

### UNR Range Club Attends Annual Meeting

We greatly enjoyed our experience at the annual SRM meeting in Spokane this January. Due to generous donations from the NV Section SRM, Safari Club International, and funding from Jon Wilker (UNR Gund Ranch Manager), we were able to send four members to the meeting. All four members - Stacy Belshaw (President), Meagan Carter (Treasurer), Ashlee Younie and Michele Clark (active alumni) - participated in the Undergraduate Range Management Exam and Student Display Board Contest while two members competed in the Plant Identification Contest. Each student attended technical sessions based on their interests, such as "Vegetation Management and Restoration" and "Range Plants/Physiology," and listened to a variety of UNR graduate student presentations. Student members graduating in May found the Rangeland Job Fair to be beneficial in their search for career opportunities and some were interviewed by potential employers. In addition to taking exams and viewing presentations, one memorable event was touring the Grand Coulees, an amazing piece of geological history.

We all enjoyed the meeting and felt that we gained valuable knowledge and new contacts with professionals and other students that share our interests. We joined discussions about the Student Conclave at the luncheon and spent time talking with other clubs about the events and activities they have planned for this coming semester. Like most other clubs, UNR Range Club spent the majority of last semester having business meetings and fundraiser events in order to fund the annual meeting. In the spring semester we have the opportunity to become more involved in other activities as a club. This semester we are planning events for both members and non-members, such as participating in a collaborative volunteer opportunity with the UNR Wildlife Society involving habitat creation for sage grouse, volunteering for Main Station farm to gain experience in handling livestock, and attending free workshops and trainings. We feel that providing students and members with interesting outdoor events will not only help us gain valuable field experiences in the future, but will also help us recruit and retain new members. We would also like to remain active in our support of Main Station farm and the future of the Range program at UNR.

Finally, the UNR Range club members are thankful for everyone's help and donations in our annual shotgun raffle. The shotgun, a 12-gauge Benelli Nova Pump donated by Safari Club International, helped us raise over \$1,800 dollars in the raffle, which will be used for upcoming events and put towards attending the next annual SRM meeting in 2013. We would also like to thank Jon Wilker from the Gund Ranch for providing the club funds in exchange for assisting with monitoring plots at the ranch this spring. We are all looking forward to the trip and believe it will be an enjoyable learning experience.

Below I have listed the Range Club's mission statement and ultimate goals. If anyone has events coming in the future that UNR Range Club could take part in to further these goals, please contact us at [unrrangeclub@gmail.com](mailto:unrrangeclub@gmail.com) or [www.facebook.com/unrrangeclub](http://www.facebook.com/unrrangeclub).

#### Mission Statement:

To build a group of young professionals with similar goals to help them discover new opportunities within the fields of range, natural resources and wildlife.

Provide a method for communicating with our peers and professionals in order to exchange ideas, foster a learning environment and to encourage professional development.

Associate with professional groups and attend conferences in order to broaden our understanding of natural resources.

Encourage the recognition of rangeland resources within our community and promote the importance of resource management in our state.

Assist in departmental student recruitment, orientation and retention.

Establish an informal environment for socializing and networking within the field of range sciences.



UNR Range Club members at Dry Falls in the Lower Grand Coulee, Central Washington. (Photo left to right: Meagan Carter, Stacy Belshaw, Michele Clark, Ashlee Younie)