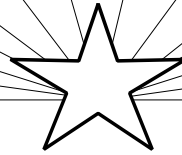




# ARIZONA SECTION Society for Range Management

April 2006 Newsletter

<http://azrangelands.org>



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## President's Message

Bruce Munda

Greetings,

I hope that everyone enjoyed our Winter meeting in Globe. It turned out to be an excellent event with over 140 people registered. Again, thank you to the Climate Working Group and Chris Jones for this engaging workshop. Of course, you can't say enough (and I won't here) about the outstanding Auction & Entertainment provided by Brown Power Productions LLC.

I wish to say thank you to our past officers for a job well done! Rachel Murph did an excellent job as Director North, Dan Bell provided the necessary skills as Secretary/Treasurer to keep our section organized, and of course Dean Fish, President, who made our meetings fun to attend.

Your current Board of Directors is a group of creative and enthusiastic self starters—which this President appreciates. Bill Edwards is the Vice-President, Willie Sommers and Carol Boyd are the Directors North, Katie Cline joins John Hays as our Directors South and Byron Lambeth is our Secretary/Treasurer. Also, Stacy Burleigh is the ASU Chapter President and Emily Hurd is the UofA Chapter President.

Dennis Moroney, President-Elect, is working on the summer meeting and at this time it appears it will be held in Cochise County in mid August. Dennis is finalizing the last issues and we should be hearing soon the location, activities, and dates. Dennis has promised it will be fun and educational.

As you know our Parent Society had their 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia in mid February with over 1,200 people in attendance. I wish to thank John Hays and Carol Boyd for representing the Arizona Section at the Advisory Council and at other committee meetings. Their reports will be posted on our website—courtesy of Jeff Schalaus our outstanding webmaster. But big thanks to Larry & Sherry Ellicott who (on their own nickel) attended the Annual Meeting and provided a trip report of their Big Adventure. I hope you enjoy the story and the photos in this newsletter—Larry is an accomplished photographer.

In closing, I want to say that I am proud to serve as President of the Arizona Section! We have a lot of enthusiasm, good ideas, and the fortitude to make good things happen. Please contact me, for any reason, and I will do my best to help you. I look forward to an outstanding year.

## Report from Vancouver, Canada

Larry D. Ellicott

Sherry and I arrived in Vancouver Sunday afternoon via Southwest to Seattle and Amtrak from there to Vancouver. The first event attended was the NRCS Family Social where we heard the usual updates on happenings range-wise in NRCS. The Range Management Specialist of the year was Homer Sanchez, the previous State Range Management Specialist in Texas. He is transferring to the Grazing Lands Team as the ESD specialist.



On Monday, we attended the plenary session to learn about “Ecological Archeology in the Rocky Mountains” and “Where Does All the Rain Go?” Both were interesting and entertaining talks about ecology. There were ideas brought out especially in the rain presentation that I had not thought about such as, how much moisture (rain and snow) is captured by plants especially trees before it reaches the ground, so that what actually gets to the surface is much less than the annual rainfall that is reported for any given area.

In the afternoon we attended the Symposium on “Tectonics, Ice Ages and Floods – How the Pacific Northwest Landscapes were Formed.” Several talks focused on the movement of the tectonic plates and how the glaciers in the ice age dammed up Lake Missoula then let go suddenly to create super floods that scoured out the Columbia River Gorge and deposited the large boulders in central Washington. This happened nearly 100 times from 130,000 to 2 million years ago. We also went through the poster session and visited with Dan Robinett about his poster on “Ecological Site Concepts, Descriptions, State and Transition Models and Range Land Health in Southern Arizona. No one is more knowledgeable than Dan in this area.

On Tuesday morning we attended the technical session about “Ecology and Management of Riparian Communities”. Here there were two interesting talks from Montana and Idaho about recovery of riparian vegetation after a prescribed fire and influencing cattle distribution and diet composition by strategic location of protein supplements respectively. They showed that we can influence positively the riparian area vegetation with properly timed and carefully implemented management.

In the afternoon we participated in a non – technical tour of the Vancouver area. This is a picture of our tour trolley. We saw many interesting sites about the history, culture and climate of Vancouver. Included in this was the Granville Island Public Market where we saw an amazing array of fresh produce that would put any supermarket to shame. Tuesday evening I facilitated a meeting of the West Region Range Consortium.



On Wednesday morning I attended a Symposium on “Riparian Monitoring: Quantitative Methods” where I listened to presentations about “Why Monitor Riparian Areas?”, “Adaptive Livestock Management and the Need for Monitoring”, “What to Monitor and Why from Stream Functions to Desired Future Conditions”, “Greenline Monitoring Considerations”, and

“Riparian Vegetation Monitoring – Accuracy and Precision”. Adaptive management is a process that allows you to adjust grazing patterns to adjust for seasonal, annual, and cyclic events that are beyond human control. The typical monitoring of conditions such as stream morphology, width-depth ratios, or water temperature may give erroneous results because these parameters may show a short term downward trend when the actual long term trend will be and is up. Active adaptive management can avoid this problem by actively evaluating the practices and adjusting the practices in the short term. Dr. Al Winward’s “Monitoring the Vegetation Resources in Riparian Areas” is often called the “greenline” method. Taking the monitoring method introduced by Al Winward and trying to improve the tools used so that accuracy and precision are repeatable between multiple data gatherers is the goal of the US Forest Service Research Station at Logan UT.

Wednesday afternoon we spent walking around Vancouver and went down to the waterfront where the Vancouver Convention Center and Canada Place are located. There are many interesting sites and some active building going on. The Canada Place has places for up to three cruise ships to dock. These flags were flying in the front of it.



Many of the shops and restaurants were under the buildings and streets of downtown Vancouver. The Skytrain (lightrail) ran above ground on pillars similar to a monorail system with the exception of the downtown area where it was underground in tunnels built by the Canadian Pacific railroad in the early days of Vancouver.

We returned home on Thursday by Amtrak bus to Seattle and Southwest Airlines from there to Phoenix.

## Student Scholarship Recipients Recognized at Annual Meeting

Mitch McClaran, Scholarship Committee Chair

At the Annual Meeting in Prescott on January 25, 2006, 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 Jessica Wisely. She was raised in Queen Creek. Her curiosity and love of the outdoors led to an education and career in the Wildlife Habitat Management field. This May, she will complete her degree in the Applied Biology program at Arizona State University, where she has enjoyed classes in wildlife management, plant identification and restoration techniques. She frequently volunteers for Arizona Game and Fish Department. She wishes to become a large carnivore research biologist after graduation.

The recipient from the University of Arizona was Emily Hurd. She is currently the President of the Student Chapter called Tierra Seca, and was a member of the team that participated in the Undergraduate Range Management Exam at the national meeting in Vancouver. She will graduate in May 2005 with a degree in Natural Resources with emphasis in Rangeland Science and Management.

Her desire to be outdoors in the unique southwest accompanied by her strong beliefs of managing and conserving nature have been strengthened by the special courses at the University, field work, and involvement with the Student Chapter for Society for Range Management, Tierra Seca. Her interest in this profession can be traced to her grandfather, Richard Hurd, who was a Charter Member of Society for Range Management. He helped cultivate a curiosity and familiarity with rangelands. Her future goals include some aspect of grassland conservation, and most immediately, she is pursuing internships and assistantships in this general field.

On a related topic, Katie Giroux was the recipient of the Marcelle E. Schmutz Memorial Scholarship given in memory of Erv Schmutz's father. Erv was a longtime faculty member in Range Management at UA. Ms. Giroux is a senior earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife, Watershed, and Rangeland Resources with emphasis in Rangeland Science and Management. She received this same award last year. She is currently involved in the Collaboration to Advance Teaching Technology and Science Program at the University. This program is dedicated to advancing Science, Math and Technology in the classroom.

## Range Manager of the Year – C6 Ranch, Collins Family



(from left right; Bill Edwards - USFS, Diane Collins, Richard Collins, Richard Collins, Dean Fish - AzSRM President, Bill Piper - AzSRM Awards Committee, Emilio Carrillo - AzSRM Awards Committee, Dan Bell - AzSRM Awards Committee)

The C6 Ranch is located between Sonoita & Patagonia, AZ. approximately 50 miles southeast of Tucson. The ranch consists of mixed ownership comprised of US Forest Service, and private lands. The Collins' are advocates of getting all parties involved, including neighboring ranches, in the planning process. A coordinated management plan between the US Forest Service, Santa Cruz Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service has been developed. They have shown innovation & leadership within the Redrock watershed. As a result the Canelo Hills Coalition was formed, which brought ranchers in the watershed together to identify resource problems and develop potential solutions. The Collins family were instrumental in obtaining grant money to help implement conservation practices to improve resource conditions. They have also applied sound management practices to improve and protect riparian areas & implement a monitoring plan to determine if objectives are being met. The C6 Ranch has demonstrated outstanding stewardship & proper management of natural resources for sustainable agriculture. The C6 Ranch is deserving of the honorary award of the Arizona Section of the Society for Management Range Manager of the Year.

## Young Range Professional – Arnold Pailzote



Arnold Pailzote is this year's Young Range Professional award recipient. Arnold earned a degree from the University of Arizona in Renewable Natural Resources, specializing in watershed, wildlife, and rangeland resources. He has been working as a Rangeland Management Specialist of

the White Mountain Apache Tribe, for over one year. In his current position, Arnold has made significant changes



in the tribal range program. He and his staff work closely with the tribal livestock association officers and stockmen, and they have greatly expanded the tribe's range inventory and monitoring activities. Arnold has worked closely with NRCS and other sources of technical assistance to provide inventory and monitoring training for his staff. Under his leadership, the Range Program is providing the inventory data required for quality range conservation planning and implementation, as well as monitoring data that is needed to assess the success of these management activities. Arnold and his staff are also working with NRCS and livestock association representatives to develop prescribed grazing specifications and implementation guidelines. He provides training to help others to better understand the effects of grazing, and how to manage the land to achieve desired objectives. He has organized field trips and workshops to train and motivate people to improve management of rangelands and grazed forestlands. In addition, Arnold has been the pioneer for the White Mountain Apache Tribe in noxious weed identification, education, and treatment. Through his vigilance he has identified several populations of noxious weed species that were previously unknown on the reservation. He has produced pamphlets, posters, and other training materials, and has organized workshops to train tribal staff and others in the identification of noxious weeds and the importance of controlling them before it is too late. Arnold's hard work, vision, and leadership have made some very important changes for the White Mountain Apache Range Program & is very deserving of the Young Range professional Award.

### Professional & Technical Guidance – Richard DiValentino



Richard has been serving for over two years as Manager of the Land Operations Program for the White Mountain Apache Tribe. As such he provides supervision, management, and technical guidance to the entire Tribal Land Operations staff. The Land Operations staff

includes multiple sub-programs including Range Management, Range Water Development, Irrigation, Safety of Dams, Burned Area Emergency Response Stabilization and Rehabilitation Assistance, and other land operations support. Since he has taken over this responsibility Richard's supervision, management, and technical guidance have dramatically transformed the program. Prior to Richard, Land Operations engaged primarily in maintenance activities. Under Richard's creative leadership, Land Operations has been working in partnership with federal agencies such as NRCS and BIA, with other tribal departments and programs, and with

tribal livestock associations, to plan, fund, implement, and monitor conservation practices that address the needs of the land. In addition to Richard's accomplishments in the areas of conservation planning and practice implementation, his technical guidance has resulted in significant improvements in the quality and quantity of range inventory and monitoring activities being conducted on White Mountain Tribal lands. Richard's staff includes the Tribal Rangeland Management Specialist and three Range Technicians. Under his leadership and guidance they have sought training from NRCS and other sources for improvement in their technical inventory and monitoring skills. They also work very close with livestock association representatives to assist them in understanding and implementing prescribed grazing. Richard's creativity, dedication, vision, and leadership have made some very important changes at Land Operations that have helped the White Mountain Apache conservation partnership. He is truly deserving of the Professional & Technical Guidance Award.

### Outstanding Service – Kim McReynolds



As a UA Cooperative Extension employee based in Willcox, Kim is responsible for 3 southeastern Arizona counties (Cochise, Graham and Greenlee counties). She works with many programs including rangeland monitoring, natural resource education, and youth

development. She has served as the Natural Resources Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth (NRCWAY) coordinator and with her help, it is a great opportunity for professional range managers to interact with and introduce youth to concepts for natural resource management. She also has regular positive interactions with many landowners, federal and state agency personnel, co-workers, and citizens of southeastern Arizona. Over the years, Kim has demonstrated strong dedication to the Arizona Section of SRM by serving in many capacities including chapter president, newsletter editor, NRCWAY coordinator, and overall morale booster. She is always quick with a humorous comment to lighten the mood, and is a quiet sideline supporter when necessary. Kim is always willing to assist or offer a helping hand. Consistently eager to learn new things, she never backs down from a challenge and is quick to offer suggestions of how to improve a project or program. She keeps a good sense of humor about working with limited resources and with limited time, yet is still able to accomplish much more than should ever be expected of one person! Kim is a strong leader and is an excellent example for young range managers to look up and personifies the Outstanding Service Award.

## Professional & Technical Guidance – Group Award



(from left to right; Emilio Carrillo - AzSRM Awards Committee (presenting), Jim Maynard - Az Cattle Growers, Lamar Smith - University of Arizona (retired), George Ruyle - University of Arizona, Steve Barker - Natural Resources Conservation Service, Walt Meyer - University of Arizona, Judith Dyess - US Forest Service, Stephen Williams - Arizona State Land Dept., not present Bill Coulloudon - Bureau of Land Management, Dave Stewart - US Forest Service)

This award for Professional and Technical Guidance was for the paper entitled, "**Principles of Obtaining and Interpreting Utilization Data on Southwest Rangelands.**" This paper was an interagency effort concerning a highly relevant rangeland management issue in Arizona. Specifically, the purposes of the paper were: 1) "to set forth the fundamental principles of collecting and using utilization data for decision making on rangelands that are established and accepted by the range management profession" and 2) "to clarify how and when utilization can be used in the management of southwestern rangelands for livestock grazing." The paper was a highly collaborative effort that included authors from The University of Arizona, The Arizona Cattlegrowers Association, The Natural Resources Conservation Service, The US Forest Service, The Bureau of Land Management, and The Arizona State Land Department. This paper was extremely timely and exemplifies the Professional & Technical Guidance Award.

## Fellowship Award – William 'Bill' Piper



(from left right; Emilio Carrillo - AzSRM Awards Committee, Bill Piper, Dean Fish - AzSRM President, Byron Lambeth - AzSRM

Awards Committee, Dan Bell - AzSRM Awards Committee) This is a special award that does not fall under any of the Sections' other categories. The Awards Committee & Board of Directors felt that it was time to recognize such dedication. Bill Piper has been a loyal and dedicated member of the Arizona Section for over 40 years. He has served as President, President elect, Vice President, Director South and on numerous committees. In particular, he has served many years on the Rancher of the Year award program (in various names) and has traveled all over the state to visit ranches that were nominated. He has rarely missed a meeting of the Section and frequently has been involved in the setting up meeting facilities and food preparation. His wife, Posie, has been an active supporter and has served the Section as Newsletter Editor. Bill has always been quick to lend a helping hand or offer a good laugh. Their down to earth attitude & genuine love for rangelands and the Society (and it's members) give us all something to strive towards. This long and continuing dedication to the Arizona Section SRM is well deserving of the fellowship award.

## SRM Honor Awards Nominations

Bruce S. Healy, SRM Awards Committee Chair

After a number of people catching me in the hallway in Vancouver, and a number of emails received since then, I will attempt to answer your questions regarding SRM Honor Awards and, in specific, the Fellow Award.

There seems to be some confusion about the first tiebreaker used by the committee – "*In the event of a tie, the first tiebreaker is previous recipient of section awards.*" This rule was put into place after it was felt that too many nominations were received from sections wanting the SRM Awards Committee to recognize section work, thus using section awards as a tiebreaker would encourage sections to recognize their own, and the SRM Awards Committee would then, correctly, only be considering nominations based upon Society level work and contributions.

The committee does recognize that not all sections have an active awards program to recognize their members; however it is not the SRM Awards Committee role to recognize section work. Thus, this category is only used IF there is a tie vote (actually, a tie vote doesn't happen very often). Since this tiebreaker was put in place, there seems to be a misunderstanding upon the part of sections – not having received a section award **does not** mean you cannot nominate someone for an SRM award. Remember, it is only a tiebreaker, not a disqualifier. There are a number of SRM members who are very active at the Society level, but may not be as active at the section level. ***If this is your situation, I encourage you to submit a nomination packet for this person.***

There has been some concern that no Fellow award has been given for two years. "*The title of Fellow is conferred upon members of the Society for Range Management in*

recognition of exceptional service to the Society and its programs in advancing the science and art of range-related resource management. This high honor is granted in the belief that special recognition should be given for exceptional and dedicated service to the Society." The Fellow Award is limited to a maximum of 0.1% of the membership annually. It is not that applications were not received, they were just submitted for the wrong category, and were thus disqualified from consideration for the Fellow Award. Remember, it is service to the Society, **not contributions to the profession** (which is Outstanding Achievement).

The Awards Committee works to contact Sections each spring – the Section President and Awards Committee

Chair (if known), right after the SRM Annual Meeting, to remind them of the Honor Awards Process and the deadline of April 30<sup>th</sup>. However, it is ultimately up to the Sections to nominate folks for SRM Awards. (If you are not aware of it, by committee rule, members of the SRM Awards committee cannot nominate folks for an award, nor shall they be eligible for an award while they are a committee member.)

If you have any questions on the Awards Committee process, please contact Bruce Healy or Emilio Carrillo (emilio.carrillo@az.usda.gov or 520-670-6602 ext. 229) for the Arizona Section.



## Natural Resource Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth July 10-14, 2006 Mingus Springs Camp



An exciting opportunity for youth 12-16 years of age! A chance to explore the great outdoors and experience the thrill of a unique adventure. The 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Natural Resource Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth is an interactive camp bringing together the latest in science and natural resource technology.

Mingus Mountain, in the Prescott National Forest, will serve as our major area of focus as we study how plants, wildlife, water, and soils relate to one another in forest, rangeland and aquatic settings. Youth will learn how to use GIS, GPS, soil and water testing equipment, and various measuring tools. Using the data collected, teams of youth will present their findings, highlighting any areas of concern and possible ways to correct any problems identified. Various group activities such as fishing, hiking, swimming, volleyball & horseshoes will be available during your free time.

### Eligibility

Youth ages 12-16 as of 1/1/06 are eligible to apply. Youth must have an interest and desire to learn more about the environment in which we live. No applicant will be denied attendance because of financial need. Selection is made on the merit of the application without regard to race, sex, creed, or origin.

### How To Apply

Please type the following on a single sheet of paper: Name, address, phone number, and email address (if available). Then answer the following questions: 1) Explain why you would like to attend this workshop. 2) Describe your interests and activities related to natural resources. 3) Describe any other special interests, hobbies, and involvement in community or school activities. 4) If appropriate, indicate the need for financial assistance.

**Mail application** no later than midnight, May 25<sup>th</sup> to:

Kim McReynolds, Workshop Director,  
AZ Section Society for Range Management  
450 S. Haskell, Willcox Az 85643

**Questions:** Contact Kim at 520-384-3594 or kimm@ag.arizona.edu



Applicants will be notified of selection results no later than June 9, 2006. Upon notification of acceptance, the \$100 fee is to be paid unless other aid has been requested and awarded.

**Each Section member** is asked to recruit one student to attend NRCWAY. We need your help make it a success! Workshop flyers can be printed online at <http://azrangelands.org/nrcway/NRCWAYflyer.pdf> or call Kim McReynolds or Susan Pater (520)384-3594 to request copies.



## EVENTS CALENDAR

- May 2      Understanding Arizona's riparian Areas Workshop, Santa Cruz County. Contact Dean Fish, [dfish@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:dfish@ag.arizona.edu).
- May 10     Understanding Arizona's riparian Areas Workshop, Mohave County. Contact Aline Parker, [alinep@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:alinep@ag.arizona.edu).
- May 16 & 17   Symposium: Ecology and Management of Red Bromegrass Fine Fuels in Southwest Deserts. Hosted by Arizona State University Polytechnic Campus, Mesa, AZ. Contact John Brock for more information ([john.brock@asu.edu](mailto:john.brock@asu.edu)).
- July 10-14    Natural Resource Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth (NRCWAY), Mingus Springs Camp in the Prescott National Forest.
- July 25-27    The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Southwest Noxious, Invasive Plant Short Course will be held in Farmington, NM. Contact Larry Howery ([lhowery@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:lhowery@ag.arizona.edu) or 520-621-7277) for details.
- July 31       Livestock Grazing Behavior: Keeping Cows Where You Want Them to be presented at the Cattlemen's College at the Arizona Cattlegrowers Assoc. Annual Meeting in Globe. For more information contact Maria Cadena at 602-267-1129 or [mcadena@arizonabeef.org](mailto:mcadena@arizonabeef.org).
- Aug 17-19    Tentative - Arizona Section Summer Meeting in southeastern Arizona.

## SUMMER RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNDERGRADUATES IN TUCSON, ARIZONA

REU is an NSF-sponsored program of Research Experience for Undergraduates. Students receive a summer stipend to conduct independent research projects in conjunction with NSF funded projects under the mentorship of the project's senior investigators.

### Who is eligible?

Students who are US citizens or permanent residents enrolled in an undergraduate degree program. Members of underrepresented groups are especially encouraged to apply.



### What is expected?

Students will develop an independent research project and support an ongoing collaborative research project involving the University of Arizona (Steve Archer and Larry Howery) and Texas State University (Susan Schwinning). Students will also develop a written report of the summer research and make an oral or poster presentation during the Fall Semester of 2006.

- ★ **What is the starting date?** - Flexible, but May 2006 is preferred.
- ★ **How much is the stipend?** - \$5,200 or \$430 per week.
- ★ **How do I apply?** - Express your interest by emailing Dr. Archer ([sarcher@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:sarcher@ag.arizona.edu)) or Dr. Schwinning ([schwinn@txstate.edu](mailto:schwinn@txstate.edu)).



### What is the research about?

Worldwide, native woody shrubs and trees are encroaching into arid and semi-arid grasslands. One puzzling aspect of this phenomenon is that only some woody plant species are proliferating in grasslands, while others have maintained their historic abundances. What makes these species different? This project examines the critical establishment phase to determine which seedling traits are associated with seedling survival under desert grassland conditions, including uncertain and sporadic water availability, competition from grasses and herbivory. Field experiments at the Santa Rita Experimental Range and complementary controlled-environment experiments at the University of Arizona will determine how seedling growth (above- and below-ground), physiology and survivorship respond to a range of rainfall, competition and defoliation regimes. The results from this study are expected to improve management strategies for grassland conservation.

For more information, visit our websites: <http://ag.arizona.edu/research/archer/>  
<http://www.bio.txstate.edu/%7eschwinn/labhome2.html>



### Symposium: Ecology and Management of Red Bromegrass Fine Fuels in Southwest Deserts



**May 16 & 17, 2006**

Host Institution:  
Arizona State University  
Polytechnic Campus Mesa, AZ

Contact: [john.brock@asu.edu](mailto:john.brock@asu.edu)

Cave Creek Fire Complex (2005) fueled primarily by red bromegrass and associated annual plant fuels

