

ARIZONA SECTION, SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT HISTORY, 1950-1995

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The Arizona Section organizational meeting was held in Tucson on March 11, 1950. The initial 27 members attending the meeting elected R.R. Humphrey as chairman, Matt Baird, vice chairman, and A.L. Brown as secretary/treasurer. There were 32 charter members and by the end of 1950 the section had 53 members; about half of these members were ranchers. Membership fluctuated around 300 in the 1960's and 350 in the late 1970's. Membership in the 1990's is back to the 300 range.

H. Herbert Metzger and Ervin M. Schmutz signed the Articles of Incorporation for the Arizona Section, Society for Range Management on November 24, 1971. Arizona was the second section to incorporate, Texas being the first. President-elect and director designation for officers, rather than vice president and councilman, became effective with new officers elected in 1972.

The University of Arizona Chapter, Arizona Section, American Society of Range Management was officially established January 15, 1958. George Glendening was the installing officer, with Ervin Schmutz as sponsor and John Montgomery as first president. There were 32 charter members of the chapter, the same number of charter members as established the Arizona Section. The petition to establish the Arizona State University Chapter was dated March 1, 1976. The first Arizona State University Chapter president was Jeanne Gregory. The section membership voted to accept the petition for the establishment of a Navajo Chapter at the section annual meeting in Phoenix, January 20-21, 1984. This chapter terminated in 1990.

The Arizona Section has hosted three annual meetings of the parent society: January 1958 in Phoenix; February 1974 in Tucson; and January 1995 in Phoenix. Four society presidents were Arizona Section members during their tenure: John D. Freeman (1956), Vernon A. Young (1960), Wayne Kessler (1964), and John W. Bohning (1982). Directors from the Arizona Section have been: Kenneth W. Parker (1950-52), C. Kenneth Pearse (1951-53), James L. Finley (1958-60), Wayne Kessler (1960-62), Raymond E. Housley (1968-70), John W. Bohning (1977-79), S. Clark Martin (1979-81), and E. Lamar Smith (1992-94).

The Arizona Section has actively supported youth education. The first Arizona Conservation Youth Camp was held July 8-14, 1962 at Point-of-Pines on the San Carlos Reservation with Berry Freeman as camp director and program chairman. Youth expenses were paid by Arizona Conservation Districts. Wayne

Kessler provided leadership in this funding effort. Camp staff was provided by the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Service, with assistance from the Arizona Section Youth Committee. The section became a co-sponsor of the camp in 1971. The early camps were for boys only. There were plans to have two camps in the summer of 1974, one for boys and one for girls. There were, however, only 36 total applicants, so the 1974 camp evolved as the first coed camp. The name was changed to Natural Resources Workshop in 1975. The Natural Resource Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth (NRCWAY) currently is a cooperative activity of many organizations, with a paid camp director. A Trust Agreement with a Board of Trustees for the workshop was signed January 20, 1989. The Arizona Section provides leadership and a financial guarantee to cover camp expenses if they exceed donations. Jack Bohning has provided the leadership to obtain funding for the workshop in recent years, and the Association of Conservation Districts continues to provide financial support.

The section has provided a scholarship for the Outstanding Range Management Student at the University of Arizona since 1956-57. The first award of \$100 was to Stan Tixier. The scholarship amount was \$200 beginning with the 1967-68 school year. A scholarship for the Outstanding Range Management Student at Arizona State University was added beginning with the 1978-79 school year. The amount of the scholarships was increased to \$250 beginning in 1987-88 and currently is \$300 plus a one-year membership in the Society for Range Management.

The Range Management Man of the Year was first given to Jack Wilson, a rancher from Yucca. Kel Fox, Sedona, received the award in 1961. With the Bylaws revision in 1979, the name of this award was changed to Range Manager of the Year and designated specifically as an award to a ranch owner-operator or manager. The section also provides awards for Professional and Technical Guidance on specific ranches and Outstanding Service.

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