch
- November 05-07 National Tribal Conservation Districts Conference, Catoosa, OK
- November 07 Southwestern Grasslands Research Symposium, Tucson, AZ
- November 8-10 2019 Annual Society for Ecological Restoration SW Chapter Conference, Tucson, AZ
- November 11-22 Quivira Coalition Conference, Albuquerque, NM
- December 09-12 Indian Agriculture Council Conference, Las Vegas, NV

2020

- January 22-24 Arizona Section SRM Winter Meeting, Rancho de los Caballeros, Wickenburg, AZ
- February 16-20 Annual SRM Conference - *A New Look: Transformation & Translation*, Denver, CO

Kelsey (Hawkes) Landreville
School of Natural Resources and the Environment
University of Arizona
Environment and Natural Resources 2 Building
1064 E. Lowell Street
Tucson, AZ 85721

