



Needlegrass Notes

Volume 60:1

Spring 2014

*Society for Range Management
California-Pacific Section*



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President's Message David Lile

As we try to enjoy the idea of spring passing into summer, I think most of us in the Range Management profession have felt a bit humbled this year as the severe drought conditions remind us of those forces beyond our control. Even as science moves beyond where our grandparents probably ever imagined, we still are fundamentally at the mercy of Mother Nature. That said, we've seen droughts come and go before, and we will see them come and go again. We're not perfect but I do think we have done a pretty good job with a drought management (or maybe drought coping) message to our ranching colleagues, our public stakeholders, as well as among ourselves as range professionals and academics. Every trying time is also a learning experience as well, albeit this has been an expensive one for some folks. Still nothing eases our worries like a good soaking rain or heavy snow. We've had a few of those in the past couple months, making things not quite as dire as they looked in February. I hope you have had some relief as well.



Let me offer a belated thanks and recognition for the organizers of the Fall Meeting: Devii Rao, Stephanie Larson, and Larry Forero. And huge thanks as always to Edie Jacobsen for managing the money side of things. Great discussions and equally great location, thank you for an outstanding meeting! Welcome to the new Directors to our Cal-Pac Board: Josh Davy and Rob Pearce were voted in to new three-year terms following our Fall Meeting, and Ceci Dale-Cesmat was voted President-elect. Since she was mid-term as a Director, Ceci's election to President-elect left a vacancy on the Board, and per the bylaws, a new Director was appointed by the existing Board to serve the rest of Ceci's term. Breanna Owens was selected for that slot and will serve through fall of 2015.

And as you likely know by now, planning and preparations are well underway for the Sacramento 2015 Annual Meeting. If you are looking for ways to help, touch base with one of our co-chairs, Sheila Barry and Alan Bower, and they can help direct you to a committee or give you a heads-up about the next bi-weekly conference call.

Lastly, I want to invite everyone to the 2014 Spring Meeting to be held May 29 and 30 in Humboldt. It looks to be like an excellent agenda, and in another one of my favorite parts of our state. I hope to see you there!

Your 2013 Committee Chairs & Members

2015 Annual Meeting:

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Members: Rod Tripp, Loretta Metz,
Tim Koopman

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lcriley@fs.fed.us
(619) 445-6235

Liz Kellogg
ac@tierradta.com
(760) 749-2247

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

68th SRM Annual Meeting

January 30 to February 7, 2015 in Sacramento

Planning is well underway!

The 68th SRM Annual Meeting and Trade Show will be held at the Sacramento Convention Center from January 30 to February 7, 2015. The California-Pacific Section of SRM is planning a “much different” annual meeting. Our meeting will not only showcase the diversity of California’s rangeland ecosystems through a variety of tours but also highlight the diversity of people and organizations, who manage, make their livelihood or use the state’s vast rangelands.

Highlights of the program we are planning include:

Saturday, January 31.

- Opening tour. A tour to a grazed regional park and dinner in San Francisco.

Sunday, February 1.

- City grazing tour. A tour and discussion with an urban prescribed grazing operator.
- Trade Show and Super Bowl party. The opening of the tradeshow will begin with a Super Bowl party formally the trade show mixer.

Monday, February 2

- AM Plenary session. The plenary session will include Dr. Temple Grandin, who is not only known for her expertise in cattle handling and behavior, but also championing the importance of different “diverse” minds working together.
- PM Technical session. Featuring a special symposium on the Diversity of California’s Rangelands.
- Trade show continues: And includes demonstrations (Brand reading demonstration, Beef and Lamb Butcher demonstration, Range to Plate Cooking Demonstration, Rangeland Plant and Weed ID self-tests)

Tuesday, February 3

- Symposia, papers and workshops. A wide range of technical sessions covering all topics rangeland: weeds, water quality, restoration, mitigation, sustainability, grazing, economics, wildlife, soils, drought, public lands.

(Continued on page 3)

- Special sessions including the meeting of the 10th annual California Rangeland Conservation Coalition Summit.
- Producer forum featuring rancher/land manager/agency “therapy” sessions.
- Trade show continues and includes a job fair.
- Evening Awards Ceremony
- Annual Dance

Wednesday, February 4

- Full-day of technical tours. We will be offering around 10 different tours to rangeland sites near Sacramento including options to visit a research and extension center, the plant materials center, Beale Air Force Base, a native grass seed farm, a grass-finished beef operation, conservation lands, rangeland restoration sites, and ecological site description assessment sites.

Thursday, February 5

- Technical sessions continue.

As you can see we are planning an exciting and full agenda. We have a great planning committee but we need your help. At this planning stage we especially need tour leads and trade show demonstration leads. If you are interested in making SRM 2015 the best, please let us know of your interest.

Contact:

Sheila Barry, sbarry@ucanr.edu, 408-282-3106

Alan Bower, alan.bower@ca.usda.gov, 530-527-2667 ext. 105

Tacy Currey, tacy@curreyranch.com, 707-678-5958



Your 2013 Committee Chairs & Members

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Rob Pearce
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CRM Panel Executive Secretary:

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2013 Annual Meeting Recap Devii Rao

Day 1 of the Annual Meeting was held at Walker Creek Ranch in Marin County, a beautiful 1,700 acre ranch with a diversity of habitats. Cal-Pac members were given a short history of the ranch, were provided a delicious banquet dinner, and enjoyed the convenient on-site sleeping accommodations.

Day 2 of the meeting was held at Point Reyes National Seashore. The Seashore manages roughly 69,000 acres of land (water acreage is not included here), including north district Golden Gate National Recreation Area lands. Approximately 28,000 of those acres are leased for dairy and beef ranching by 24 families. Most of the families have been ranching these lands for generations. The Seashore is also home to 27 federally listed threatened and endangered species. This complex interplay between ranching, special-status species, and recreation makes management at Point Reyes National Seashore interesting and challenging.

Topics discussed at the Annual Meeting were wide-ranging, from the economics of beef cattle ranching (Dr. Larry Forero), the influence of grazing on plants and birds (Amelia Ryan and Ryan DiGaudio, respectively) to a lively panel discussion about management of elk on lands that are leased for cattle grazing. Professor Lynn Huntsinger showed us how to look at ranching from 3 different spatial scales: the pasture, ranch, and landscape. Sheila Barry shared her research on how the public views grazing, and Dr. Stephanie Larson described a study looking at non-production costs associated with grazing on public lands.

The three members of the panel discussion were Professors Dale McCollough and Jamie Bartolome, and Dr. Stephanie Larson. Professor Bartolome described the need to define clear management goals and objectives and how to incorporate those goals and objectives into a planning process. Professor McCollough discussed the biology of tule elk and how they were returned to Point Reyes after having been extirpated for many years. Dr. Larson provided a sense of the challenges ranchers can face when leasing federal lands with tule elk. A few local ranchers attended the meeting and participated in the panel discussion. Overall it was a great day with people sharing their knowledge and perspectives.

2014 Range Camp Update Marc Horney, 2014 Range Camp Director

Hi everyone. We are now past the official camp registration deadline (4/18), but we still have about 10 spaces to fill. Can you help us get the word out to high school students in your area? We have a press release template that I'd be glad to send to anyone who would like to send it to a local paper. Applications and camp brochures are posted on the section's Range Camp page:

<http://www.rangelands.org/casrm/HTML/rangecamps.html>.

I believe we may still have a sponsorship or two available. If you find any students who would like to attend, but whose family is in financial difficulty, please encourage them to submit an application so we can put them in the assistance queue.

Finally, we **really** could use some membership support with planning and running the camp. We are chronically short-handed, and the small core of Cal-Pac members who have been the most dedicated in volunteering their time to pull the event together are going through numerous life-changes (new job assignments, families, increasing workloads, etc.). We cannot continue this activity much longer without new people to help share the workload.



CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

2014 is the Centennial Year for Humboldt State University, University of California Cooperative Extension and Farm Bureau. During their first 100 years these institutions have played prominent roles in range science education, research and extension. Join us for this celebration and a Humboldt Bay Pasture Tour.



**California-Pacific Section
Society for Range Management
Spring Meeting
May 29-30, 2014**

For more information, including maps and hotels see:

<http://casrm.rangelands.org/Assets/Meetings%20and%20Events/CalPac%20Reg.pdf>

CALPAC SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT MEETING

May 29-30, Arcata, CA

REGISTRATION

Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Spouse/
Guest Name: _____

Meeting Registration Rates

No. of people	Registration	Before May 15		After May 15	
		\$	Total \$	\$	Total \$
	SRM MEMBER (full registration: includes forum and dinner on 5/29 and tour and lunch on 5/30:	\$100	\$	\$120	\$
	SRM MEMBER (tour only registration): includes LUNCH ONLY on 5/30:	\$20	\$	\$25	\$
	NON-MEMBER (full registration: includes forum and dinner on 5/29 and tour and lunch on 5/30	\$120	\$	\$140	\$
	NON-MEMBER (tour only registration): includes LUNCH ONLY on 5/30	\$25	\$	\$30	\$
	STUDENT (full registration: includes forum and dinner on 5/29 and tour and lunch on 5/30	\$75	\$	\$90	\$
	STUDENT (tour only registration): includes LUNCH ONLY on 5/30	\$20	\$	\$25	\$
	SPOUSE/GUEST (Thursday dinner registration): includes dinner ONLY on 5/30	\$50	\$	\$60	\$
	GRAND TOTAL:		\$		\$

On-line Registration is available through Allen Press at <http://srm.allenmm.com> , click on "Sections" and then click applicable section meeting. If you would prefer to pay by check, please make the check payable to CalPac Section SRM and mail with completed registration form to:

Edie Jacobsen
4576 New York Street
San Diego, CA 92116

You can also pre-register by email at vitus7@att.net or call 619-322-4404.

CAL PAC SECTION OF THE SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT		
May 29-30, 2014 - Arcata, CA		
Thursday, May 29		
	BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING	
8-12 pm	Board of Directors	Behavioral & Social Sciences 508
Noon-1	LUNCH	On your own
CENTENNIAL FORUM		
Humboldt State University - Natural Resources 101		
	Presentation	Speaker
1 - 1:10	Welcome	Mel George
1:10	Humboldt County CE History	Yana Valachovic
1:30	FB History	Dona Moxon
1:50	UCCE History	Barbara Allen-Diaz
2:10	UC Range History	Mel George
2:30	HSU Range History	Ken Fulgham
2:50	BREAK	
3:10	HSU Range Future	Susan Marshall
3:30	UC Range Future	Ken Tate
4:00-5:00	SRM 2015	Sheila Barry
6-7 pm	SOCIAL HOUR	D Street Neighborhood Center (map)
7:00 PM	DINNER	
Friday, May 30		
HUMBOLDT BAY PASTURE TOUR		
Tour Leader - Jeff Stackhouse		
9:00 a.m.	Meet at Shopping Center near Motels/Carl's Jr.	Group into fewest vehicles
9:30 a.m.	Hunt Pastures (Stop 1)	Arcata Bottoms
	Rotational Grazing & Humboldt Ranching Operations	Dean Hunt
	Partners in Conservation	Dina Moore
10:30	Leave Hunt Pastures	
11:30	Russ Ranch (Stop 2)	Russ Family Enterprise at Ferndale
12:00	LUNCH	Lunch Provided with Registration
12:30	Aleutian Goose Study	Francis Tjarnstorm
	Russ Grazing Program	Jay Russ
	Niche Marketing	Sara Mora
	Buckeye Conservancy	
2:30 AM	Leave Russ Ranch	
3:00	Waste Water System (Stop 3)	Mark Andre and Bob Gearheart
4:00	Tour End	



68th SRM Annual Meeting & Trade Show

JANUARY 30 - FEBRUARY 7, 2015 ★ SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

TOUR OPTIONS FROM THE SEA TO THE SIERRAS

San Francisco Fishermen's Wharf ★ Urban Grazed Parks ★ Wine Tasting ★ Vernal Pool Grasslands
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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1/8 Page	\$20
Column inch	\$10

E-mail mpdor@ucanr.edu for more information or to submit an advertisement

Newsletter Articles

All contributions to *Needlegrass Notes* are welcome. Please submit your articles to:

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 mpdor@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
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Fairfield, CA 94533



Society for Range Management

We're on the web:

<http://casrm.rangelands.org>
