



Utah Section Society for Range Management Newsletter

Number 2 2001

SRM Utah Section Newsletter
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<i>John Fairchild</i>	<i>Range Excellence</i>
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President's Message

John Malechek, President
Utah Section Society for Range Management

Lately, I have been asked to respond to a variety of questions on the future of range education. Considering my position as a professional "range educator" that would probably not surprise you. However, the frequency and urgency of these questions is definitely greater than usual. I am sure that many of the questions have been prompted by the major re-organizational changes now underway in the College of Natural Resources at Utah State University. Others have come from a growing concern over the very nature of tomorrow's range management profession and what the future range manager will need to know.

As I listen to university administrators here and elsewhere and to practicing range managers out in the field, I hear decidedly mixed messages. University administrators tell me that the tightly-focused, highly course-specified programs we have traditionally followed in SRM-accredited range programs around the country are woefully out-of-date. Instead, they contend, we must evolve to programs that produce a generalist type of graduate, someone who is exposed to a variety of subject matter and who can wear a variety of "hats" as they shift from one action team to another. I infer from this that they are talking about programs similar to the so-called environmental studies and natural resource degree programs that are offered at many western universities. These have been quite popular programs with students, because

they don't usually demand the rigorous courses such as real chemistry, calculus, plant taxonomy, etc.

On the other hand, when I talk to practicing managers out in district offices I hear that they need managers who can go to the field, identify the plants, know the soils and their limitations and potentials, interpret range sites, assess successional states and infer potential transitions, plan, execute and predict likely outcomes for fire re-vegetation projects, and so-on. In other words, I infer that they want university graduates who know how to *manage* rangelands, not simply observe them. I hear repeatedly that when a manager needs an individual to lead an action team, they will choose a range-educated individual, because they have the specific training and knowledge to manage vegetation.

I do not for a moment mean this as a justification of the status quo in range education. We (the SRM) need to take a serious review of our accreditation standards in the area of curriculum. We must be absolutely certain that all of our graduates have a working knowledge of Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing technology. We need to do a better job of training our students in *management*, broadly defined, so that they not only know how to put together a management plan for a grazing allotment or range improvement project (I think we currently do a pretty good job of this), but so they can also manage the personnel, fiscal and physical

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resources under their charge, and their time. We must also do a better job of taking a whole-systems approach to our educational programs. While our students are getting most of the important pieces, they are still not yet thinking and working holistically. Is it time for an "ecosystem management" approach to range education?

I am greatly encouraged by the burgeoning job marked for range graduates. This has already stimulated an enrollment growth spurt in university range programs that will hopefully continue. Range graduates will be in demand to fill positions dealing with weeds, wildfire rehabilitation, fire fuels management, livestock-wildlife interactions, etc, as well as the traditional on-going roles of grazing allotment management. At the same time, vigilance is in demand: land management agency managers and administrators

must not water-down job standards simply to fill open positions; university faculty and administrators must not succumb to trendy, politically-correct programs that are two miles wide and half-inch deep in terms of technical and scientific content.

Some of you will probably disagree substantially with these thoughts. Some may even agree—to a degree. Regardless of your position, I hope you will give this some thought and action. Today's range education is truly the shaper of the profession of tomorrow. There will be a golden opportunity for you to become involved through the planned symposium on "Maintaining the identity of the range discipline in higher education" at the Kansas City meeting in February.

Range Excellence Committee

Submitted By John Fairchild, Committee Chair

The Utah Section Range Excellence Committee reviews and recognizes rangelands within the State which reflect quality management and good land stewardship. Last year, Burt DeLambert and his family were recognized with an award for excellence for range improvements made in the Book Cliffs.

Take a moment to consider candidates that would be worthy of the Range Excellence Award in 2001. Nominations should be submitted to John Fairchild by August 15, 2001. Also, if anyone is interested in serving on the Range Excellence Committee, let him know.

The following criteria are suggested for evaluation and selection of range excellence areas:

- 1) Rangelands in satisfactory condition, improving under current management, and progressing toward management goals.
- 2) Improvement in condition is or can be documented and demonstrated.
- 3) A mix of land uses (livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, recreation, etc.) and ownership result in diversified and sustained benefits.
- 4) The area demonstrates either intensive or extensive management systems on mountain, foothill, desert, riparian, or other range types.

Nominations should include a description and maps of the area, general background and management information, and a willingness to tour and inspect the area with members of the Range Excellence Committee.

Nominations should be sent to: John Fairchild
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
1594 West North Temple, Suite 2110
P.O. Box 146301
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-6301
e-mail: nrdwr.jfairchi@state.ut.us.

Awards Nomination Request

Submitted by Kurtis Robins, Committee Chair

Greetings from Teasdale, Utah. How fast the summer is passing and before long, we will be meeting in Vernal, Utah for our next Utah Section Society for Range Management meetings. Representing the Utah Section Awards committee and as chairman, I have the privilege of requesting your assistance in submitting nominations for the Rancher, Range Manager, and Young Range Professional of the Year recognizing outstanding individuals in rangeland science, education, industry and administration etc.

Nomination of individuals for these awards will be due October 19, 2001. Please forward your nomination(s) to Whit Bunting, BLM Arizona Strip in St. George (435) 688-3200, Jeff Grandison, UDWR Southern Region in Cedar City (435) 865-6100, or myself.

I have forms, and the selection criteria for these awards that I will forward on your request.

I ask you to consider your colleagues and those you may otherwise have associations that are worthy of the awards of recognition. We have many outstanding individuals in our state concerned about our rangelands that would represent these awards well and are deserving of this recognition. Please share a moment of time by submitting a nomination for one of these awards.

If you need additional information concerning these awards, please contact me at (435) 425-3702.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
www.usu.edu/~range/

Summer Tour June 14 and 15

We met at the BLM office at 1 PM and had approximately 30 people in attendance. Our first stop was out east of Monticello on CRP where Don Andrews from NRCS explained the CRP program and the successes and failures they have seen here in planting the different species. They started out in monocultures and have gone to more diverse plantings.

The next stop was on some native range that is being grazed to enhance Gunnison Sage Grouse habitat. The land owner in conjunction with NRCS has put in 5500 feet of pipeline and 5280 feet of electric and 24000 feet of 4 wire barb wire fence to create pastures to give critical spring rest for strutting grounds. Guy Wallace (UDWR) and Sarah Lupus (USU graduate student) explained about the study being done on the sage grouse.

The next stop was at an older CRP planting. And also to look at winter wheat and safflower and elk use.

We went to the Horsehead Elk Ranch and heard Brian Bowring (owner) explain his operation and looked at the elk.

We then went to the uranium cleanup south of Monticello and listened to Dr. Jody Waugh explain the research they have done in cleanup and covering of the waste and the planting that has been done.

Then the best part of the tour was dinner (steak and Dutch oven potatoes) at Loyds Lake provided by George Cook and Jim Brown. After dinner we were entertained by Stan Bronson, who sang and gave us a history of San Juan County. That was enjoyed by all and ended with the Monticello National Anthem, "Blue Mountain Song". And Sam Rowley a native Monticelloite sang along.

We meet at 8 AM on Friday morning and traveled to Comb Wash and Paul Curtis lead the discussion of the lawsuit and its implication for the rest of the BLM. We looked at the beautiful Arch Canyon riparian, the greasewood bottoms and the grassy benches out of the bottoms. The question was asked is it worth the cost to fight the costly battle to keep grazing areas like this?

We then traveled to the forest service and Jimmie Forest lead a discussion of the Slickhorn allotment, which was the 1999 Range Excellence award winner. We had lunch and then a few of us went on and heard Greg Montgomery discuss the Pine Beetle problem on the forest.

FOR SALE

The San Juan County Photo Book which contains a grazing history of San Juan County beginning in the 1800's is available. The book also contains repeat photographs which compare sites from 40 years to 105 years. To receive a copy write a letter to:

San Juan County
Attention: Ed Sherick
P.O. Box 9
Montecello, UT 84535

State in the letter that you want the photo book and include a check for \$15.00

Fellow Utah Section SRM members,

Greetings from the Uintah Basin, I can't believe how fast the summer is going and I would like to invite you to attend the Utah Section Annual meeting to be held in Vernal, Utah. (Watch for registration information in the next newsletter.) The meeting will be held at the Weston Plaza Hotel on November 8 and 9th. The Stockman's restaurant is located there and has some of the best food in the Basin.

Topics will be Journey to Change, Sage Grouse Habitat and various student papers.

I would ask you to consider nominating your colleagues and cooperators for the various SRM awards.

Vernal has a lot of things to see and would be a good place to bring your family for a mini vacation.

If you have any questions or need additional information please call me 435-722-4621 ext. 130.

Thank you, and hope to see you there.

Jim Brown President-Elect

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

August 15	Range Excellence Award Nominations Due
September 12	SRM Council Meeting—Provo
October 19	Utah Section SRM Award Nominations Due
November 8-9	Annual Winter Meeting—Vernal

Society for Range Management Membership Application

NAME	ADDRESS	
CITY	STATE	ZIP
BUSINESS PHONE	HOME PHONE	
MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION	AMOUNT	

Primary Section Affiliation: Utah
Membership Solicited by: _____

“Regular” Member Dues - \$55 (Includes Home Section dues of \$5) - Includes subscription to Rangelands, Trailboss News, and Utah SRM Newsletter. Journal of Range Management is optional (additional \$15).
“Sustaining” Membership - \$20 contribution in addition to membership
“Life” Membership - \$750 (Installment Plan: \$250 each year, plus “Regular” dues for 3 years)

“Student” Membership - \$27 (Same privileges as regular members but they are not able to hold an office.)

*****Student membership applicants, please state your school and grade/level of education*****

A wide variety of memberships are available. Further inquiry should be made to the SRM in Denver, CO or check out their website at <http://www.srm.org>. If paying by mail, please send the above membership application with appropriate check or money order to: Society for Range Management, 1839 York Street, Denver, CO 80206-9900

Utah Section
Society for Range Management
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