

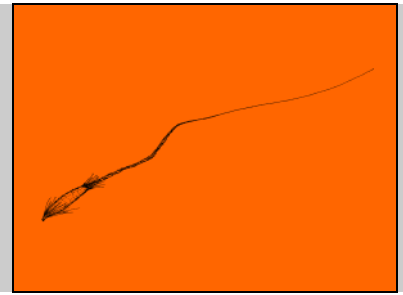


# Needlegrass Notes

Volume 59:1

Fall 2013

Society for Range Management  
California-Pacific Section



## President's Message Alan Bower

First, I want to thank all our members and Board of Directors, for helping me “survive” through this year as president, it has been an honor and welcomed challenge.

Throughout this year, I have been wearing two hats. One, obviously as section president, the other as co-chair for the 2015 Annual Meeting with Sheila Barry. As many of you have been made aware, the lines between these duties have at times been very blurry resulting in the need for our BOD to come together (perhaps more frequently than normal) and provide input and guidance for our section. It has been encouraging to have members of our section (some I had not even met before) contact me during this year to express their interest in getting more involved in our section.



As my term draws to an end, I feel it has been productive yet eye opening (in a positive way). Although I was not able to attend the annual meeting in Oklahoma City, the Cal-Pac section was well represented by the attendance of David Lile at the President's Advisory Council meeting and Sheila Barry carrying the torch for the Sacramento Annual Meeting. Another positive outcome was the election/addition of Leonard Jolley to the national SRM Board of Directors. Despite Stephanie Larson cycling off as a board member another Cal-Pac member was able to fill her shoes. So, along with Ken Fulgham (current board member), Cal-Pac continues to have strong representation on the national level. Along those lines, I am also excited that Stephanie Larson is a candidate for SRM President in the current elections. Regardless of the outcome, it is my understanding that Cal-Pac has never had two of its members on the national board, especially across multiple elections: I'd say we're doing pretty darn good.

In April, we had our spring meeting in Shasta County. Past-President Forero hosted a great tour of three local ranches with assistance from the local NRCS rangeland specialist, Jenna Brazil. This fall we will be having our meeting at Point Reyes on November 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Speaking of meetings, there is a strong ground swell to have the spring 2014 meeting in Humboldt County, stay tuned for details.

### Your 2013 Section Officers & Board

**President:** Alan Bower

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**2013:** Danny Marquis

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**2015:** Julie Finzel

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(Continued on page 2)

**Your 2013 Committee Chairs & Members**

**2015 Annual Meeting:**

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Theresa Becchetti  
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**Members:** Rod Tripp, Loretta Metz,  
Tim Koopman

**Information & Education Co-Chairs:**

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Liz Kellogg  
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(760) 749-2247

**Members:** Marc Horney, Mel  
George, Phil Hogan, Nita Vail

**President's Message, continued from page 1:**

Lastly, I want to share a bit of my perspective from coming off the board and becoming president. It has been an amazing experience. It was easy to sit back as a member and see things that I liked and/or disliked about our section. However, becoming more involved has changed that perspective, mainly due to the realization of the time it takes. Yet I have been impressed with those who have dedicated themselves to our section for quite some time and I have been very pleased with the way our section works well together to continue to improve on what has been built. It has also been encouraging to see many new faces run for board, get elected, and bring a new perspective. In closing, I want to encourage any members in our section to get more involved, whether volunteering for a committee, helping prepare for the 2015 Annual Meeting, or running for office. Yes it may take some of your time, but meeting other members and having the opportunity to contribute to your own professional society's local section makes it all worthwhile!

I look forward to seeing you in Point Reyes in November.

-Alan Bower

## 67th SRM Annual Meeting, February 8-13, 2014

**From the SRM Website:**

This year's 67th Society for Range Management Annual International Meeting, Technical Training and Trade Show will be held in Orlando February 8-13, 2014. The theme for the meeting is "From Dusty Trails to Waning Wetlands" to bring drought and water management, a problem we are all so familiar with, to the forefront of the meeting. The Plenary Session will kick off the meeting with noted speakers Dr. Reed Noss, author of *Forgotten Grasslands of the South* and Professor of Biology at University of Central Florida, discussing the history of grasslands in the south and orienting our largely western-based membership to the regional rangelands. Dr. Thad Box, Former Dean of Utah State University's College of Natural Resources and regular contributor to Rangelands and Utah Public Radio will discuss the history of drought and how his experiences have changed the way he thinks and how drought has shaped the Society. Dr. Donald Wilhite, Professor of Applied Climate Science at University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the Founding Director of the National Drought Mitigation Center will discuss the way forward in how we deal with and manage for drought on our rangelands. Throughout the meeting we will have a large diversity of technical sessions, workshops and symposia covering a range of topics from wildlife to fire ecology.



## Range Camp 2013! The Range Camp Staff

The annual Range and Natural Resources Youth Camp organized by Cal-Pac members and held from June 16 -21 this year, was a great success! We had a total of 17 campers, which is a little less than our annual goal of 25. Our campers came from all over the state, from San Diego to as far north as Glenn and Nevada Counties and even one camper from Hawaii!

Our top three campers were Wyatt Wass from Mariposa, CA, Julia Martinet from Escondido, CA, and Keoni Beaton from Paauilo, Hawaii. Each of our top three campers are offered the chance to participate in the annual High School Youth Forum held during the SRM Annual Meeting. This year's delegates get to travel to Orlando, FL for the 2014 Annual Meeting. Traditionally, our top two campers, in this case Wyatt and Julia, are given a full scholarship to the Forum, while our third place camper, Keoni, must work to find his own funding. We have never had a Forum delegate from Hawaii and Florida is a long way from Hawaii! Each year the Range Camp staff have assisted third place campers in finding HSYF sponsors, and we will make every effort to see that Keoni can make it to Orlando.

It takes a lot of work to make Range Camp a great experience for the students who attend and Range Camp has a great team of volunteer staff, but we could use your help! If you would be willing to lend a hand, please contact Marc Horney ([mhorney@calpoly.edu](mailto:mhorney@calpoly.edu)), Julie Finzel ([jafinzel@ucanr.edu](mailto:jafinzel@ucanr.edu)) or Cece Dahlstrom ([carol.dahlstrom@navy.mil](mailto:carol.dahlstrom@navy.mil)) for more information. If your time is limited, but you would enjoy helping strengthen this program, Range Camp has a variety of important, yet relatively small, tasks that normally take about 10 hours between January and June each year.

If you are wondering if your time would be well invested in this camp activity, you should plan to come visit Range Camp in 2014 so we can show you! Each year camp is held at Elkus Youth Ranch, a UC facility in Half Moon Bay, CA. Camp starts on Father's day and runs until noon the following Friday. We have an excellent professional chef who serves outstanding food and meals are included as a perk for all visitors. We could especially use help getting the word out about Range Camp and that takes very little time! If any of you know any high school students, ages 15-18, who may be interested please let them know about camp and send them to our webpage for more information. <http://casrm.rangelands.org/HTML/rangecamps.html>. Other ways to spread the word about Range Camp include posting our flier, putting a short article in your local paper (news releases are available), visiting with Ag teachers in your community, and helping us think of other great ideas for promoting Range Camp!

We appreciate the support of all of those who volunteer and support Range Camp and we hope to see new faces at Range Camp next year!

### Your 2013 Committee Chairs & Members

#### Meetings Chair:

Rob Pearce  
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#### Membership Chair:

Devii Rao  
[deviir@yahoo.com](mailto:deviir@yahoo.com)  
**Members:** Lynn Huntsinger, Bertha Gillam

#### Nominations & Elections Chair:

Dennis Dudley  
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Neil McDougald

#### Professional Affairs Chair:

Bill Frost  
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**Members:** Orrin Sage, Dianna Brink,  
Tom Frolli

#### Public Affairs Chair:

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#### Student Affairs Chair:

Heidi Ramsey  
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**Members:** Dave Dubose, Theresa Becchetti, Adriana Sulak

#### CRM Panel Chair:

Larry Ford  
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(831) 335-3959

#### CRM Panel Executive Secretary:

Jim Bartolome  
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(510) 642-7945

## 2013 California Pacific Spring Tour Larry Forero

The spring tour was held in the northern end of the Sacramento Valley. The tour this year included a stop along the banks of Cow Creek in Shasta County at JS Ranch. George and Christine McArthur own this ranch. Together they shared their goals, management philosophy, approach to developing key personnel and beef cattle economics. They provided insight into their recent partnership with American Lands Conservancy and USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service. This partnership resulted in the sale of a conservation easement on the ranch. The local USDA NRCS District Conservationist, Bob Bailey and NRCS Range Conservationist Jenna Brazil presented the details of the efforts and timing of getting USDA Grassland Reserve funding and the monitoring that is conducted in cooperation with the ranch owners and staff. Much of the forage produced on the ranch is irrigated pasture. The pasture is irrigated using water diverted from Cow Creek and conveyed through a system of ditches developed in the 1800's. Larry Forero shared the outcome of an irrigated pasture water efficiency project recently conducted on the ranch.



*George McArthur discussing ranch management with tour attendees on the JS Ranch.*

The next stop on the tour was Bonnie Crag Ranch located outside of Shingletown, CA. This ranch has been under the continuous care and management of the Aldridge family for over 150 years. After tri-tip and chicken lunch served by the Shasta College Agriculture Leadership group, Glenn Aldridge shared some of the 150 year history of the ranch. He also discussed the ranch participation in the Cal-Fire Vegetative Management Program (VMP) and the impact program had on improving the forage production and wildlife habitat on the ranch. Larry Forero and Glenn Aldridge outlined the replacement heifer program that Glenn has utilized to improve the productivity of his herd.

The last stop was Hawes Ranch located near Anderson, CA. Glenn Hawes discussed the vernal pool mitigation bank. He provided valuable insight on the timeline and cost associated with developing this enterprise on his ranch. He noted that there are also ongoing expenses associated with the required monitoring for the mitigation bank as well.

The tour was concluded at 3:15 pm. The tour was well attended by section members as well as a number of Shasta College students.

## Save the Date: 2014 Spring Tour in Humboldt County

The 2014 California Pacific Spring Field Tour is being planned for May 29 to May 30, 2014 and will be held in the Arcata/Eureka area.

## Student Member Interviews Devii Rao

In 2013, the Cal-Pac membership committee received funds to offer free, 1-year Cal-Pac memberships to two students. We believe that it is important to engage students in our organization because today's students are the future leaders, not only of Cal-Pac but of the field of range management. Maggie Gannon from Cal Poly and Sara Reid from UC Berkeley were nominated and awarded the free student memberships. Maggie is an Animal Science major, minoring in Range Management. Sara is working toward an M.S. in Range Management. We asked Maggie and Sara a series of questions about their interest in range management and how Cal-Pac can be useful to them. Here's what they had to say.

### ***Interview with Maggie Gannon***

**Question:** How did you become interested in range management?

**Answer:** The first time I heard the words 'range management' was my first semester of college in my Animal Science 101 lecture. Dr. Marc Horney was guest lecturing on Cal Poly's rangeland program, internships that students have experienced, and his personal experiences with range management. It piqued my interest, but what really got me hooked was my experience on the Swanton Pacific stocker back-grounder operation and my Introduction to Beef Production class. Through these experiences, I saw the need for and importance of rangeland management from the perspective of cattle ranchers. After my trip to Davis for this year's California Rangeland Conservation Coalition Summit, where I heard much about current research and conservation easements, I went back to Cal Poly and submitted the paperwork to declare my rangeland management minor.

**Question:** What are you focusing on in your work at Cal Poly?

**Answer:** Due to the fact that Cal Poly does not offer a major in rangeland management, I am currently focusing on a major in the animal sciences and a minor in rangeland management, with the intent to pursue my masters. As of right now I'm looking to become more informed about combining range management and cattle ranching to their best and most productive potential.

**Questions:** How do you see range management fitting into your future?

**Answer:** I don't yet know enough about the professional world of rangeland sciences and management to predict with confidence the way it will fit into my future; however, I'm eager to explore and see what's out there. Specifically I'm looking for opportunities to investigate helping others manage limited resources, protecting and preserving wildlife and natural ecosystems, and developing new sustainable forms of ranch income.

**Question:** How can Cal-Pac SRM help you achieve your professional goals?

**Answer:** The services that Cal-Pac SRM currently provides are appreciated and useful, functioning as a way for members to make professional contacts and relationships. I believe having a specific outlet for young people to participate in the program would be the best way for Cal-Pac to continue helping me achieve my professional goals.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## **Student Member Interviews, continued from page 5:**

### ***Interview with Sara Reid:***

**Question:** How did you become interested in range management?

**Answer:** I think I was interested in the field before I knew what the words “range management” meant. As an undergraduate I studied anthropology and environmental studies, and I have long had an interest in people’s relationship to natural resources, especially plants. I began thinking about how to turn that into a career, and learning about managing plants for sustained human uses became my path. It wasn’t until I began investigating graduate schools, and discovered the program at UC Berkeley, that I considered specializing in range management. What excites me about range management is the possibility for managing wildland resources for many goals. Ecological, cultural, recreational, and food-production needs all come together in a fascinating way in range management.

**Question:** What are you focusing on in your work at UC Berkeley?

**Answer:** Through UC Berkeley, I am working with Pinnacles National Park and the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band on a collaborative grassland restoration project. We are experimenting with burning and seed sowing as methods to increase the abundance of native forbs, or wildflowers, many of which are traditional food plants for California Indian people. Increasing culturally significant native plants for gathering is perhaps a different range use than what people typically think of, but I believe it fits right in with the idea of working landscapes. Learning about traditional land management techniques may also contribute to what we know about grassland management today.

**Question:** How do you see range management fitting into your future?

**Answer:** As a range management student, I am getting a broad training in plant, soil and livestock science, all of which will prepare me for working in some kind of resource management. For me, a career that supports both people and the landscape will be the most rewarding, and working as a range manager is an obvious choice for this. We will see what the job market holds. At the very least, I will bring the principles of range management and the skills I’ve learned in my program with me to wherever I go next.

**Question:** How can Cal-Pac SRM help you achieve your professional goals?

**Answer:** Being part of Cal-Pac SRM helps me better understand the challenges and interests of ranchers and of those committed to preserving working landscapes. Through the website, newsletters, conferences, and field trips, I am learning a great deal about what other people are doing, how they are talking about it, and how I can get involved. All of this will make me better prepared for helping people to sustainably manage working landscapes when I graduate.

## **Certified Rangeland Manager Panel Update** Larry Ford, Certification Panel Chair and James Bartolome, Certification Panel Secretary

The Certification Panel has the following news to report since its last update in Needlegrass Notes, Fall 2011:

**New Certified Rangeland Managers and Associate Rangeland Managers**—Applicants Alan Bower (CRM 98) Lance Criley (CRM 99) and Clayton Koopmann (CRM 100) were approved by the Panel, passed the CRM exam, and were then informed by the Board of Forestry they are now licensed CRMs. The latest list of CRMs is available from the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection at— [http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/professional\\_foresters\\_registration/locate\\_a\\_rpf\\_or\\_crm/](http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/professional_foresters_registration/locate_a_rpf_or_crm/) . Several other applicants are eligible and plan to take the CRM exam this October. Applicant Julie Finzel was approved by the Panel as an ARM.

**CRM Exam and Study Guide**—The Panel, led by Marc Horney, has been working to improve the CRM exam, including developing a database of questions and answers with references to scientific papers. This database has been used to prepare the last few CRM exams, and will be used in the future. The Panel is also working to update a list of scientific references on the required topics for CRM/ARM educational requirements, for distribution to examinees as a Study Guide for the CRM exam, and to backup the exam questions and answers (latest draft available upon request to the Panel Secretary (James Bartolome, [jwbart@berkeley.edu](mailto:jwbart@berkeley.edu)).

**On-line Educational Resources**—Panel Member Susan Edinger Marshall participated in a national SRM program to review and compile on-line educational opportunities about rangelands (<http://rangelandswest.org/coursecatalog/>). The Panel recommends this resource for CRM and ARM applicants seeking to complete their educational requirements. The Panel has completed a revised description of “Fulfilling Academic and Experience Deficiencies to Qualify for California Certified Rangeland Manager (CRM)” (<http://www.rangelands.org/casrm/Assets/certifiedpageassets/Academic%20and%20Educational%20Experience.pdf>).

**Guidance for letters of recommendation**—The Panel, led by Jon Gustafson, completed new guidelines to CRM applicants for their requests to writers of letters of recommendation. In addition to requesting the traditional judgments on professional competence and character, we ask for more detail on the applicant’s ethical behaviors, collaboration with other professionals, maintaining knowledge of new technical information and related disciplines, and qualifications in relation to the stated requirements. This guidance is posted on the Cal-Pac CRM webpage (<http://www.rangelands.org/casrm/HTML/certified.html>).

**New Executive Officer, Professional Foresters Licensing, Board of Forestry and Fire Protection**—The Panel welcomes Matt Dias as the new Executive Officer, Professional Foresters Licensing, of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.

*(Continued on page 8)*

**Certified Rangeland Manager Panel Update, continued from page 7:**

**Revised CalPac CRM Program Description**—The Cal-Pac CRM Program Description was revised by the Panel and approved by the Cal-Pac Board of Directors. This document was returned to the Panel by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (BOF) Professional Foresters Examination Committee (PFEC, with CRM Panel representative Bill Frost) with suggestions for additional revisions and clarifications. The main issues were about including the eventual revised description in the next version of the Professional Foresters Rules, separating Cal-Pac's Associate Rangeland Manager (ARM) program from the CRM program, and clarifying involvement of Cal-Pac in the process of appeals for a denied application or failed exam. The Panel has endorsed the proposed revisions, and reformatted the document. These final revisions were approved by the Cal-Pac Board of Directors, PFEC, and subsequently BOF. The BOF voted unanimously to pursue a Section 100 rule revision for 14 CCR 1651. This will update the reference date for the new Cal-Pac CRM Program Description, pending approval by the Office of Administrative Law. Thanks to Matt Dias for guiding us in this process and keeping us updated.

**Associate Rangeland Manager Program Maintained**—The ARM program was extracted from the CRM Program description that will be included in the Professional Foresters Code for procedural reasons. The Panel recognizes that not all eligible rangeland professionals in the state have taken advantage of the ARM program in the past, indicating the designation has less value than desired. However, the Panel decided to maintain the ARM program separately from the CRM program, and will continue to operate it for the section. We recognize the need to improve recognition of the ARM-CRM programs by agencies, consultants, and other employers that drive the process of employees recognizing the value of the ARM and CRM in their careers. We further recognize that current students in range management or related programs would benefit from “mentoring” by Cal-Pac member CRMs to guide them in choosing or revising their academic curricula to prepare them to be successful in applying for and passing the exam for the CRM license. Therefore, we have asked the Cal-Pac Board of Directors to develop such a mentoring program, drawing on the larger Cal-Pac membership.

**Updated CRM Webpage**—The Panel thanks Cal-Pac Director Lance Criley and Website host, Liz Kellogg for a much improved CRM program website (<http://www.rangelands.org/casrm/HTML/certified.html>) and for continuing to update it.

**Panel Membership**—John Harper, Larry Forero, and Susan Edinger Marshall were nominated to serve on the Panel and were approved by the Board of Forestry. Rob Pearce retired from the Panel after many years of dedicated and greatly valued service.



## **Cal-Pac SRM Annual Meeting** **November 25 and 26, 2013**

### **Agenda:**

#### **November 25, 2013 (Monday)**

Walker Creek Ranch  
1700 Marshall-Petaluma Road  
Petaluma, CA 94952

- 9:00 am CRM Panel Meeting
- 12:00 pm Lunch (hosted)
- 1:00 pm Cal Pac Board of Directors Meeting
- 3:30 pm Cal Pac General Membership Meeting
- 4:30 pm Adjourn General Meeting
- 5:00 pm Hosted Social/discussion of SRM 2015 Annual Meeting
- 6:30 pm Banquet, auction, and further discussion of SRM 2015 Annual Meeting

#### **November 26, 2013 (Tuesday)**

Red Barn Classroom  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
76 Bear Valley Road  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

- 9:30 am Economics of beef cattle ranching, Larry Forero, UC Cooperative Extension
- 10:15 am Pasture, Ranch, Landscape, Lynn Huntsinger, UC Berkeley
- 11:00 am Flickr: How do people view grazing? Shiela Barry, UC Cooperative Extension
- 11:45 am Lunch
- 12:45 pm Non-production costs associated with grazing public lands, Sheila Barry and Larry Forero, UC Cooperative Extension
- 1:30 pm Importance of grazed grassland habitats to rare plant species at Point Reyes National Seashore, Amelia Ryan, Point Reyes National Seashore
- 2:00 pm A bird's eye view of grasslands and shrublands on the California coast, Ryan DiGaudio, Point Blue Conservation Science
- 3:00 pm Thinking about elk, James Bartolome, UC Berkeley

Registration information will be forthcoming.



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# 68<sup>th</sup> SRM Annual Meeting & Trade Show

JANUARY 30 - FEBRUARY 7, 2015 ★ SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

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## TOUR OPTIONS FROM THE SEA TO THE SIERRAS

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Beale Air Force Base ★ Sierra Foothill Research and Extension Center ★ Sierra Skiing



## CALLING ALL CAL-PAC SRM MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS

Meeting planning for SRM 2015 Sacramento has just begun. Please share your talents and interests in helping make this a wildly successful annual meeting. Many opportunities on different planning committees are available.

For more information about how you can participate, contact the meeting co-chairs:

Sheila Barry—408.282.3106, sbarry@ucdavis.edu ★ Alan Bower—530.527.2667 ext 105, Alan.Bower@ca.usda.gov

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[pabrownsey@gmail.com](mailto:pabrownsey@gmail.com)

## Keep in Touch

Moved, changed jobs, or have a new email address? Don't forget to update your membership information on the National SRM website at <http://www.rangelands.org> and the California-Pacific Chapter by sending an email to Morgan Doran at [mpdoran@ucanr.edu](mailto:mpdoran@ucanr.edu). We'll correct your email address on our email listserve so that you stay up to date on the latest news and happenings in the chapter.

*California-Pacific Section SRM*  
*501 Texas Street*  
*Fairfield, CA 94533*



# Society for Range Management

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We're on the web:

<http://casrm.rangelands.org>

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