

# RANGELAND NEWS

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF SRM

2017 ISSUE NO. 4

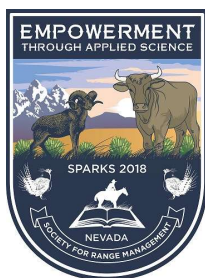
Heading Photo Courtesy of Mary Jo Foley-Birrenkott

[Go to the AM18 WEBSITE](#)  
[for the latest information!](#)

[EARLY REGISTRATION](#)  
[ENDS DECEMBER 29TH!](#)

**2018 Society for Range  
Management Annual Meeting,  
Technical Training and Trade  
Show**

**Sparks, NV - Jan.- Feb. 2, 2017**



[SRM Facebook Page](#)

The **SRM ROOM BLOCK** deadline for the  
Nugget is **Jan 5**.

Go to the [2018 Annual Meeting website](#)  
to reservation online.

The group code is **GSRM18**.

## ***In this Issue:***

- [Go to the AM18 WEBSITE for the latest information!](#)
- [A Brief Look Back and a Longer Look Forward](#)
- [Strengths and Challenges](#)
- [EVP Update](#)
- [Importance of SRM Membership](#)
- [The Year of Native Rangelands](#)
- [SRM AM18 Reminders](#)
- [In Case You Missed it: SRM Names Top Honor Award Recipients for 2018](#)
- [2018 SRM Endowment Fund Silent Auction](#)
- [Utah State University Approved for SRM Re-accreditation](#)
- [Lost Resources UPDATE: Ed Nelson](#)
- [Journal Highlight: Rangeland Ecology & Management \(REM\) September 2017](#)
- [Journal Highlight: Rangelands](#)
- [ONLINE REM FREE TO SRM MEMBERS!](#)

**UPCOMING BOARD CALLS & MEETINGS:**

**\*January Board Call: January 8, 2018, 8AM MT**

To join dial in: 866-254-5984 no code needed

<http://www.uberconference.com/wssdc>

*\*The full 2018 calendar of calls has not been determined yet. Watch [website](#) for updates.*

**SRM Board Meetings @ the AM18, Sparks NV**

(Exec Board Room)

**Sat, Jan 28, 2018:** 8AM – 5PM

*\*Executive Session: 7AM – 8AM*

**Thurs, Feb 1, 2018:** 1PM – 4PM

**Fri, Feb2, 2018:** 8AM – NOON

**Advisory Council Mtg @ the AM18, Sparks NV**

**Sun, Jan 29, 2018:** 8AM – 5PM

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**Bylaw Election Closes 11:59PM, January 5, 2018!**

BALLOTS HAVE BEEN SENT ELECTRONICALLY UNLESS YOU SELECTED THE PAPER BALLOT OPTION PREVIOUSLY.

DON'T SEE YOUR BALLOT BUT BELIEVE YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS CURRENT AND YOU'RE RECORD IS MARKED FOR ELECTRONIC VOTING?

CHECK YOUR JUNK/SPAM FILTER AND BE SURE TO MARK [member@surveymonkeyuser.com](mailto:member@surveymonkeyuser.com) AS A SAFE SENDER!

YOU CAN CHECK/UPDATE YOUR VERIFY YOUR MEMBERSHIP STATUS AND BALLOT PREFERENCE FOR FUTURE ELECTIONS, IN YOUR [MEMBER PROFILE](#) OR BY CALLING/EMAILING:

SRM [HEADQUARTERS](#)  
(303-986-3309)

OR

THE SRM [BUSINESS OFFICE](#) @ ALLEN PRESS  
(785-865-9456 / 800-627-0326 x456).

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**A Brief Look Back and a Longer  
Look Forward**



our Annual Meeting in Sparks, NV! If you haven't already, please [register](#) and make your travel plans. You have only a few more days to take advantage of the early registration rate which ends December 29<sup>th</sup> so [get registered!](#) Those of us who are among the more "seasoned" SRM members know that the Nevada Section always does a first-rate job with our Annual Meetings. On our monthly Board call earlier this month we received every indication from the planning committee that the 2018 Annual Meeting

will provide yet another great opportunity for SRM members to come together in Nevada to learn about the latest developments, innovations, and issues related to rangeland ecology and management.

While you are attending the Annual Meeting in Sparks, I urge you to attend the "[Bridging the Gap](#)" mentorship event that will be held on Tuesday, January 30<sup>th</sup> from 4-5:30pm. The primary objective of this Young Professionals and Student Conclaves-sponsored event is to build more connections between SRM student members (the mentees) and the more seasoned SRMs (the mentors). This event is very important for our never-ending efforts to promote the value of becoming a life-long SRM member. This is especially true for our younger members who will soon become the next generation of SRM leaders. In fact, some of these fine young folks have stepped up to the plate and are ALREADY distinguishing themselves as leaders! It is critical that we focus recruitment efforts on young professionals who are excited about the discovery, dissemination, and application of science-based rangeland management principles, and who have the desire and passion to enthusiastically communicate SRM's Mission and Vision. If we do this, SRM's credibility and influence will continue to grow and expand; if we don't, the reverse will be true. I have challenged each Board member to participate in [Bridging the Gap](#). I issue the same challenge to each of you whether you consider yourself to be a mentee or a mentor. Everyone is invited and the event is completely free.

**Reminder!!** Please [renew your membership](#) before January 1, 2018 and help SRM complete the transition to a January 1 renewal date for all of our members. Many thanks to 1<sup>st</sup> VP Irving, Chris Lapine from Allen Press, and to the SRM staff for making this transition as painless as humanly possible. As with any new policy or procedure there are bound to be a few hiccups but, ultimately, this change will make SRM's bookkeeping and budgetary projections easier. Just as importantly, it should make your life a little easier knowing that you have the same [renewal](#) date as everyone else (i.e., January 1 each year).

During my year as President, I promised myself to follow [Simon Sinek's](#) advice and "listen by speaking last." I have tried (not always successfully) to do this in the Board room and in our newsletters this year. In St. George, I issued a

great articles written throughout the year that I hope you have enjoyed as much as I have. I am a firm believer in the phrase “lead from where you are” and think it is important for you to hear from the other officers and Board members, as well as your fellow SRM members.

Along these lines, I encourage you to read 1<sup>st</sup> VP Barry Irving’s article, “Strengths and Challenges” that appears in this newsletter. While reading Barry’s article I thought about how one of SRM’s strengths is to address traditional values and concerns, as well as non-traditional societal values and demands. Our science is what separates us from advocacy groups but sound science is not always available to unequivocally support every decision. There will always be the need for rangeland managers to apply a healthy mix of science, professional judgment, and common sense when making decisions in the face of uncertainty. SRM should support rangeland managers and scientists who effectively blend the *art and science* of our discipline when making land management decisions. Indeed, SRM continues to be the professional home of choice to many exceptional managers and scientists who have demonstrated an ability to apply both art and science to tackle rangeland management issues germane to the 21st century. Continuing to attract top-notch professionals is a tradition that must not be ignored or compromised if SRM is to persist as a legitimate player in “influencing policies and practices related to range management” as espoused by Mr. Frederic G. Renner nearly 7 decades ago. Again, give Barry’s article a read for a deeper dive on this topic.

I’ll conclude by saying it has been an absolute honor and privilege to serve as SRM President this past year. I have the deepest appreciation and respect for all my fellow Officers and Board members, for the SRM staff, the SRM Advisory Council, our Committees, and, to all of my fellow SRM members for giving me the unique opportunity to serve as your President. It is amazing how much can be accomplished when you have the good fortune to work with a team of individuals who are truly focused on and dedicated to SRM’s Vision and Mission, and who don’t care who gets the credit.

Let me encourage you to make plans to attend the Wednesday (January 31<sup>st</sup>) SRM Business Meeting in Sparks to hear more details about what SRM has accomplished this year (lunch is free!). We are going to try a new way of delivering the “State of the Society” message - now you have to attend! Until then, there is so much you can learn about SRM by going to our [Website](#), our [Facebook](#) page, or our [Twitter](#) feed. The latest [RangeFlash](#) is an amazing piece of work by our staff and contains a plethora of information. Wishing each of you the very best for the Holiday Season and for the coming year! See you all in Sparks!

Until then, keep ‘er steady!  
Larry

## Strengths and Challenges

*Barry Irving, SRM Vice President*

As I sit down to pen this column, I'm sitting in an uncomfortable airport because of a weather cancellation of my flight. So, I am a little more challenged than usual today. Before I start, I'd like to send our collective thank you to the Nevada Section for the meeting they are and will continue to plan and execute on our behalf in Sparks at the end of January. The Nevada Section always does a top notch job and the upcoming Sparks meeting will be no exception.



In the last month we have had a veritable tidal wave of discussion on what SRM is, what its strengths are, and what areas we need to work on. That discussion comes from a very active Membership Committee, and is augmented by the Diversity Task Force, the Young Professionals Conclave, and the Advisory Council, to name a few. I have always followed the dictum that your greatest strength is also likely your greatest weakness. Those of us who are good at details often get caught up in those details, sometimes to the point of not seeing the bigger picture, and those of us who are good at a global visualization, often get caught when details need to be addressed.

There is no doubt in my mind that one of SRM's greatest strengths is our adherence to science, and the strength of position in managing rangelands that comes from good science. A few short decades ago that science was pointed more towards the production side of range management, and that same science was of keen interest to those that benefitted from production. If we fast forward to our current situation, I think many of us would agree that production type science is not the norm in the new information world, and the members of SRM who are most interested in production are the rangeland practitioners and they are not finding that it dominates our SRM psyche like it perhaps once did. On average our rangeland science of today is more ecological, and even more micro-ecological than it once was, and it is certainly less production oriented. Our knowledge of production science has of course improved, but in smaller increments than it once did. The result is, and I freely admit I am in pure speculation mode here, that those who want large and rapid advances on the production side of range management are not finding it in SRM. Which brings us to a weakness we need to consider. I believe, and I am again in speculation mode, that those who are looking for the rapid and large advances in the production side of range management are



I am following a bit of a movement in Alberta, and I suspect that same movement is occurring in other places as well. For lack of a better description, I will call it the intensive management movement. This is not a new movement and has been debated vigorously in the literature and meetings of SRM for over 3 decades. I am not going to get into that debate other than to wonder a few things. I wonder if the current claims of huge improvements in soil health and carbon sequestration (one of the newest things to improve on in rangelands) promoted by a few in the intensive management focus are supported by science. I wonder if the current science that indicates there are modest and often no improvements to be had through intensive management (and negative changes at high stocking rates) will be modified by new science to come in the future. And finally, I wonder if some of the problems that we in SRM face in attracting land practitioner focussed members, is in part caused by our adherence to science in the management of rangelands.

So, where is SRM to go in the near and far future? Our strength is our science focus, and our weakness is our science focus. I have advised a few students over the years, and my advice is always the same. Go to your strengths, and work on your weaknesses. Our challenge is that sound and solid science takes time to generate, and often is incremental rather than revolutionary in change. Communicating that change is the challenge we need to address if we are to overcome our biggest weakness, and continue to capitalize on our biggest strength.

[Read More](#)

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## EVP Update

*Jess Peterson, SRM EVP*

Greetings SRM Members,

There are some great articles in this edition of Rangelands News, so I don't want to command too much of your attention and time. I just wanted to pass along a few updates, along with my sincere thanks for both your membership and all that you do with your involvement and contributions towards rangelands.

For each of you that worked with us through the transition to get your membership set up on the new annual renewal system, I thank you. Like any

able to streamline renewals and focus in on retaining Members. SRM loses too much of its membership due to a lack of retention. Our Staff, the leadership, and Membership Committee are honed in on strategies and activities that can address this challenge.

A big thanks to Sandy Wyman for her efforts on leading the SRM Membership Committee the last several years. She fired up folks with her creativity and vision and got us moving in a positive direction. The baton has been handed off to Past President Gary Frasier, along with long-standing SRM member Devii Rao, to serve as the new co-chairs for the SRM Membership Committee. This group is off and running - if you want to be a part of the team that gets SRM to 5000 Members shoot me an email and I will get you connected with the committee. History will be made by this committee and you will be proud you played a role.

The SRM 2018 Annual Meeting in Sparks is just around the corner. Like previous host Sections, this Planning Committee is doing an incredible job. Make sure you are all set to attend and, when you do, please take a moment to seek out one of your SRM Staff members...pass along your thoughts....Are we missing the mark? Are we doing ok? Where do we need to improve? Your SRM Staff meets nearly every Monday and hammers out the plans and goals for the week ahead. We coordinate with the SRM Board and Committees along with interacting with you the member each and every day. You are passionate about your Society and so are we...together we learn, coordinate and communicate all things that apply to this world we know as rangelands. If you have a question...ask it...work might be being done on that topic...or maybe it needs to be looked into. Each year the Society gets more focused and active on the directives being set forth via the Board, Committees and Members...if you want to get more involved we are just a phone call or email away.



*Jess Peterson (MCC 02) along with Travis Shannon and Sheldon Danforth after a long day on the range....Travis and Sheldon will be in Sparks competing and representing Miles Community College.*

[#RespectOnTheRange](#)

And last but not least, this year Congress will examine, evaluate, amend and pass a new Farm Bill. Millions of conservation dollars are prioritized towards spending on rangeland improvement and practices. And with these dollars, directives are attached to rangeland management. SRM is being asked for

advance, if it's just a complaint, better rework that note before you send it. I am looking for suggestions and will be applying the concept championed by Past President Pluhar, "if you raise a point of objection, what is your suggestion to make it better?" In discussions with the Board and Committees our Staff is working hard to ensure Farm Bill programs place an emphasis on utilizing SRM certified professionals to help advance, implement and certify conservation planning and practices.

In closing, thank you again for supporting SRM. During the Holiday season we find our hearts warmed and feelings positive, let's seek to carry this into the New Year. And if you do find yourself feeling down, know that you have made a difference, your support for the Society makes a positive impact every day. Onward to 2018!

Jess Peterson  
Executive Vice President

*Jess Peterson, SRM Staff and Leadership during the 2017 Summer Fly-In*

[Read More](#)

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## Importance of SRM Membership

*Eddie Alford, SRM Director*

I am beginning my third year serving on the Board of Directors for SRM and each year my goal is to focus on a topic which might spark a new idea or innovation that will help people in our profession; whether it is in academia, administration, research, consulting or on the ground management. Unfortunately I don't have a new topic as I write this, but two topics that keep coming up in my mind are 1) the importance of rangelands and proper management, and 2) membership in our organization. I know you are thinking there is nothing new with these topics, we should all be well aware of them. Clayton Marlow and Jill Burkhardt just wrote an excellent article on



the benefits of membership in the winter 2017 Newsletter, what I want to do is tag on to the work Clayton and Jill did, and talk about why membership is important to me.

First, I think there is a hidden factor in being part of an organization that we might not always be aware of. Maybe that factor is the motivation, support and synergy that take place when people work together.

For example: I can't imagine training to be a competitive marathoner, or to be an Olympic swimmer training solo. You can buy books and tapes from the best coaches in the world, or even work directly with the best coach; but athletes are just better when they are fully submerged in their program and have direct contact with other athletes, trainers and coaches.



I think this same hidden factor takes place in the Society for Range Management. Although we have incredible resources available to us through research, publications, and agency training, we are still better if we are actively involved in our organization, The Society for Range Management. I can't imagine working in range management in administration, research, academia, consulting or on the ground management without being an active member of the Society for Range Management.

I personally have learned more than I ever could have imagined by interacting with officers, other BOD members and committee members during the past 2 years, and I don't think new technology in communications will replace the need for being an active member in SRM. The hidden factor is just not there without being an active member of SRM.

[Read More](#)

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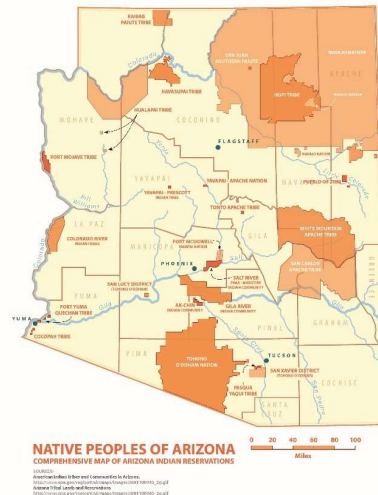
## The Year of Native Rangelands

*David Brischke, VP AZ Section  
Area Assistant Agent, ANR  
Mohave & Coconino County Cooperative Extension  
The University of Arizona*

The Arizona Section of the Society for Range Management (SRM) embarked on a theme of "The Year of Native Rangelands" for our annual events this year. Arizona has almost 20 million acres of Tribal Lands (~27

activities on Native Rangelands can be found in 1957 in what is now known as the White Mountain Apache Tribe Reservation.

The section has sporadically held events on other Native Rangelands: 1958 (San Carlos Reservation), 1967 (Navajo Reservation), 1971 (Gibson O'odham Reservation), 1976 (San Carlos), 1989 (Navajo Nation in conjunction with NM Section), and most recently in 1996 (Black Mesa Mining Complex on Navajo). So, after more than 20 years, we are finally going back to learn more about these important rangeland resources.



The Arizona Section hosts four events through the year, a spring and fall tour and two general membership meetings in summer and winter.

This spring, the Arizona Section co-hosted a spring field tour and monitoring workshop with UA Cooperative Extension on the Hualapai Reservation in April. The workshop/tour was a great success with over 30 people attending both days! The attendees represented most of the tribes located in northern Arizona as well as agencies and general public. The tour focused on great management within some of the Hualapai Grazing Districts and the issues they face. AZ Game and Fish Department led an intense discussion on prairie dogs and the black footed ferret reintroductions occurring around the state.

Wow! What a special Summer Meeting we had! The setting for base camp was at about 6500 feet in elevation in the Ponderosa Pine at the Hualapai Youth Camp; a gorgeous, brand new facility. We were able to hear from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Hualapai Natural Resource and Forestry Departments on: timber management, the history of grazing on Hualapai, current issues and resolutions concerning feral horses, fire management strategies to be implemented by BIA in conjunction with the Tribe which included input from two prominent members of the local Hualapai ranching community. Thursday night brought a wonderful rain and lightning storm during a fantastic presentation on the History of Hualapai and their Culture.



Friday, well I will let the picture speak for itself. We were treated to a beautiful, almost exclusive view of National Canyon.

National Canyon is a finger of the Grand Canyon few people have the opportunity to visit. Hualapai Wildlife staff went over the complexity of the feral horse problem with respect to

wildlife and, specifically, the impact and displacement issues of their infamous trophy elk herd; as well as the overall recreation problems within the canyon itself. I think the take home message for most of us was how progressive range management is on the Hualapai Reservation. As a sovereign

Hualapai Nation and the Buck-n-Doe 4-H Club for their hospitality and catering.

Our Fall Field Tour was hosted by White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT) Land Operations Department. We learned that Hawley Lake and Davis Dam (near Whiteriver, AZ) are monuments to the Tribe's battle for its water rights. While the history is complex, it is absolutely essential to understand because, as the Tribe exercised its rights as a sovereign nation, it laid the groundwork for how their natural resources are managed today. The emphasis on utilizing tribal sovereignty allows the Tribe to build in management flexibility not typically seen with other land management agencies. For instance, the Tribe manages their hunting in a way that takes into account the cultural significance of their wildlife and prefers to manage for quality over quantity in terms of accommodating hunts for non-tribal members. The Tribe and Land Operations Department, in particular, are able to make management decisions for the best interest of their people. Familiarly, perhaps the most pressing challenge is the lack of youth involvement and interest in ranching and in agriculture in general.

Our "Year of Native Rangelands" will conclude with the AZ Section Winter Meeting, Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> on the San Carlos Reservation. Presentations will showcase the work of our Native American Young Professionals, Ranching on Native Rangelands, and Agency and SRM Involvement on Native Rangelands. Following the meeting Erin Boyd, AZSRM Native Range Committee Chair, will host their first strategic planning session. I'll speak for the Section here in saying that we are all very excited for this meeting, and hope some of you in other Sections will join us!

[Read More](#)

## SRM AM18 Reminders

**EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 29, 2017**  
**Pre-registration closes January 5, 2018**  
<http://srm.allenpress.com/srm/ANNUALMEETINGS.aspx>

**HOTEL ROOM BLOCK: Room Rate: \$89/night**

**DEADLINE: January 5!**

[CLICK HERE](#) to book online or call 775-356-3300 OR 800-868-4438 to book by phone. Reference the SRM Annual Meeting and group code **GSRM18**.

**STUDENTS** please call to make your reservation; state that you are a student



**FLIGHT/SHUTTLE INFORMATION:**

Fly into the Reno Airport (airport code: RNO). The Nugget (host hotel) shuttle will run every 1/2 hour to and from the airport/hotel (no reservation necessary).

**YPC WILD RAG FUNDRAISER PRE-ORDER:**

Contact Jarrett Payne [jarrett.payne@msu.montana.edu](mailto:jarrett.payne@msu.montana.edu) to pre-order

**2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL FUN RUN:**

Monday, January 29, 2018: 5PM, Sparks Marina

Contact Rory O'Connor for more information [ro.c.oconnor@gmail.com](mailto:ro.c.oconnor@gmail.com)

**1ST ANNUAL YPC/STUDENT CONCLAVE "BRIDGING THE GAP" MENTORSHIP EVENT:**

[CLICK HERE](#) for the flyer and registration details

**SILENT AUCTION:**

Located in the Trade Show; NOON Monday - NOON Wednesday

All items must be picked up on Wednesday by 2PM - **no exceptions!**

Contact Clarke McClung at [cmccclung@bresnan.net](mailto:cmccclung@bresnan.net) or call 307-751-7846 for information

**2018 STUDENT CHAPTER DISPLAY CONTEST:**

Contact Rory O'Connor for more information [ro.c.oconnor@gmail.com](mailto:ro.c.oconnor@gmail.com)

[CLICK HERE](#) for more details

**RANGE CLUB SADDLE RAFFLE:**

Tickets: \$20 a piece or 6 for \$100 [Click Here For Details](#)



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## In Case You Missed it: SRM Names Top Honor Award

SRM is very pleased to announce the recipients of its top Honor Awards for 2018.

Frederic G. Renner Award:

Dr. Douglas A. Johnson, UT Section

W. R. Chapline Research Award:

Dr. Roger L. Sheley, PNW Section

W. R. Chapline Land Stewardship Award:

John L. McLain, NV Section

Please join us in congratulating these deserving individuals. Details on their awards, citations, etc. will be made available at the 2018 SRM Annual Meeting in Sparks, NV - along with the other Honor and Student Award recipients.

Thank you to all nominators for submitting your nomination packets. As usual, it was a difficult process to narrow down the awardees for each category.

The deadline to submit for the 2019 awards has not been set yet but we encourage everyone to start gathering information **NOW** so we have a full slate of nominees for all categories.

Please be sure to use the NOMINATION FORM and FORMAT from the current version of the Awards Committee Handbook, <http://rangelands.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/awards-committee-handbook-2017-1.pdf>.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS can be found on page 21 and the form/format begin on page 22.

If you have questions about Honor Awards or submitting a nomination, please contact Committee Chair Miranda Meehan at [miranda.meehan@ndsu.edu](mailto:miranda.meehan@ndsu.edu).

Good luck and Happy Nominating!

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## 2018 SRM Endowment Fund Silent Auction

**Don't forget to** bring your donation items for the 2018 Silent Auction at the 2018 Annual Meeting in Sparks! Take something home to commemorate the Meeting. Bid high and bid often!



The Silent Auction will be held in the Trade Show and run from the opening of the Trade Show on Monday at Noon until close on Wednesday at Noon. All items must be picked up on Wednesday by 2:00pm - **no exceptions!**

Contact Clarke McClung at [cmcclung@bresnan.net](mailto:cmcclung@bresnan.net) or call 307-751-7846 for information.

## Utah State University Approved for SRM Re-accreditation



The Society for Range Management is pleased to announce that the Board of Directors (BoD) recently approved re-accreditation of *Utah State University's Rangeland Ecology Program*. USU joins the other ten universities with accredited range programs, and we commend them for offering quality degree programs in rangeland ecology and management that meet the SRM Standards for Accreditation.

## Lost Resources UPDATE: Ed Nelson

The family of Ed Nelson sent us an update regarding his memorial. Itl will be held for Ed on January 27, 2018 2:00 pm at the Stavely Community Hall, Stavely, Alberta.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Ed's Memory to:

Claresholm District & Health Foundation

PO Box

Claresholm, AB T0L 0T0

CANADA (Or by calling foundation coordinator, Tara, at 403-682-3739)

OR:

The University of Alberta

C/O Katherine Irwin

Faculty of Agriculture, Life, and Environmental Science

2-06 Ag/For Building

University of Alberta

Edmonton, AB, T6G 2P5

CANADA

[Click Here](#) to read the updated obituary.

# Journal Highlight: *Rangeland Ecology & Management* (REM) September 2017



([Volume 70, Issue 5](#), September 2017, Pages 529-539)

***Editor's Choice Award: A way of thanking authors for their research.***

## *Potential Climate Change Impacts on Four Biophysical Indicators of Cattle Production from Western US Rangelands*

For each issue of *REM*, we chose one paper as the Editors Choice. It highlights a research manuscript that demonstrates the scientific quality our editorial board believes to be the most impactful to range ecology and management. In the September 2017, we honored *Matthew Reeves, Karen Bagne and John Tanaka* for their article "[Potential Climate Change Impacts on Four Biophysical Indicators of Cattle Production from Western US Rangelands](#)". They have advanced our understanding of the impact of climate change on cattle production in the western US. The western portion of the US is a major beef-producing region of the world. These researchers used the best spatial climate change models available to determine how livestock production might be impacted by year 2100.

Livestock production indicators were: forage quantity, change in the type of vegetation, variability of forage within the year, and the stress heat may cause animals during production. Their analysis forecasted 1) increased forage quantity in the northern regions, 2) a change from woody plant dominance to more grassy types with more variety across the landscape, 3) a lot of variation in forage quantity within a growing season for most regions of the West, and 4) an increase in the number of

increase in forage production in the other areas will be offset by increases in heat stress days. If the western US warms as suggested by these models, the need for intensive, flexible and creative cattle management will continue to grow.

History has proven that livestock managers are some of the most innovative and forward thinking businessmen in the world. They are used to tackling environmental challenges and overcoming barriers that threaten their livelihoods and families. Thanks to Drs. Reeves, Bagne, and Tanaka for giving use some idea about what to expect in the future. We will be ready.

See the entire article in [Rangeland Ecology & Management, 70\(5\):529-539](#).

Roger Sheley

Editor-in-Chief, *Rangeland Ecology and Management*

## Position Announcement: Great Plains Fire Science Exchange



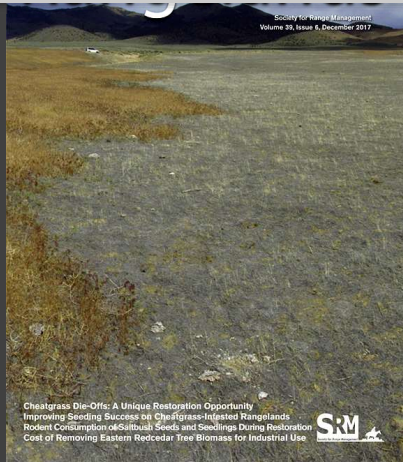
The outreach coordinator will identify and engage stakeholders throughout the tribal lands and 10 states included within the Exchange boundaries, to increase regional fire knowledge and skills. The GPFSE is pivotal in locating and disseminating fire-related science among researchers, policy makers, agencies, landowners, and general audiences.

Review of applicants will begin January 1, 2018. A hiring decision is anticipated by January 31, 2018.

Go to <http://rangelands.org/job-listings/> for full details.

## Journal Highlight: *Rangelands*

The December issue of *Rangelands* is now available!  
([Vol. 39, Issue 6](#))



## **Rangelands!**

### **Enhancing Wind Erosion Monitoring and Assessment for U.S. Rangelands**

Wind erosion is a major resource concern for rangeland managers because it can impact soil health, ecosystem structure and function, hydrologic processes, agricultural production, and air quality. Despite its significance, little is known about which landscapes are eroding, by how much, and when. The National Wind Erosion Research Network was established in 2014 to develop tools

for monitoring and assessing wind erosion and dust emissions across the United States. The Network, currently consisting of 13 sites, creates opportunities to enhance existing rangeland soil, vegetation, and air quality monitoring programs. Decision-support tools developed by the Network will improve the prediction and management of wind erosion across rangeland ecosystems.

This paper is open access and can be read or downloaded free.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0190052817300160>

### **Testing a Remote Sensing-Based Interactive System for Monitoring Grazed Conservation Lands**

Many public agencies and land trusts that manage grazing lands are interested in using remote sensing technologies to make their monitoring programs more efficient but lack the expertise to do so. In California annual grasslands, using remote sensing is especially challenging because the dominant vegetation is not detectable by standard technologies at a key time of year for monitoring. The Nature Conservancy of California (TNC) has developed RDMapper, an easy-to-use web-based tool that uses satellite-based productivity estimates, rainfall records, and compliance history to identify management units at risk of being below the required level of residual dry matter (RDM). TNC successfully used RDMapper in 2015 and 2016 to predict compliance across approximately 47,000 hectares of conservation easement grasslands, while reducing monitoring costs by 42%. We also applied RDMapper on six non-TNC properties (approximately 5,700 hectares) owned by two public agencies. We correctly predicted RDM compliance on 74% of the management units and found the method to be successful overall, with several challenges mainly relating to meeting RDMapper's data requirements. Our study illuminated potential benefits, hurdles, and best practices for landowners interested in using RDMapper to increase monitoring efficiency, and made recommendations to improve it. Adding RDMapper to conventional monitoring toolkits could be game-changing for public lands management agencies that currently struggle to manage vast grasslands.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0190052817300305>

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