



SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT

ARIZONA



SECTION

July 2007

<http://azrangelands.org>

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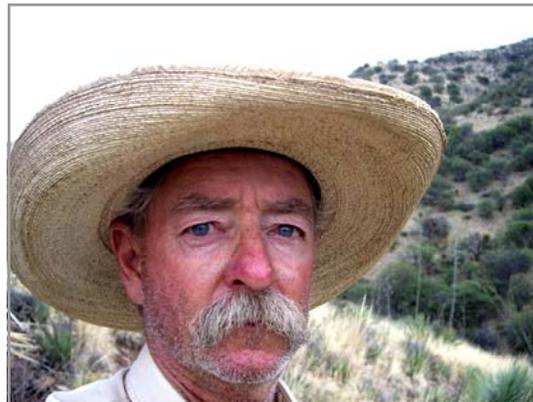
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Bruce Munda

SRM President's Message, July 2007—Dennis Moroney

With temperatures reaching the triple digits, and big thick cumulus clouds building every afternoon, along with lightning flashes we can see at night far to the south; our hope for the timely arrival of the monsoons is rekindled. Conditions on our rangelands are not too bad. We already received almost a half inch of rain on June 11, and things are happening out on the land. The ocotillos leafed out and bloomed, the agaves and yuccas have pushed their flower stalks skyward and have displayed their floral parts in anticipation of the arrival of long nosed bats and other pollinators. Annual forbs and six weeks grama are actively growing; mesquite bloomed, and beans are now hanging mostly on the leeward side where the florets were protected a bit from the harsh winds of May. Whitethorn has also leafed out and bloomed, and the coyote melons are also blooming. With all that pollen in the air, insect activity is going strong, and every few days we see a new hatch of something or other. In addition, we've got all kinds of songbirds nesting; and our summer resident barn swallows



sweeping the air for tender insect flesh to feed their insatiable broods, who seem barely able to fit within the confines of their little mud cup nests. Little frogs, and bigger toads come out at night when the temperature drops, and along with the wide variety of rodents and rabbits provide a relatively abundant source of protein for roadrunners and rattlesnakes. We've removed one from the little patch of mint under the faucet on the back side of our old adobe house, but the four foot Mojave found just outside the front door was himself a supplier of edible protein for predators when my 12 year old son decided to butcher and barbeque the reptile and eat him for lunch. Yes, it really does taste like chicken, but a little tougher. **Continued on page 2...**

Weather Forecast: Equal chances...

Official forecasts from the NOAA Climate Prediction Center aren't making a call on precipitation for this year's monsoon season for Arizona, but they are confident that temperatures will be above-average. The July-August-September forecasts call for equal chances of below, average, or above-average precipitation for Arizona during the monsoon season. Temperatures are expected to be above-average again this summer across all of the state. Changes are underway in the Pacific Ocean with a weak La Niña event expected to develop this summer and possibly persist through next winter. If this La Niña event strengthens through the fall, next winter could bring below-average precipitation across the state. Stay tuned to climate forecasts through the fall on this developing event. More information at: <http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/>

-Michael Crimmins

SRM President's Message continued...

It is hard to miss the connections with the anthropomorphic terms we use to describe renewability, as we observe and acknowledge the changing of the seasons, the expected predictability and acceptable range of variability in natural systems within which we work. Sustainability we say; resilient systems stressed and stretched to their limits and then expected to recover, and respond predictably again and again. Sustained yield, normal climate variation, carrying capacity, multiple use, restoration; all are terms within which we place a great deal of faith.

Our Summer workshop will be held August 9-11 on the West Fork of the Black River, on the Alpine Ranger District of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. The program will center around 16 years of research looking at ungulate grazing on riparian systems. Grazing effects of cattle and elk will be examined and evaluated using four different methods of assessment. In addition impacts to habitat of native (and listed) Apache Trout will be discussed. A Friday evening campfire discussion on Mexican Gray Wolf reintroduction should prove to be stimulating. Finally, there will be a special opportunity to visit a few stream restoration projects on the White Mountain Apache Reservation on Saturday. These projects are located on sacred sites, and numbers will be limited. Registration is on a first come basis, and there will be an extra charge, so when you read this, get your registration in right away. This promises to be a very special summer meeting in the White Mountains. I think it will challenge and hopefully expand our thinking about what sustainability really means. I look forward to seeing you all at the summer meeting. I hope you all experience a normal monsoon!

Dennis

Summer Meeting/Workshop: **Riparian Vegetation Monitoring Methods – Some Application and Interpretations for Habitat Management and Restoration**

OBJECTIVES:

1. To demonstrate the field application of 4 riparian monitoring methods (Greenline - Winward 2000; PIBO - Coles-Ritchie 2004; Multiple Indicator – Cowley/Burton; RMRS-Southwest – Medina) and their utility for monitoring streambank vegetation,
2. Discuss the needs for development of methods applicable to Southwestern streams,
3. Discuss monitoring in the context of meeting management needs, and (
4. Demonstrate low-cost practical channel restoration applications in montane streams and their role in riparian habitat management.

The goal is to facilitate an understanding of prominent monitoring methods that may have applicability to Southwestern riparian habitats, to share ideas between riparian monitoring experts, managers and permittees in the implementation of vegetation monitoring in support of allotment management plans. Of primary interest is the question: How applicable is your monitoring method in addressing the resource issues of your range management program? What other influences are important in developing a habitat/site specific plan? How can restoration be incorporated into the monitoring program?

Riparian-wetland areas are important habitats for many TES species and wildlife. Their use by livestock has remained a contentious issue on many ranches of the SW. The decision to permit livestock or other ungulate herbivores on such habitats is presently based on information collected through some monitoring protocol, which in most cases are adaptations of methods used elsewhere. The application of site specific methods that realistically address cause-effect relationships is a desired goal of managers and permittees, but often inadequate measures are employed that may result in costly consequences to the resource or permittee. Recently, many permittees have organized adaptive management groups to facilitate the implementation of science-based monitoring. However, monitoring program must be carefully designed, implemented, reviewed and provisions made for results to be integrated into management decisions throughout the tenure of the permit. These concerns have become an increasingly important focus for research, agencies and the private sector.

In advance the AZ Section of the SRM would like to extend a special thanks to Alvin Medina for spearheading the event and a special thanks to the Alpine Ranger District for hosting the event and dealing with the logistics.

Drought persists on the Arizona Strip

Drought conditions continue to plague northwestern Arizona. With the exception of the unusual winter of 2005, drought conditions have persisted since 1999. This year (from December through May) precipitation on the Arizona Strip west of the Kaibab Plateau and north of the Colorado River averaged 38% of normal, ranging from 72% near Kanab Creek to just 12% in the Pakoon basin in the northwestern corner of the state. Only 5 of 38 stations west of the Kaibab reported precipitation exceeding 50% of normal.

The BLM has issued drought warning letters to permittees on the Arizona Strip and BLM personnel are working with permittees to reduce livestock numbers and/or find alternative pasturage. How long restrictions last will depend on summer monsoon rainfall. - **Del Despain**

Drought Jokes from Down Under

When you can't do anything else about it you may as well laugh. The following are a few drought jokes they tell in Australia. Exchange Mildura, and Shepparton with Kingman and Peoples Valley, mates and drover with friends and cowboy and you've effectively plagiarized some good Aussie humor:

- It's so dry in Mildura they've closed two lanes of the swimming pool
- It's so dry the cows are giving powdered milk
- It's so dry the dogs are chasing the trees
- When the last drought broke one farmer was so surprised he fainted so his mates had to throw a bucket of dust on him to revive him
- Near Shepparton one old drover said the 1912 drought had put him on his feet, when his mates asked how, he replied "My horse died"

Membership Update

Starting with the August 31, 2007 expiration date, members will no longer receive a 30-day grace period before membership expires. I had the opportunity to discuss membership expiration tracking with Lesley Radtke, the SRM Director of Membership. According to Lesley, "We now give everyone a 30 day grace period before "actual" expiration in the data base. The only difference will be that their membership will actually expire in the system, the first business day after the expiration date. If their renewal gets to us after that, they will have been expired and then made active again." So let's all try our best to get our membership dues in as quickly as possible!

In May, welcome letters or emails were sent out to new members within the Arizona section. Emails were also sent out to members that had expired memberships with a letter and membership application attached to help address any questions members may have in re-instating their membership. As of May 17, 2007 there were 6 welcome letters sent out and 18 membership expiration reminders emailed. I have received correspondence from some of the members stating that they had taken care of their membership dues or reasons why they would no longer be able to participate in the Arizona section SRM.

Mike Hannemann and I are working on keeping updated records for our membership within the state. Through these reports we hope to keep up with our new and expired members and make the necessary contacts in order to retain members.- **Shai A. Schendel**

New Members (as of January 2007)

Theresa Price	Tempe, AZ
Del Despain	St. George, UT
Katie Giroux	Tucson, AZ
Vanessa Prilesan	Tucson, AZ
Alayna Sandford	Tucson, AZ
John Griffin	Globe, AZ
Lisa Gramulich	Tucson, AZ
Jessica King	Gilbert, AZ
Sky Reed	Gilbert, AZ
Doc Lane	Phoenix, AZ
Scott McAdams	Mesa, AZ
Bryan Kluever	Tucson, AZ
Grant Rogers	Tucson, AZ
Chandra Holifield Collins	Tucson, AZ
Wendy McCourt	AZ

Riparian Vegetation Monitoring Methods – Some Application and Interpretations for Habitat Management and Restoration

AGENDA

Wednesday, August 8

Arrive, set up camp, fish, Dinner on your own

1830 – 2000 Board of Directors Meeting, General Membership Meeting - bring your own chair

Thursday, August 9

Breakfast provided by Terra Seca – U of A Student Chapter

0800 Meet at Wildcat Creek Elk Exclosure (West Fork Allotment)

0815 Welcome / Introductions / Activities / handouts (Dennis Moroney)

0845 “Plan for the Day” (Al Medina)

0910 - 1000 Monitoring methods – brief descriptions by presenters: Greenline, PIBO, Multiple Indicator, RMRS-Southwest

1000- 1015 Break and breakout into 4 groups

1015 – 1215 Individual Method Demonstrations / 2 rotations.

1230 – 1330 Lunch – Provided by Terra Seca – U of A Student Chapter

1330 – 1530 Individual Method Demonstrations / 2 rotations.

1530- 1545 Break

1545 - 1730 Joint session / discussions

Dinner on your own

Friday, August 10

Other Influences on Monitoring Data and Channel Restoration opportunities

Breakfast provided by ASU Student Chapter

0815 - 0830 Meet at Boggy Creek Gate Entrance (West Fork Allotment)

0845 At Boggy Creek Elk Exclosure

Welcome / Introductions / Activities / handouts (Dennis Moroney)

0845 “Plan for the Day” (Al Medina)

West Fork Monitoring - -- Rationales, Issues and Status – Al Medina

0930-1130 Enter Exclosure...

-DISCUSS OTHER FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE STREAMBANK MONITORING NOT CONSIDERED IN METHODS

-DISCUSS RESTORATION DEMONSTRATION EFFORTS AND THEIR INTEGRATION INTO A RIPARIAN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

1130 – 1300 Group Discussion / Lunch – provided by ASU Student Chapter

1315 - Tour of Elk, cattle exclosures, and willow exclosures to discuss effectiveness of riparian management under the influence of elk and cattle grazing and potential effects on Apache trout habitat. Open dialogue.

1515 - Depart Boggy Creek.

1530 – 1800 go fishing...

1800 – Dinner - Provided

1900 - 2030-Evening presentation – Feature: Wolf Reintroductions and their social implications in the region. Featured presenters to include spokespersons for USFWS, AGFD, and local ranchers (wolfcrossing.org).

THIS EVENT IS FOR ORAL PRESENTATIONS (WITH SOME POTENTIAL FOR SLIDE PRESENTATIONS; WEATHER PERMITTING).

Saturday, August 11

STREAM RESTORATION ON WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBAL LANDS

This event is limited to participation owing to vehicular travel, access, and the unique nature of the sites to be visited. The exact number remains to be determined, but approximately 20 persons by prior registration.

0810 “Plan for the Day” (Dennis Moroney)

0815 - 0830 DEPART West Fork campgrounds en route to Pacheta Creek.

0930 PACHETA CREEK- Tour Pacheta Creek restoration site

Hosts (WMAT and Al Medina/Jon Long)

1030 DEPART PACHETA CREEK

EN ROUTE TO SOLDIER CREEK OR LOFER CIENEGA

1130 - 1230 TOUR SOLDIER CREEK

RESTORATION PLANS AND DISCUSSION OF HISTORICAL FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT AND CHANNEL DEGRADATION PROCESSES AND INFLUENCES

1230-1300 LUNCH AND GROUP DISCUSSIONS

END OF TOUR / RETURN TO W.F.

Questions about the field workshop and tour? Please contact:

Al Medina (928)-853-1391 email: almedina@fs.fed.us

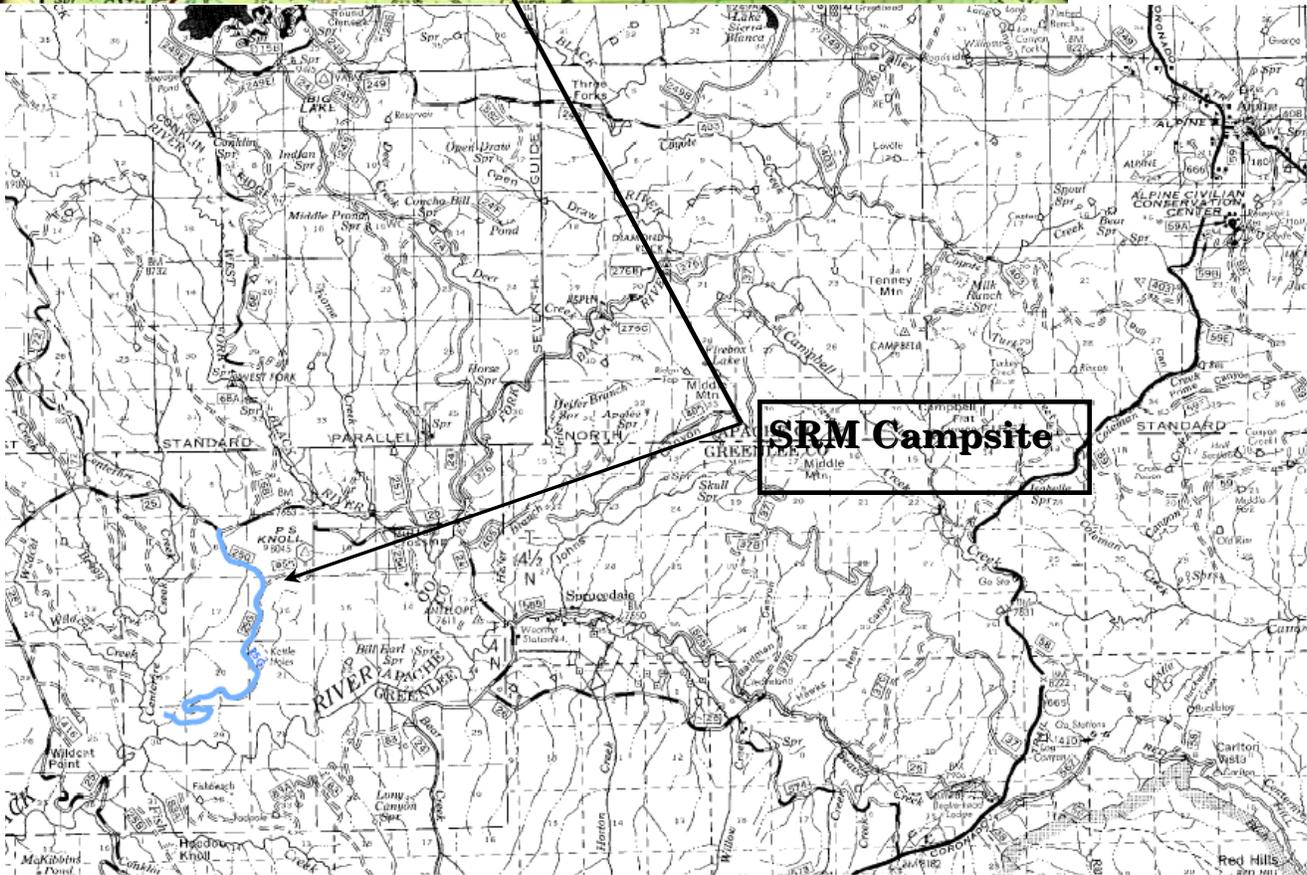
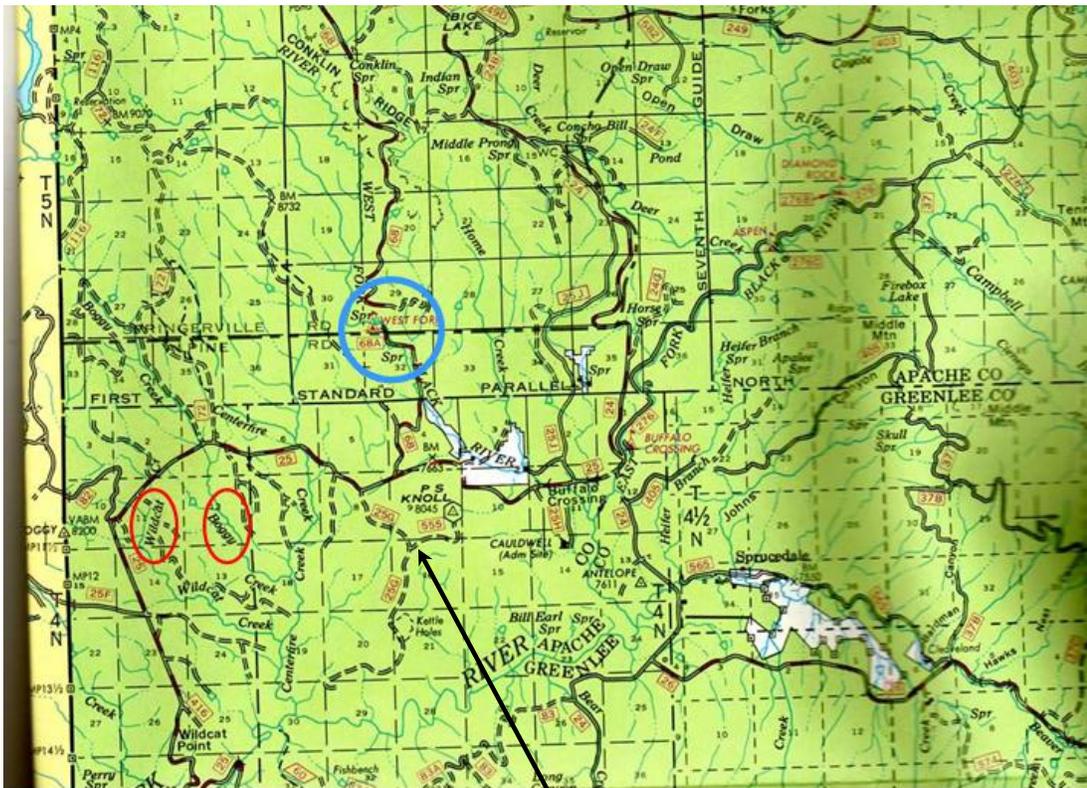
ADDITIONAL NOTES

LOCATION OF WEST FORK STUDY AREAS

Wildcat Creek: Located off of FS road 25, left at the junction of FS25 x FS82. Signs will be posted.

Boggy Creek: Located off of FS road 25 about 1 mile west of junction FS25 x FS72. The entry is gated. Signs will be posted.

MAP Big circle= West Fork campgrounds; Two small circles = Wildcat Creek & Boggy Creek



A few suggestions for camping alternatives in and around the area...

NOTE: THERE ARE LOTS OF DISPERSED CAMPING WITHIN 1-2 MILES OF THE WF CAMP-GROUNDS OR THE WF ALLOTMENT, WITH AMPLE ROOM FOR TENTS, RV'S AND THE LIKE FOR THE SOLITARY TYPES.

DEVELOPED CAMPGROUND FACILITIES

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf/recreation/campgrounds/index.shtml>

1. Buffalo Crossing

Access: Drive 2 miles north of Alpine on US Highway 191 to Forest Road 249. Turn west and follow this wide, graveled forest road 5 miles to Forest Road 276. Turn south and follow Forest Road 276 for six miles to the East Fork developed camping area.

Elevation: 7,540 feet above sea level.

Season: May through October.

Facilities: 16 single unit sites, Rock fire rings ,Vault toilets, handicap-accessible

2. West Fork

Drive 2 miles north of Alpine on US Highway 191 to Forest Road 249. Turn west and follow this wide, graveled forest road 5 miles to Forest Road 276. Turn south and follow Forest Road 276 for 13 miles to Forest Road 25 at Buffalo Crossing. Continue on Forest Road 25 about 3 miles to Forest Road 68 then turn and drive 3 miles to the campground. An alternate route from Alpine is to go south from Alpine on Highway 191 about 13 miles to Forest Road 26, turn right and stay on this road to the junction of Forest Road 24 where you'll turn right and then stay on this road until it joins with Forest Road 25. At this junction turn left and proceed to Forest Road 68 about 3 miles and follow the signs to the campground.

Elevation: 7740 feet above sea level

Season: May through October

Facilities: Approximately 70 undefined campsites, Fire rings and Toilets

Fee: There are no fees.

ENHANCED FACILITIES

Sunrise Lodge PO Box 117 Greer, Arizona 85927 (928) 735-7669 (800) 772-7669 sunrise@cybertrails.com

Sunrise RV Park and Campground is located at the entrance of the Sunrise Park Resort. There are 20 spaces available at the Sunrise RV Park each providing a 30 amp electrical hook up. Water is not available at the sites, but is available at the Sunrise General Store across the road. Spaces are available for rent during both the summer and winter months for just \$15.00/night. Rental permits can be purchased at the Sunrise General Store. Please call (928) 735-7669 ext. 2180 for availability.

- Sunrise Campground is located at the entrance of the Sunrise Park Resort. It is a primitive campground in the quiet pines away from the hustle and bustle of city life. There are approximately 200 sites which can accommodate anything from a tent to large motorhomes. There are no modern facilities or hookups. Port-a-jons and water are available throughout the campground. Tables and firepits are at most sites. The campground is operated and maintained by the [White Mountain Apache Game and Fish Department](#). There is a permit required, \$8.00 per vehicle, which can be purchased from the General Store

ARIZONA SECTION SRM- 2007 SUMMER MEETING

August 8-11, 2007

West Fork of the Black River - White Mountains, Arizona

"Riparian Vegetation Monitoring Methods - Some Application and Interpretations for Habitat Management and Restoration."

Important information -- Please read carefully!!!

Directions - From Alpine, AZ - Drive south from Alpine on Highway 191 about 14.5 miles to Forest Road 26, turn right and stay on this road for about 9.5 miles to the junction of Forest Road 24. Turn right and continue 3 miles until it joins with Forest Road 25 at Buffalo Crossing. At this junction (west of the Black River) turn left and proceed to the junction of FS25 and Forest Road 82 about 8 miles. From Buffalo Crossing you will cross over the West Fork of the Black River, then Centerfire Creek, Boggy Creek and Wildcat Creek. The entrance to the Wildcat meeting area is about 1.5 miles down the road from the Wildcat Creek crossing (FS25 and FS82). Turn left onto the Wildcat road. Signs will be posted at each junction.

Developed Campsites are available at the West Fork Campground and Buffalo Crossing Campground

Registration includes: Dinner (8/10), lunch (8/9 & 8/10) and breakfast (8/9 & 8/10)

The Registration Form can be accessed at the Arizona Section Web Site -- azrangelands.org.

Contact Bill Edwards at 520-378-0311, waedwards@fs.fed.us if you desire a vegetarian meal.

REGISTRATION FORM (Due July 30, 2007)

NAME and ORGANIZATION: _____

SPOUSE/CHILDREN/GUEST NAMES _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

DO YOU BELONG TO AN SRM SECTION? Circle one: Yes / No WHICH ONE? _____

\$65/member _____

\$75/non-member _____

\$50/student/youth/spouse _____

\$75/late registration (post 7/30/2007) _____

\$50/tour fee _____

DATE: _____ TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

Registrations must be received by July 30, 2007 to guarantee meals

MAIL THE REGISTRATION FORM ALONG WITH A CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:

Byron Lambeth, 6221 N. 15th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85014
Phone: 480-748-8471, Email: byronlambeth@cox.net

MAKE CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS OUT TO ARIZONA SRM (SRM TIN IS 23-7161064)

Questions about the meeting or meals? Contact Bill Edwards, 520-378-0311, waedwards@fs.fed.us.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEXT NEWSLETTER ARE MOST WELCOMED- PLEASE SEND ANY AND ALL SUBMISSIONS TO: JOHN HAYS *

Room 301 BSE
University of Arizona, Tucson AZ 85721

Phone: 520.235.2398
E-mail: jhays@u.arizona.edu

2007 SRM Summer Board Meeting will take place at the Park City Marriott Hotel, in Park City, Utah. The meeting will begin at 1:00 PM on Monday July 9, and continue through Wednesday July 11 at 12:00 noon. I would encourage any of you who wish to attend to please make plans to do so. The setting in Park City is beautiful, and the Board will be addressing some key issues related to the administration and operation of our Society. The agenda for the meeting is still in the drafting stage and will be posted on the SRM website as soon as it is completed.

This meeting will also be in conjunction with the Utah Section Summer Tour, which takes place on July 11 and 12.

~ 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 *SRM 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 **Shai Schendel** at 805 E. Warner Rd, Ste 104, Chandler, AZ 85225, Phone 480-

Range 101 Workshops-

September 13-14th, Patagonia, Stage Stop Inn.

Globe, dates forthcoming- early December, 2007

Kingman, dates forthcoming- late February, 2008

For more information contact Barb Gibson, 520-621-7264 or bgibson@ag.arizona.edu

**Arizona Section-Society For Range Management
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