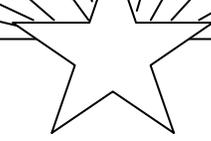




ARIZONA SECTION

Society for Range Management

Fall 2004 Issue



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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Fall is the time of year when we typically get out and monitor rangelands. It's a great opportunity to take a close look at rangelands with a team of old and new acquaintances. I think we all learn something new when we go to the field, collect data, and discuss range ecology and management.

While many areas of Arizona received appreciable summer rain, the U.S. Drought Monitor of August 31 shows that much of northern and central Arizona is still in an extreme drought. However, much of Pima and Santa Cruz counties are rated only as abnormally dry (the least intense of the drought intensity classifications). I bring this up because those fortunate enough to attend our summer meeting August 19 and 20 saw this part of the state first hand. It was my first trip to Santa Cruz County borderlands and I was completely taken by the beauty and productivity of the area.

Brown Power Productions L.L.C. (Dean Fish, Dan Bell, and Emilio Carrillo with help from Byron Lambeth) hosted and catered the summer meeting at the Bear Valley Ranch Headquarters. About 50 or so members and presenters attended the meeting. Several presenters shared their experiences and challenges as they balance law enforcement issues with natural resource management objectives. Dean Fish has provided a more detailed report on the summer meeting in this issue. Thanks to the Bell Family for hosting this excellent meeting.

At the summer meeting, we had many familiar faces (the usual suspects). We also had some new faces: Lee Fitzhugh and his wife Flora. They have recently retired to eastern Arizona. Lee was an Extension Wildlife Specialist with the University of California Cooperative Extension, but has spent lots of time in Arizona (Lee got his PhD from the U of A in 1974). I hope we didn't scare them off with our exuberant festivities (see Dean Fish's recap of the Chubby Bunny Contest in this issue).

The 2005 Arizona Section Winter Meeting is tentatively planned for January 6 and 7. The location is still up in the air, but we discussed Camp Verde, Maricopa, Casa Grande, and Phoenix. The general membership also provided input for the topic that seems to be leaning toward Using Technology in Range Management. Some of the suggested subtopics were the use of technology as it relates to Rangelands West, RangeView, Fecal Analysis, Financial Planning, Ecological Site State and Transition, and Animal Behavior. Dean Fish is synthesizing this input to assemble another first class meeting.

Arizona Section Awards Chairman, Emilio Carrillo, is soliciting nominations for Range Manager of the Year, Professional and Technical Guidance, Outstanding Service, and Outstanding Young Professional. It is up to our section membership to nominate outstanding individuals and/or families to receive these awards. In this issue, Emilio has included details about the awards and the process. The nomination forms are also available on the Arizona Section web site (azrangelands.org).

Make sure you block out time on your calendar for the 2005 Parent Society meeting in Fort Worth February 5 through 11. The meeting's theme is: *Rangeland Trails Under the Lone Star*. The Texas Section is putting together a first class meeting with an opening concert by Michael Martin Murphy, great technical sessions, posters, and tours. I'll see you there in February.

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2004 SUMMER MEETING UPDATE Borderlands: Implications to Natural Resource Management

Dean Fish

The stage was set in San Carlos last January for the leadership of the Arizona Section to discuss topics related to border issues at the 2004 summer meeting. Taking this to heart, the Board of Directors (with help from several members) put together an informational and fun event that will not soon be erased from the memories of the attendees. The setting was the historic and scenic Bear Valley Ranch west of Nogales, Arizona. While the monsoon moisture had mainly missed this particular piece of country, the keen attention to proper range management was easily observed by participants.

Over 50 people attended the meeting, which began with Dan Bell welcoming guests, and detailing some of the history and current challenges he faces as a borderlands rancher. Following his presentation, Keith Graves, District Ranger, Nogales gave a Forest Service perspective, followed by Jeff Zadareky, US Border Patrol. Both gave very informative presentations on the real issues that they face every day and this led to much discussion on potential solutions that would help natural resource managers on the ground. Ross Humphreys, who ranches in the Altar and San Rafael Valleys, gave his insight into the unique challenges ranching on the border poses to his operations and sustainability. Following a break, the group shifted gears and heard from Doug Duncan, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Doug Saunders, NRCS-Sells, and Gabriel Paz, Arizona Game and Fish for agency points of view. All gave great insight into policy and other current issues on the border. A highlight was Gab removing a rattlesnake from Kristen Egen's seat during one presentation. Following the formal presentations, the group headed to view a house that had been burned down by undocumented aliens and the historic Yaqui Trail Corridor.

Meeting participants returned to the headquarters and immediately smelled the distinctive odor of a mesquite fire. Brown Power Productions, LLC was in the midst of preparing a steak dinner for the evening meal. Many thanks go to all of the help in preparing the meal and a special thank you to ZZ Cattle Company and Anchor F Land and Cattle Company for sponsoring the sweet corn. A highlight for many was Bill and Posy Piper's delicious Dutch oven cobbler. Following dinner, guests were treated to an exciting presentation from Jack Childs on the borderland jaguars. By then the excitement had built up for the inaugural Chubby Bunny Contest where participants had to see how many marshmallows they could stuff into their mouth and still clearly say "chubby bunny". The official judge and Chair of Ethics, Donna Matthews, was assisted by the Head Scorekeeper, Dave Matthews in keeping the hilarity to an acceptable level. This year's champion, Sean Lockwood barely edged out a packed field of extreme competitors. He will be back next year to defend his title.

Friday had the meeting participants touring the historic ghost town of Ruby and learning a great amount of information on the cultural and historic influence of this town in southern Arizona. Following the tour, the group inspected the Sycamore Canyon crossing that was built in response to a perceived threat to an endangered species. Many thanks are due to the Bell Family for hosting the Arizona Section at their ranch. Also a debt of gratitude goes to our speakers and meeting participants!

President Message – continued from Page 1

Finally, the Southwest Vegetation Management Association will combine their annual conference with the second Arizona Invasive Species Summit in Phoenix, November 3 and 4. Two of our section members, Jim Sprinkle and Larry Howery, and several others are involved in organizing this conference. Check the web site swvma.org for more information.

I hope everyone has a cool and invigorating fall season on the range. So long for now, Jeff

~ ~ Next Board Meeting ~ ~

NOVEMBER 8, 2004 - - Tucson, Arizona

All members are welcome to attend! Contact Jeff Schalauski or any Board Member for details. Meeting summaries from past BOD Meetings are available on the Arizona Section Web Site at arizangelands.org or can be obtained from Dan Bell at 520.761.3117, or e-mail voslash@aol.com



~~ ARIZONA SECTION AWARDS ~~

Emilio Carrillo

It's time again to start submitting nominations for our section. This is an excellent opportunity to recognize all the hard work and great stewardship throughout our diverse state. The awards categories focus on the high levels of progress made in various land management practices. For an individual to be nominated for an award gives that person much deserved recognition as well as positive publicity for the Society and the ranching industry overall. The four award categories are:

RANGE MANAGER OF THE YEAR: Recognized for progress in the planning, application, maintenance, and improvement of range condition through the use of grazing management practices for proper use and distribution of grazing, installation of range improvements, control of undesirable plants, seeding of rangeland, control of erosion, and husbandry and breeding of livestock. Participation in community and State citizenship activities and cooperation with State and Federal agencies in management of the land for grazing and other uses is also recognized.

AWARDS FOR PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL GUIDANCE: A person or persons with range management or range conservation expertise and education, but not ranch owners or operators, may be selected and honored for their contribution to excellence in grazing management. Such persons may be employees of Federal or State agencies or universities, other government agencies, or individuals operating independently or as members of agricultural firms.

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS: A person not limited to Society membership, and not limited to residence in Arizona may be nominated for an Outstanding Service Award by any member of the Arizona Section of the Society for Range Management. Such nominations will be made to the board of Directors prior to the end of the calendar year.

OUTSTANDING YOUNG RANGE PROFESSIONAL AWARD: This award requires SRM membership and recognizes superior performance and leadership potential in any range-related area. Nominee must be less than 40 years old on January 1, 2005. If you are aware of a young range professional that you feel deserves of this award please send in your nomination!! This is an excellent opportunity to give a hard-working individual some great recognition.

For more information and copies of the nomination forms, please contact Emilio Carrillo, Awards Committee Chairperson. The deadline for the awards nominations is October 15, 2004 addressed to:
Emilio Carrillo, Awards Committee Chairperson
2070 W. Silver Meadow Pl.
Tucson, Arizona 85745
Or email to:
emilio.carrillo@az.usda.gov

~ 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

NEWS FROM MOHAVE COUNTY

Keith Curry

The new address for the Kingman BLM office is:
BLM, Kingman Field Office
2755 Mission Boulevard
Kingman, Arizona 86401

A new manager has not yet been named for this office. Once a permanent manager has been named, the Mohave Livestock Association will resume monthly meetings with this office.

AZ SECTION COMMITTEES & CONTACT INFORMATION

The Arizona Section has many active committees that are integral to the function of our Section. These committees are open Arizona Section members. If you are interested in participating in any of these committees please contact the committee chair:

Awards

Chair: Emilio Carrillo
520-887-8520 x110 or emilio.carrillo@az.usda.gov

Activities

Chair: Dean Fish
520-281-2994 or dfish@ag.arizona.edu

Historian/Archives

Chair: Phil Ogden
520-296-78756 or pro29@cox.net

Information/Education

Chair: Mark Pater
928-348-4416 or mark_pater@blm.gov

Membership

Chair: Mike Hannemann
928-526-0866 or mhannemann@fs.fed.us

Scholarship

Chair: Mitch McClaran
520-621-1673 or mcclaran@u.arizona.edu

Nominations

Chair: Larry Howery
520-621-7277 or lhowery@ag.arizona.edu

NRCWAY

Chair: Sandy Whitney
602-417-2400 x7220 or safabritz@adwr.state.az.us

Public Affairs

Chair: John Brock
480-727-1240 or john.brock@asu.edu

Rancher Affairs

Chair: Keith Curry
928-692-4400 or Keith_Curry@blm.gov

Research Affairs

Chair: George Ruyle
520-621-1384 or gruyle@ag.arizona.edu

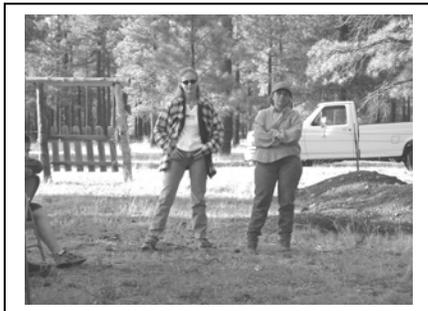
Student Affairs

Chair: Susan Pater
520-382-3594 or spater@ag.arizona.edu

Newsletter

Co-Chairs:
Sandy Whitney
602-417-2400 x7220 or safabritz@adwr.state.az.us
Kim McReynolds
520-384-3594 or kimm@ag.arizona.edu
Susan Pater
520-384-3594 or spater@ag.arizona.edu

WE'RE LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS



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.

UPCOMING EVENT

Coming Together to Show Progress in Managing Invasive Weeds Jim Sprinkle

The Southwest Vegetation Management Association Annual Meeting will be held on November 3-4, 2004 in conjunction with Dr. Larry Howery's Arizona Noxious, Invasive Plant Summit. The meeting will be held at the Four Points Sheraton at Phoenix Metro Center Mall. There is easy vehicle access from I-17 at Dunlap or Peoria Avenues (NW Phoenix). Hotel rooms will be at Government employee rates per night. The street address for the Four Points Sheraton is 102220 N. Metro Pkwy E. To reserve a room, call Judith at 602-331-9873 and tell her you are attending the SW Vegetation/Weed Summit Conference. Ten CEU credits for both NM and AZ have been applied for. Also at this conference, the Draft Arizona Weed Strategy will be reviewed and discussed. Participants are asked to review this document prior to the conference by accessing it at www.swvma.org.

A limited number of posters (18) may be presented at this conference. To make arrangements to have a poster included in the conference, contact Ed Northam at 480/947-3882 or 602/470-8086 ext 843 (voice mail only) or email him at enortham@cals.arizona.edu or fnortham@msn.com.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION WORKSHOP FOR ARIZONA YOUTH 2004

Tom Baker & Sandy Whitney

FINALLY, the thirty-second Natural Resources Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth, sponsored by the Arizona Section Society for Range Management, was held at St. Joseph's Youth Camp in Mormon Lake, AZ. The workshop, open to all high school students in Arizona, commenced with the arrival of twenty high school students at on August 2nd.

Various specialists presented a series of workshops each day; campers participated in field trips that addressed issues in soil and water analysis, rangeland monitoring, plant and wildlife identification, and forestry. In addition to the field trips there were lecture presentations on water supplies, drought analysis and impact, and weather forecasting and the dependence of many agencies on those forecasts from air traffic controllers to farmers to firefighters. In addition to the lectures and field trips, there was "hands-on-instruction" in the use of compasses and the Global Positioning System (GPS).

Evening presentations included: a Native American viewpoint of the ecosystem; an overview of the galaxies followed by actual star gazing through three professional telescopes brought to the campsite by the Flagstaff Astronomy Club; a short hike to view a herd of elk passing nearby on Mormon Lake; and a tour of the U of A's V-Bar-V cattle ranch followed by a fabulous steak dinner complete with cherry cobbler baked in Dutch ovens.

In summary, 20 high school girls and boys participated in this workshop taught by no less than 20 different specialists from different agencies and schools. On the last night the staff voted on the Outstanding Workshop Participant which included an evaluation not only of the quality of their participation but on the thoughtfulness expressed in the journals which they had to write and hand in. This honor was given to **Mark Saraficio** of Sells, AZ. He will be given the opportunity to attend the SRM meeting in Texas. The runner up was **Akilah Graham** from Vail; she will be given the opportunity to attend the AACD meeting in Phoenix.

All in all, it was a great educational experience for these 20 students. The dedication and commitment of the staff and counselors (Travis Nauman & Alisha Phipps) combined to make this an outstanding event.

The Section would like to give SPECIAL THANKS to:

Tom Baker, Sandy Whitney, Kim McReynolds, Susan Pater, Dean Fish, Jeff Schalau, Bopper Cannon, Dave Schafer & the V Bar V Ranch, Travis Nauman, Alisha Phipps, Russ Radden, Brad Hill, Tony Hafer, Bernard Siqueros, the Flagstaff Astronomy Club, Buck Wickham, Mark Pater, Karen Malis-Clark, Walt, Francie, & Niki Meyer, Katie & Nick Cline, Shelly Shepherd, Chuck Benedict, and Senator Herb Guenther.

This Camp owes all of you a very sincere THANK YOU!!!



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