

Workshop Review

Arizona Section International Society for Range Management

2010 WINTER MEETING

Prescott Resort, Prescott, AZ

January 18-20, 2010

By

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Arizona Section President - 2010

**THEME: "Livestock-Wildlife-Native Fish Interactions:  
What Do We Think We Know?"**

*SRM's VISION: a well-trained and highly motivated group of professionals and rangeland users working with productive, sustainable rangeland ecosystems.*

*SRM's MISSION: to promote the professional development and continuing education of members and the public and the stewardship of rangeland resources.*



The Arizona Section hosted a workshop addressing "Livestock-Wildlife-Native Fish Interactions" as part of the 2010 Annual Winter Meeting on January 18-20, 2010 at the Prescott Resort, Prescott, Arizona. Conflicts involving livestock grazing are an important concern to land managers, farmers, ranchers, conservation organizations, and the public. Ranchers and land managers witness these conflicts in the form of stocking reductions, exclusions or other restrictions. Wildlife and fishery managers attempt to fulfill the legal requisites of State and Federal laws to protect and conserve species of interest. Most often, there is a lack of scientific information from which to base sound decisions to mitigate conflicts. Given the variety of wildlife and fish of special interest in Arizona, it is difficult to comprehend the scope of conflicting issues, given the expanding list of species of interest.

The workshop sought a dialogue between scientists, managers, ranchers, and the public about what we *think* we know about livestock interactions. The program consisted of 3 sessions: wildlife, fish, and policy and management considerations. Technical experts presented their understanding of the current knowledge on interactions, examined information and management needs, and offered recommendations for mitigating direct and indirect conflicts with selected species and their habitats. Graduate student range and wildlife research at Arizona State University was highlighted in a poster session.

Attendees were exceedingly pleased with the workshop and requested a follow-up version, addressing other wildlife species of concern as well opportunities for ranching operations to engage in the conservation of native species and as wildlife enterprises. In summary, the workshop was very educational and provocative.

A special "**Thank You**" to all the presenters and attendees who "cowboyed-up" despite the harsh weather, the planning committee\* who worked hard on all the details, Arizona Section members who helped with the event, and the folks at Prescott Resort who sponsored and help defer costs of the facility.

**A few lessons learned include:**

- Ø Livestock grazing effects are highly variable in time, space and species specific, requiring site to site, instance to instance management consideration
- Ø Accountability, honesty, and commitment are essential attributes for resolving livestock-wildlife-land use conflicts

- Ø Despite best of science development, some information remains unemployed to optimize benefits to elk and livestock production and their habitats
- Ø Despite decades of decline in native fish populations of the SW, coupled with continuing debate over livestock grazing effects, little research has been conducted to resolve issues; paradigms of aquatic health have failed to produce desired effects of improving native fish populations and habitats in some streams
- Ø Ungulate- wildlife interactions information is lacking for multiple key species; “best-science” requires careful interpretation for management applications
- Ø Application of best science and management knowledge is difficult to apply to the management of wild horses/burros on Western rangelands; anthropomorphic sentiments obscure needed actions
- Ø Discovery of new species presents challenges to their management and conservation
- Ø USFWS is engaging in proactive efforts to engage landowners and land managers in conservation of TES species using such tools as Safe Harbor options – a promising endeavor!
- Ø Strong research needs exist for understanding and developing management guidelines that address livestock-native fish/wildlife interactions in AZ/SW
- Ø Management needs exist for demonstration projects, e.g. Safe Harbor, that advance the sciences all the while promote conservation of species, habitats, and ranching enterprises
- Ø Conservation/restoration of riparian habitats may not respond to anticipated outcomes; paradigms for conservation of species and habitats may be conflicting and inapplicable across landscapes
- Ø There are many aquatic “critters” out there that remain unseen/undocumented; caution should be exercised in impacting their habitats and populations while promoting the benefit to another species through management or land
- Ø There is a need to continue the livestock interactions dialogue to appraise landowners, managers and general public of the status of our knowledge, plus engage proactively in the conservation of species and rural communities
- Ø Expect to be sued – land management issues are complex, and intertwined with personal feelings and agendas

## REVISED PROGRAM (2/1/10-alm)

### ARIZONA SECTION INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY for RANGE MANAGEMENT

### 2010 ANNUAL WINTER MEETING

January 18-20, 2010

Prescott Resort, Prescott, AZ

#### THEME

**“Livestock-Wildlife-Native Fish Interactions: What Do We Think We Know?”**

#### PROGRAM

*January 18, 2010* Sedona/Verde Room

7:00-9:00pm Registration – Foyer/ Sedona/Verde Room

7:00-9:00pm **General Membership Meeting** *Jim Sprinkle*, President, AZ Section.

- Section Business - Agenda
- 5-10 minute presentations

Dr. Larry Howery – SRM National update

Dr. Mary Nichols – High Resolution Photo Monitoring

Therese Hicks – The Universal Cattle Guard – A New Design

*January 19, 2010* Sedona/Verde Room

7:00-7:50 **Registration** and Continental Breakfast – Sedona/Verde Room

8:00 – 8:15 Opening Ceremonies – *Dr. Jim Sprinkle*, President – Welcome Address

8:15-8:30 Workshop Goals – *Al Medina*

8:30 – 9:00 Keynote Address: Rediscovering Our Importance to Nature

*Dan Daggett*, Author

1995 - *Beyond the Rangeland Conflict- Towards a West That Works* – Pulitzer Prize nominee

2005 - *Gardeners of Eden – Rediscovering Our Importance to Nature*

**WILDLIFE SESSION (I) Moderator: Al Medina**

9:05 – 9:35 Elk/pronghorn on Anderson Mesa – *Cancelled due to weather*

*Dr. Tom Sisk, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff*

9:40 – 10:10 Livestock-Wild Ungulate Interactions in Arizona

*Dr. William Miller, Arizona State University, Tempe*

10:10 - 10:30 BREAK

10:35 – 11:05 Springsnails – An Introduction for Conservation Partners

*Mr. Jeff Sorensen, AGFD, Phoenix*

11:10 – 11:40 Birds and Livestock – What Cross Fence Comparisons Have Taught Us

*Mr. Dan Robinett, Audubon Ranch, Sierra Vista*

11:40 – 12:00 Questions & Discussion

12:00 - 1:00 LUNCH

**AMPHIBIANS, REPTILES AND FISHES SESSION (II) Moderator – Doug Tolleson**

1:10 – 1:40 Amphibians and Grazing: Conservation in Ranchland Settings

*Dr. Cecil Schwalbe, University of Arizona*

1:45 – 2:15 Riparian Reptiles and Desert Tortoises: Livestock Positives, Negatives, and Unknowns

*Dr. Phillip Rosen, Tucson*

2:15 – 2:35 BREAK

2:40 – 3:10 Fish and Grazing Relationships in the Southwestern USA – An issue Revisited

*Dr. John N. Rinne, Research Fishery Biologist (retired), Flagstaff*

3:15 – 3:45 Livestock Management and the Conservation of Imperiled Aquatic Species on the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area, Arizona

*Mr. Jeff Simms, Bureau of Land Management, Tucson*

3:45 – 4:30 Panel Discussion – Questions & Answers

*Adjourn*

**AUCTION AND BANQUET Cottonwood/Clarkdale Room**

5:00 – 9:00 No-Host Social- Auction and Banquet

Welcome: Jim Sprinkle, President, AZ Section, Society for Range Management

Interfaith Invocation: Doug Tolleson

After Dinner Speaker: Dennis Moroney "AZ-SRM – Challenges in Meeting Today's Changing issues on AZ Rangelands".

Special Recognition Program, **Katie Cline**, AZ SRM Awards Chair

NRCWAY Awards and Sawyer's DVD Presentation - **Kim McReynolds**

Presidents Awards and Presentation of Outgoing SRM Board Members - **Jim Sprinkle**

Presentation of 2009 Board Members - **Al Medina**, President Elect, AZ SRM

**ADJOURN**

**POLICY AND MANAGEMENT SESSION (III)**

**Moderator – Jim Sprinkle**

*January 20, 2009* Cottonwood/Clarkdale Room

7:00-7:50 Registration and Continental Breakfast – Cottonwood/Clarkdale Room

7:50-8:00 Welcome - **Jim Sprinkle**, President, AZ Section, Society for Range Management

8:00 – 8:30 Wild Horse and Burro Management on BLM lands of Arizona

**Mr. Roger Oyler**, BLM Wild horse and Burro Program Lead, Phoenix

8:30 – 9:00 Management Issues for State Trust Lands

**Mr. Steve Williams**, Director – State Lands, Phoenix

9:00 – 9:30 Using ESA Section 7 to Promote Recovery

**Mr. Steve Spangle**, Field Supervisor, USFWS- Phoenix Office

9:30 – 10:00 Wildlife Policy and Management Applications in Arizona

**Mr. Don DeLorenzo**, Director of Wildlife, Region 3-USFS, Albuquerque

10:00 – 10:15 BREAK

10:20 – 10:50 Fishery Policy and Management Applications in Arizona

**Ms. Amy Unthank**, Fishery Program Manager, Region 3-USFS, Albuquerque

10:50 – 11:20 Cooperative Alternatives to Regulatory Process

**Dennis Parker**, Attorney at Law, Patagonia, AZ

11:20 – 12:00 Panel Discussions – Questions & Answers

12:00 – 12:15 Student Awards

**Dr. Mitch McClaran**, University of Arizona, Tucson

**ADJOURN**

12:30 – 2:30 2010 Board of Directors Meeting-Luncheon BRADSHAW ROOM

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**\* 2010 Winter Meeting Planning Committee**

Al Medina (Chairman), Jim Sprinkle, Kent Ellett, Shai Schendel, John Kava, Terry Wheeler, Alisha Phipps, and Ray Tanner

Registration – Alisha Phipps, Kendall Brown, Shai Schendel, John Kava

Auctioneer & Assistants - Doug Tolleson, Emilio Carrillo, Dan Bell, Alisha Phipps, Katie Cline

Sponsor:

Prescott Resort, 1500 E. State Route 69, Prescott, AZ 86301-5640 (928) 776-1666 [www.prescottresort.com](http://www.prescottresort.com)



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