



ARIZONA SECTION

Society for Range Management

Spring 2003 Issue

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Trapped in the Vortex ...

First of all, I want to thank Sandy Fabritz for the excellent job she has done serving as our President, President-Elect, and Vice-President over the past three years. Sandy also served as Chair-Elect of the parent society's Advisory Council in 2002, and in 2003 she is serving as Chair of the Advisory Council, as our past-president, as well as Chair of three section committees! We all owe Sandy a tremendous debt of gratitude for her selfless, dedicated service and leadership to SRM at both the section and national levels. Thank you very much Sandy for a job well done!

As your new president, I am asking for your help with identifying issues that need improvement in the Arizona section. Several topics were identified at our general membership meeting in Laughlin and I can promise you that the Board and Committee Chairs are already taking action to address some of those concerns. I believe we can best make progress via productive feedback between the members and the section's elected officials. Please contact me or any board member and continue to let us know where we need to improve (so that we can fix what is broke), as well as tell us where you think we are doing things right (so that we don't try to fix what ain't broke). We are here to serve you but we can't do it without your help and input.

We have just completed our section and parent society meetings in Laughlin, NV and Casper, WY, respectively. I was energized by these meetings and would say to those of you who were unable to attend -- you really missed out. Although there is much to report on from both meetings, I want to focus my remarks in this newsletter on the Arizona Section's 1) membership, 2) committees, and 3) upcoming meetings in 2003/04. I believe these three issues are *urgently important* to our section as well as to the parent society in the foreseeable future.

1) Arizona Section Membership

I challenge each Arizona section member to recruit *at least* one new member before our winter section meeting in 2004. I believe every one of us knows at least one person (maybe 2 or 3 or more) who is currently not a member of SRM who should be. You will find membership application information in this newsletter. Be sure to instruct your new recruit(s) to write in your name as their sponsor on the application. The parent society will apply a \$5 credit to your membership dues for each new "regular" member you sponsor. If you get some "no's" from your potential recruits, ask them to provide their top 2 reasons for 1) why they do not currently wish to become a SRM member, and, 2) the top 2 things they would like to see SRM change that might entice them to join in the future. Report your results (both positive and negative) to Mike Hannemann, Chair of the membership committee. Mike's contact information appears on page 3 of this newsletter. I have asked Mike to report on how the membership drive is progressing at our summer meeting.

Why a membership drive in 2003? A quick glance at the parent society's 2002 report tells us that our membership numbers continue to track downward. This trend is disturbing and insidious, because it is occurring at both the individual section and parent society levels. Only two sections showed slight increases in membership over the past year. In 2002, the Arizona section membership was at its lowest level in 10 years (166 members), a mere 57% of our high water mark of 292 members in 1994. When you pair this information with the fact that about 70% of SRM's membership will retire within the next 10 years (according to Mort Kothmann, 1st VP), you begin to understand why we must turn this ship

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around. This is serious business for our professional society, and hence, our profession folks!

Range managers know that past management practices, climatic conditions, or some combination thereof can cause a downward trend in rangeland condition. Can we draw the same general conclusion regarding the downward trend in our membership, and thus, the relative condition of our professional society? In other words, has past management of SRM, or past socio-political climate of the rangeland profession in general (or some combination thereof) influenced or caused the steady decline in SRM membership over the past 10 years? I don't claim to have the answers to these questions, nor do I ask them with the intent to point blame at anyone or at any entity. Rather, I want to stimulate thought, discussion, and action on how the Arizona section can focus on the things we have control of. We need to identify ways to make SRM more attractive to prospective members (especially students and young professionals to replace impending retirements), and simultaneously move our society forward in a positive, professional, and influential fashion. Perhaps the answers from prospective "recruits" who decline to join will reveal part of the problem. I am quite certain that we won't be able to address all their suggestions or complaints, but I also believe we will learn about some legitimate concerns that us "hard core" members may have not thought of. This is why it is very important for you to forward both the positive and negative feedback to Mike so he can report on it at the summer meeting. This information may prove to be valuable to our section and to our parent society down the road.

Out-going President Rod Heitschmidt stated at the Casper meeting, "SRM membership is every individual's responsibility.... responsibility for SRM membership must start with each individual section.... the definition of insanity is continuing to do things the same old way and expecting different results." Let's make sure that the Arizona section does its part to identify what we are doing right and what we may be doing wrong so that we can take the proper steps to reverse the negative trend in membership in 2003. After all, I for one do not want to see President Budd walking around Salt Lake City with a shaved head, tattoos, and ear/nose/belly button studs...do you? (those of you who attended the general membership meeting in Casper will get this).

2) Arizona Section Committees

In the December 2002 Newsletter, President Sandy Fabritz urged our section members to be heard, to be involved, and to participate in leading and influencing rangeland policies and

decisions. One way to do this is by actively participating in SRM committee work on behalf of the Arizona Section. I would like to see more involvement and participation on our section's committees by our members. In-coming President Bob Budd said in Casper that the only requirement for being assigned to parent society committees is to show up and to start participating in a positive fashion. I want the Arizona section's committees to operate in a similar way. So, what do you need to do to get assigned to an Arizona SRM committee? Just contact the Chair of the committee (their contact information is listed in this newsletter) and ask them, what is your committee working on? and, how can I help? It's that simple!

I have asked each committee Chair and its members to identify at least one topic that they will work on (or are already working on), and, to consider submitting a newsletter article on that topic sometime during 2003. The topic(s) identified are entirely up to the Chair and the committee members. By the way, you don't have to serve on a committee to submit a newsletter article. Any SRM member can submit a newsletter article – the only requirement is that articles must have relevance to some rangeland science and/or management issue that is of general interest to our members. Submit articles to Sandy Fabritz (safabritz@adwr.state.az.us). Newsletter deadlines are listed inside this newsletter on page 9.

Bob Budd declared in Casper that SRM members need to "lead, follow, or get the hell out of the way -- the time for complaining about what SRM doesn't do is over." Working on an SRM section committee is a great way for you to engage in either of Bob's first two options.

3) Arizona Section Upcoming Meetings in 2003/04

President-elect Jeff Schalaus has asked the membership to provide him with input on agenda items for both the summer (03) and winter (04) meetings. I encourage you to contact Jeff with your ideas ASAP so he has adequate time to incorporate them into the summer or winter programs. Jeff's contact information appears on Page 1 of this newsletter.

I want to thank the membership for the good discussion we had in Laughlin concerning future meeting topics and venues. The location for the 2003 Summer Meeting will be the V Bar V Ranch at Mahan Park. This meeting will be a "campout-style" that many members have been wanting. Potential meeting themes will focus on using science to make good management decisions (e.g., restocking procedures following drought). Detailed information on the summer program and how to register for it will be sent out in May or June.

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For the 2004 Winter Meeting, it was suggested that both student and professional members present or share information regarding projects/issues they are involved in. A "call for papers" will be issued for "hot button" issues (e.g., ESA lawsuits) that should arise as the process develops. More details on the winter meeting will follow in later newsletters.

So there you have it. I have suggested a few activities (membership drive, committee work, helping Jeff with the upcoming summer and winter meetings) for you to participate in the Arizona section. I know we have *many* members whose talents have so far gone untapped. I also know that YOU have something valuable and unique to contribute to SRM due to your particular educational and experiential background, the region where you live, and the distinct local rangeland issues that are important in your geographical area of Arizona. I appeal to you to take the initiative to exercise your talents in ways that will allow you to be heard, be involved, and to participate in the Arizona section of SRM in 2003!!

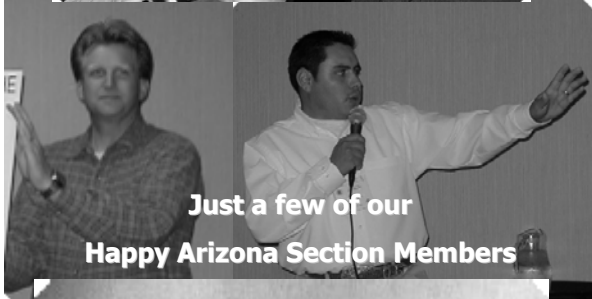
Steady on, Larry Howery

~ 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 *Trail Boss 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 Mike Hannemann, Membership Committee Chair, phone 928.526.0866, or email mhannemann@fs.fed.us OR Dan Bell, Secretary-Treasurer, phone 520.761.3117, or e-mail voslash@aol.com.

On-line membership applications are also available at www.rangelands.org



Don't Forget Receive a \$5.00 Rebate for Recruiting New Members

On the Application make sure your name appears in the spot that says "Name of member that recruited you." Any questions, please contact Mike Hannemann 928.526.0866, or email mhannemann@fs.fed.us.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ARIZONA/NEVADA SECTION **JOINT ANNUAL MEETING**

Program Held on Mojave Desert Tortoise Habitat Management

The Arizona Section held its Winter Meeting in Laughlin, Nevada in conjunction with the Nevada Section. The focus of the meeting was the Mojave Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan and its implications for the Sonoran Desert Tortoise. Speakers included Michael Burroughs with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) discussing why the Mojave Desert Tortoise was listed as an endangered species and Phil Medica, also with the USFWS, who provided an overview of the population trends, habitat requirements, and the 1994 Mojave Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan. Additional topics included the social and economic impacts of the Recovery Plan, an overview of the livestock grazing guidelines, and an overview of information that has been collected as a result of the Plan. Concluding the session was Roy Averill, with Arizona Game and Fish Department, who provided a very informative comparison of the Sonoran and Mojave Tortoise and what could be learned from the experience with the Mojave Tortoise in relation to future implications with the Sonoran Tortoise.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT !!!!

**The Winter Meeting Auction Raised \$1,338.00 toward the
NRCWAY Trust Fund**

Range Manager of the Year Honored

~~ Jeff & Carolyn Homack ~~



Jeff & Carolyn Homack received the Section's highest honor, the Range Manager of the Year Award. The Homacks have been ranching in the Bonita area since the early 70's. The Bonita Ranch consists of approximately 24,000 acres and is nestled against the west slope of the Pinaleno Mountains. Jeff & Carolyn have made use of the technical services provided by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to help implement numerous conservation practices. Such practices include stream bank protection, brush management, water improvements and erosion control structures. On their Forest Service allotment the Homacks have worked with the local USDA Forest Service range specialist to help better manage the allotment. As a result the ranch has improved the quality of the livestock, natural resources and has been better able to survive the current drought affecting the state.

Outstanding Undergraduate Student Scholarship's Awarded

Mitch McClaran

The recipients of the Section's Outstanding Undergraduate Student Scholarship were recognized from Arizona State University and the University of Arizona. The scholarship recognizes the outstanding student in a degree program emphasizing rangeland management. Each recipient receives a check for \$300, and a one-year membership in the Society for Range Management.

The recipient from Arizona State University was **Melissa (Missy) Debnar**. She is a senior in the Environmental Resources program, with an emphasis in soils, rangelands, and riparian areas. She received this scholarship last year as well. Ms. Debnar is the President of the Environmental Resources Student Association, and board member for SRM and SWCS. Her family has a small farm near Queen Creek, and last summer Missy served an internship with the NRCS in both the Phoenix and Higley offices.

The recipient from the University of Arizona was **Amy Tendick**. In the fall of 2002, Ms. Tendick completed her first semester in the Rangeland Science and Management option after her transfer from the Forestry program at the University of Montana. Her dedication and intelligence made a very favorable impression on all faculty and students during her first semester. Her academic goals are to finish her undergraduate work by the spring of 2004 and eventually go on to graduate school. Her career goals are to gain experience in work related to her major for a federal agency or NGO.



Undergraduate Awards – (Continued from page 4)

On a related topic, **Donna King** was the recipient of the Marcelle E. Schmutz Memorial Scholarship given in memory of Erv Schmitz's father. Erv was a longtime faculty member in Range Management at UA. She is the Treasurer of the Tierra Seca Club (Student Chapter of the Arizona Section SRM). Ms. King is a junior earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife, Watershed, and Rangeland Resources with emphasis in Rangeland Science and Management. She is currently employed as a Biological Technician for the National Park Service at Saguaro National Park, Tucson.

~ ~ Special Recognition Awards from the Winter Meeting ~ ~

Chuck Duncan was one of two recipient's honored by the Section with the award for Professional & Technical Guidance. Chuck is a Rangeland Management Specialist with USDA Forest Service in Safford, Arizona. He has been a leader in riparian assessments and has the best record for allotments managed to standard on the Coronado National Forest, if not the region. Outside his regular duties Chuck has volunteered his time to support natural resource management and education. A few activities include earth day projects, career days at Thatcher High School and many Boy Scout projects. All of these resulted in positive on the ground changes. In addition to all the great things Chuck has accomplished he is well respected by his peers and permittees.

Keith Curry also received the award for Professional & Technical Guidance. Keith is currently in the Kingman USDI Bureau of Land Management office as a Rangeland Management Specialist. Keith is described as being devoted to the promotion of rangeland education and on the frontline of education by providing workshops on rangeland monitoring. Keith's knowledge is very substantial and he is always willing to go the extra step to find out about new research and the application of findings and bring it to the field. His knowledge about different methodologies & techniques enables Keith to be very efficient in working with other government agencies, private entities, and individuals.

Larry Howery is this year's Outstanding Service Award recipient. Larry's exemplary efforts in planning the 2002 Arizona Section Society for Range Management summer meeting in Flagstaff are to be commended. Because this was a joint meeting with the Society's National Board of Director's, there were some unique challenges that needed to be met in ensuring that this was a successful meeting. Larry not only met those challenges but far exceeded them. This year's Summer Meeting not only provided an outstanding educational benefit to the members of the Arizona Section, but also provided exceptional professional development through the hosting of the National Board and bringing one of Arizona's important issues to the attention of all who were in attendance.

~ ~ 2003 Board of Director's Inducted ~ ~

The 2003 Board of Director's were inducted at the Section's Annual Meeting. The 2003 Board members are:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Larry Howery , President | Jeff Schalaus , President-Elect |
| Dean Fish , Vice President (newly elected) | Dan Bell , Secretary-Treasurer (newly appointed) |
| Bruce Munda , Director South | Emilio Carrillo , Director South (newly elected) |
| Norm Lowe , Director North | Keith Curry , Director North (newly elected) |



Special Thanks to: Kristen Egen, Mark Pater, Dean Fish, Steve Cassady & Sandy Fabritz
Outgoing 2002 Board Members



Dr. John Brock
Recipient of SRM Outstanding Service Award
At 56th Annual Meeting
 (includes excerpts from the Nomination submitted by Eddie Alford)

Dr. John Brock was awarded the Outstanding Service Award at SRM's Annual Meeting in Casper, Wyoming for his outstanding contribution to the Rangeland Management Profession. At the section level Dr. Brock has served as Treasurer, Vice-President, and President in 1986. He has been a member of the Scholarship, Research, Rancher Affairs, and is currently on the Public Affairs committee. He was Co-Chair of the 1995 SRM meeting planning committee in Phoenix, AZ. Dr. Brock has also served on the Steering Committee of the Natural Resources Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth, and been an integral member of the instructional team for this event since the early 1980's. Over the years Dr. Brock has served on the Research, Membership, and Nominating committees for SRM and was Chair of the Advisory Council in 1987.

Dr. Brock was recognized for his contributions to range management with his teaching, leadership and mentoring. He has given his students and others a lifelong mentoring and consultation service after graduation. Several of Dr. Brock's students are successful rangeland managers in addition to the many other past students who are successful in the Federal and State Agencies in Arizona and elsewhere. Dr. Brock has always gone far beyond his responsibilities to provide support and advice concerning rangeland management issues. His students have continued to seek Dr. Brock's advice on rangeland management issues. He consistently shows his enthusiasm to help with analysis techniques, monitoring protocol, and management strategies, and volunteers his time to assist. Dr. Brock is truly an inspiration to rangeland managers. As busy as he is, he always answers his phone calls and e-mail immediately, and he is courteous, and enthused with his advice.

Congratulations to Dr. John Brock for this truly deserved recognition!



Report from Casper – Derek Stauffer (Arizona State University)

The Society of Range Management's 56th Annual Meeting in Casper, Wyoming far exceeded all my expectations. Reading the tentative program and background information on the SRM meeting did not prepare me for the experience to come. While neatly outlining each days events, the information provided did not account for the exhilaration of simply being there and interacting with so many people, professionals and students alike, who share a common interest in our land and natural resources.

Technical Sessions and Symposia were hosted in the morning and afternoons on a variety of topics from Carbon Sequestration to Planned Grazing and System Response. Poster sessions took place daily from 11am to 2 in the afternoon. Seemingly countless universities, colleges, high schools, government agencies, and private interests shared their knowledge and experience. Aside from current research and modeling, however, a number of workshops were offered to both professionals and students. Workshops included were Remote Sensing, Student Employment, Coordinated Resource Management, Leadership Development, and a Small Acreage Workshop.

Students representing over thirty-five universities and

colleges from Mexico, Canada, and the United States were in attendance. Not only were these students in attendance to present their research, students also competed with one another in several competitions, including a plant identification contest, the URME (Undergraduate Range Management Examination), and a public speaking contest. Another excellent opportunity provided to students, was an event called Tapping the Top which allowed students an opportunity to meet with professionals in a social setting to discuss and ask pertinent questions.

Unfortunately, there is only so much time in a day. It is not possible to see and do everything that one might want to accomplish at the SRM Annual Meeting. This being the case, specific sessions had to be chosen previous to a day's events. Personally, I chose to attend sessions, which related to my curriculum. Rangeland Birds and Ecosystems, Other (invertebrate) Grazers, Restoration Ecology, and Riparian Buffer Zones and Water Quality were among the topics chosen.

Thank you for allowing me the chance to enjoy and participate in the SRM 56th Annual Meeting. I had a great time and thoroughly enjoyed myself. It was an invaluable experience. If you have not yet attended an Annual Meeting, make plans now.

Requiescat in Pace

(submitted by Phil Ogden)

John D. "Danny" Freeman, 91, died in a Phoenix, Arizona hospital on January 13, 2003. He and his wife, Norita, were married in Bisbee, Arizona in 1940, and moved to Prescott, Arizona in 1941. Norita and their two sons, Barrie and Wendell, daughter, Judy Power, three grandsons, one granddaughter, and one great granddaughter survive. Danny lived over 60 years of history in Prescott and Yavapai County where he was an active participant in creating and documenting the history of many organizations. He was a charter member of the American Society of Range Management, 1948 (name changed to Society for Range Management in 1970), and he has been a part of and documented much SRM history. He chronicled his own history in an autobiography, *My First 84Years*, published in 1995. An article in the Prescott newspaper, *The Daily Courier*, reported Danny's death with the headline, "A part of history—Historian, 'Danny' Freeman dies."

Danny was born in Tulia, Texas in 1911 and spent his early years on a Texas cattle and wheat ranch. He majored in animal husbandry and botany at New Mexico A&M (later New Mexico State University) where he received his B.S. degree in Agriculture in 1935. He began his professional career with the Soil Conservation Service in Safford, Arizona in 1935, and spent most of his career in Arizona except for a 9-month detail in 1953 as Zone Conservationist with duties in New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, and Arizona. He retired from the Soil Conservation Service in 1967. After this retirement, he signed up for an eighteen month tour of duty with the Agency for International Development to assist Vietnamese farmers improve their agricultural efficiency; in 1969, he extended his service on the project.

His record of service and participation in SRM affairs illustrates the kind of dedication that Danny gave to organizations and causes in which he believed. He served as Arizona Section Secretary in 1953, and as part of his duties, he edited the first four issues of the *Arizona Section Newsletter*, the first being April 1953. He served as Arizona Section Chairman in 1954, and as Historian from 1964-69 and 1976-83. For seven years in the 1980s, Danny financially supported within the Arizona Section an "Outstanding Female Range Management Student Award," initially \$100 and \$200 in later years.

As the new President of the American Society of Range Management, 1956, he expressed his feeling to members as: "To me the American Society of Range Management is just about the greatest thing that ever came into being." Danny was editor for the *Rangeman's Journal* from 1975-78, and continued as editor when the name was changed to *Rangelands* in 1979, a position he filled until February 1984. The awards which Danny received from SRM illustrate the appreciation and recognition by SRM members for his professional and dedicated service. In 1977, he received both the Outstanding Achievement Award and Fellow Award, and he received the most prestigious award made by SRM, The Frederic G. Renner Award, at the Annual meeting in Calgary, Alberta, Canada in 1982.

Danny's participation in Prescott and Yavapai County organizations and activities included Yavapai County Fair Association, Prescott Frontier Days, Smoki and Westerners, 4-H, and Yavapai County Cattle Growers. He has written and published many historical documents of these and other organizations. He completed a major publication, *World's Oldest Rodeo*, timed to match the centennial celebration of Prescott Frontier Days in 1988. He was honored in 1990 with the dedication and naming of the rock house at the fairgrounds as the Freeman Building.

Family and friends in many organizations will miss Danny.

The family has requested that any memorials be sent to:

Prescott Frontier Days Foundation
P.O. Box 12004
Prescott, AZ 86304





~ ~ UPCOMING EVENTS ~ ~

MARCH 2003

- 7:** Arizona Section Board of Director's Meeting - 10:00am at the Tucson Plant Materials Center
3241 N. Ramero Road – Tucson, Arizona
- 10 – 12:** American Farmland Trust National Conference – *Farming on the Edge*
Asilomar Conference Center Pacific Grove California Contact Information: www.farmlands.org
- 12:** Deadline for comments on federal register draft of new EQIP Rules for NRCS -
submit comments in writing, by mail, to Conservation Operations Division, Natural Resources
Conservation Service, P.O. Box 2890 Washington D.C. 20013-2890, or by e-mail to
farbillrules@usda.gov
- 19 – 20:** Consumer to Conception Workshop @ the UofA Meat Lab, Tucson Contact: Dean Fish
dfish@ag.arizona.edu
- 21:** Drought Workshop in Peach Spring - Contact: Liz Didier edidier@ag.arizona.edu
- 22:** Design with Desert Conference – The Day the Desert Stood Still: Lessons for People and Communities
of the Desert @ the ASU Downtown Center. For more information contact John Brock
john.brock@asu.edu
- 25:** Drought Recovery Workshop in Camp Verde – Contact Jim Sprinkle sprinkle@ag.arizona.edu
- 25 – 26:** Tucson Plant Materials Advisory Committee Meeting, Tucson, AZ
- 25 – 27:** Arizona Strip Range Workshop - Contact: Rob Grumbles grumbles@ag.arizona.edu or
928.753.3788

APRIL 2003

- 2 – 3:** Intermountain Native Plant Summit II, Boise, Idaho – Contact Dan Ogle at 208.378.5730 or
danogle@id.usda.gov
- 4 - 5:** Quivira Conference – *Ranching on the Radical Center* in Tucson. For more information contact
Larry Howery lhowery@ag.arizona.edu
- 4 – 5:** Arizona Riparian Council at the Hon-Dah Resort - *Fire on the Watershed:
Are We Burned Out or Ready to Fan the Flames?* Information available at
<http://aztec.asu.edu/ARC/ARC.htm> OR Cindy D. Zisner at the Center for Environmental Studies at
ASU 480.965.2490
- 21 – 22:** Seed Processing Workshop - Salt Lake City, UT – Contact: Scott.Lambert@id.blm.gov
- 25:** *Land Management in a Changing Climate*, Arizona State University – East Campus
Contact: John Brock at john.brock@asu.edu

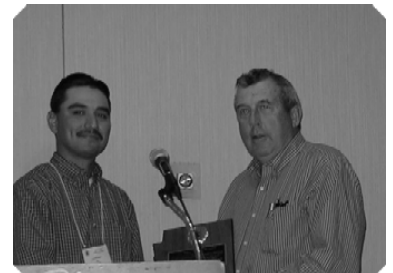
MAY 2003

- 1– 2:** *Local Approaches to Resolving Water Resources Issues* sponsored by the University of Arizona's
Water Resources Research Center, Location: Prescott Resort Contact: Terry Sprouse at
tsprouse@ag.arizona.edu
- 14:** Range Monitoring Workshops in Kingman - Contact Rob Grumbles grumbles@ag.arizona.edu
or 928.753.3788
- 15:** Range Monitoring Workshop in Peach Springs - Contact: Liz Didier edidier@ag.arizona.edu



~ **Other Events & Deadlines of Interest** ~

- June** 13: AZ Section Board of Director's Meeting - 10:00am @ the U of A Coop. Ext., Prescott, (Contact any Board member for information – Everyone Welcome!!!)
- 20: Newsletter Submittal Deadline
- July** 15 – 17: 10th Annual Noxious, Invasive Plant Short Course - Farmington, NM at the San Juan Community College. Contact Larry Howery (lhowery@ag.arizona.edu or 520.621.7277) for details.
- August** 20: Newsletter Submittal Deadline
- September** 17 – 20: Arizona Hydrological Symposium: *Sustainability Issues of Arizona's Regional Watersheds* – Mesa, Arizona
- October** 28 – 30: First Interagency Conference on Research in the Watersheds – Benson, Arizona <http://www.tucson.ars.ag.gov/unit/ICRW.htm>
- 30 – 31 & 11/1: Santa Rita Experimental Range Conference in Tucson, AZ at the Holiday Inn at Palo Verde and I-10. Contact Mitch McClaran (mcclaran@u.arizona.edu or 520.621.1673) for details.
- November** 20: Newsletter Submittal Deadline
- 21: AZ Section Board of Director's Meeting - 10:00am ASU East, Mesa (Contact any Board member for information – Everyone Welcome!!!)
- December**



DON'T FORGET!!!!

**AWARD NOMINATIONS DUE
April 30, 2003**

The International Society for Range Management awards program recognizes members and non-members who have made outstanding contributions to the science and art of good range management. Now is the time to begin preparing nominations for individuals who deserve recognition. For information and application forms, please contact Emilio Carrillo at 520.887.8520 x110 or emilio.carrillo@az.usda.gov





AZ SECTION COMMITTEES & CONTACT INFORMATION

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~ COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT ~

Rancher Affairs Committee

Keith Curry - Chair

The Mohave Livestock Association (MLA) is meeting with the Field Manager and Rangeland Management Specialists for the Bureau of Land Management, Kingman Office on the 24th of March to discuss the drought and other affairs affecting grazing on Federal Lands in Mohave County. These meetings will become monthly affairs. The members of the MLA have been encouraged by the change in attitudes with the new administration in Washington and are anxious to work with the BLM in all matters on their allotments. The MLA was active and involved with problems caused by the drought of 2002. Several drought tours were attended by members of this group as well as involved Ranchers, BLM, Arizona Game and Fish Dept. Region 3, Cooperative Extension Office, NRCS, and a rangeland consultant. Ranchers in Mohave County reduced livestock numbers last spring and summer on all grazing allotments because of a 98 percent loss of forage production. Some Ranchers emptied their allotments of all livestock, some fed hay as long as they could afford it, and some kept a few cattle to ease the loss. There was no need for the BLM to close allotments in Mohave County because the ranchers voluntarily reduced numbers and the BLM looked at individual allotments on conditions, some were in better condition than others.

I have no information on the effects of the drought for the rest of the state, but a drought report done by NRCS indicated Mohave County experienced the worst loss of forage production in the state. It would be interesting to know how the U.S. Forest Service reacted to the drought on their allotments if anyone has that information. Because of recent rains this may be a good spring with an ephemeral bloom expected to be several thousand pounds per acre in most areas.



Arizona Section Board of Directors

2003 Board Meetings

March 7 – Plant Material Center, Tucson, 10:00a.m.

June 13 -- U of A Coop. Extension, Prescott, 10:00a.m.

Late July or Early August -- General Membership Mtg. V-V Ranch, TBA

November 21 – Arizona State University East, Mesa, 10:00a.m.

All members are welcome to attend! Contact Larry Howery or any Board Member for details.

January 16 Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors met on January 16th in Laughlin, Nevada.

Items discussed included:

- Summer Meeting – to be held in late July or early August at the V-V in Northern Arizona.
- AZ Section Website Development - Jeff Schalaus is moving forward with this and would have a example to present at the next Board Meeting and provide the membership with a chance to review.
- Responsibilities of the Officers and Committee Liaison Activities
- Newsletter Deadlines
 - February 20, 2003
 - June 20, 2003
 - August 20, 2003
 - November 20, 2003
- Future Activities of the Section
 - Newsletter
 - Seed Quality Workshop

Action items included:

- Setting of 2003 Board of Directors Meetings and Locations;
- Confirmation of Dan Bell as the 2003 Secretary-Treasurer; and
- Donation of \$250 to ASU East for hosting a workshop (co-Sponsored by the Sustainable Technologies Agribusiness Resources and research Center) titled *Land Management in a Changing Climate* to be held April 24 & 25, 2003 at ASU East in Mesa, Arizona.

Please contact Dan Bell if you would like to review the detailed meeting minutes at 520.761.3117, or e-mail voslash@aol.com



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