

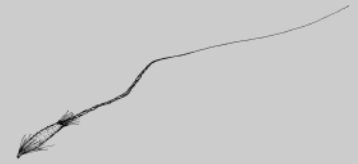


Needlegrass Notes

Volume 57:2

Fall 2011

Society for Range Management
California-Pacific Section



President's Message

Susan Edinger Marshall



The tomatoes are finally getting red in my garden and the black walnut and bay leaves are falling. It must be fall in Humboldt County. Schools are back in session and the students here at Humboldt State are digging into their fourth week of the semester. What are you doing this fall? Shipping cattle? Writing reports and waiting for the end of the fiscal year? Planning a hunting trip? For this edition of the *Needlegrass Notes*, I'll look back at the issues I wrote about in the spring newsletter when the grass was still green at Fort Tejon.

Your 2011 Section Officers & Board

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1. Our Spring meeting is history and now we look forward to the Fall Annual Meeting in Modesto (Nov. 7-8) where we will learn about Integrated Weed Management on California Rangelands.
2. Our site visit to Sacramento this summer, in preparation for the SRM Annual meetings in 2015, was very exciting. The hotels (Sheraton Grand and Hyatt Regency) are stunning, offer excellent room rates, and are very near the Convention Center. Alan Bower and Sheila Barry are co-chairs for this meeting. I would strongly encourage Cal-Pac members to volunteer to serve on subcommittees as we approach the 2015 Annual meetings.
3. At the Fort Tejon meeting, the Board of Directors met briefly to prioritize and update our Strategic Plan. Items were designated to be revised, deleted or completed. Quite a bit of progress is being made in the Certified Range Managers program. Karen Sweet is working on a limited basis as a consultant to help us move forward as a professional society.
4. Cal-Pac members are working to improve public policy decisions by appearing at various professional meetings around the state. Sheila Barry and others presented a panel titled "Working Towards Effective and Efficient Conservation and Mitigation of Habitat and Open Space" at the California Planner's Association Annual Meeting September 12, 2011. Susan Edinger Marshall and others will present a panel describing the potential use of Certified Rangeland Managers for the California Resource Conservation Districts Annual Meeting on Nov. 10, 2011.
5. On the education front:
 - Humboldt State, in a consortium with Reedley, Merced and Shasta Colleges, submitted a \$540,000 USDA Multicultural Scholars grant focusing on Range and Soils education (pending notification in early 2012). Thanks to Cal-Pac SRM members who wrote letters of support. Seven HSU students are practicing hard for the SRM Plant Identification contest in Spokane.

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- Mel George and Cody Sheehy at U.C. Davis have obtained digital video from Oklahoma, Eastern Oregon and Australia and will soon be capturing ecosystem exploration imagery from New Mexico, Utah and Idaho in support of the Rangeland Higher Education Challenge Grant.
 - Cal Poly SLO students are beginning to undertake conducting baseline rangeland health and RDM assessments of all Cal Poly grazing lands with Marc Horney, a process that will take three years to cover 5000 acres. Dr. Horney will take a second group of Cal Poly students to the 2012 SRM Meetings, with some competing in undergraduate presentations and posters.
 - There were 25 high school students at Range Camp in June. It was my first visit and I was very impressed by the caliber of students and the presenters, too. A motion will be presented at the Cal-Pac Board meeting in November to rename the camp in honor of Mike Stroud.
6. In spring, we sent out reminder notices to SRM members whose memberships had lapsed. Thanks to all of you who have re-joined or even purchased LIFE memberships. The parent society has held several call-in conferences to try to improve membership services and responsiveness. We are getting monthly membership reports from Allen Press and as of September 1, we have 200 members and about 57 who have lapsed recently. I have heard repeatedly that we need to make our meetings and activities mesh with agency training plans and concerns and with the needs of people involved with managing working landscapes. There are still many agency folks who have not joined because they “don’t have time or support” to be involved. However, our membership fees (\$75) are tax deductible and comparable or lower than affiliated societies. Your profession needs your support even if you cannot attend meetings or serve on committees. I guess I’m preaching to the choir here, please encourage your colleagues to join. In the past year, we lost at least two of our most revered members, Mike Stroud and Harold Heady. Let’s work hard to do right by their memory by encouraging and supporting our existing members and bringing in new members with similar passion and talent.
7. We will continue to track what is happening with statewide Grazing/Water Quality Regulations in California and as a soon-to-be Past President, I would like to plan a Rangeland Water Quality Meeting for Spring 2012 and am open to ideas and locations for the Fall 2012 Annual Meeting.

8. John Stechman has forwarded to me his nominations for Historian. This position is appointed by the President, and a new Historian is being sought.

In closing, I believe that we are on the cusp of a renaissance in rangeland science, education and management. The California-Pacific Section of SRM will have much to share with the rest of our society in our upcoming 2015 meetings. For example, a Woods Institute Uncommon Dialogue about California Rangelands was held at Stanford University May 13, 2011. To see the abstracts and Power Point presentations from this meeting, see <http://woods.stanford.edu/ideas/california-rangelands/abstracts.html>. Nita Vail wrote an op-ed piece in the San Francisco Chronicle on August 21, 2011 on behalf of the California Rangeland Trust titled “California Rangelands need Greater Protection.” The importance of California and Hawaii’s rangeland is being discussed as never before and you are important professionals in this arena. Keep up the good work!

California-Pacific Spring Meeting at Tejon Ranch

By Morgan Doran

The Spring Meeting at Tejon Ranch was one not to miss, and wasn't by many members. Most of us were awed by the sheer size of the ranch, 270,000 acres, but if that wasn't enough we had plenty of more reasons to enjoy the tour. Graced by amazing landscapes rich in wildflowers and lush grasses, the physical beauty of the ranch gave us reason to be thankful. We also had the privilege to learn, in great detail, the unique plant communities located on the arid rangelands south of the Tehachapi mountain range, the intriguing Tejon Ranch history, the landmark conservation easement, the grazing management, the resource diversity and the degree to which the area serves as a vital conduit between Northern and Southern California.

The meeting started with providing an overview of the ranch history, the making of the conservation easement, the establishment of the Tejon Ranch Conservancy, development plans, historical and present livestock grazing, organized hunting on the ranch and probably much more. This was followed by a great Tri-Tip dinner, wine and lots of catching up with friends. The following day we loaded into vans for a ranch tour that first led us through the arid and gentle slopes south of the Tehachapi range where Dr. Bartolome and his lab crew described their work on the ranch and the plant community dynamics. We were dazzled by the array of wildflowers (see picture below) before departing for the old ranch headquarters on the north side of the Tehachapi range. On the road to the old headquarters we drove through and saw yet another major aspect of the Tejon Ranch.... the many agricultural fields on the southern-most edge of the San Joaquin Valley. The tour well illustrated the size and diversity of the Tejon Ranch and was a great opportunity for all of us to learn the historical and current management of one of California's interesting rangeland areas and ranches.

Many thanks go to our Past President, Jim Sullins, for planning and executing such a memorable tour and for picking a perfect spring to see the Tejon Ranch. I would also like to thank the Tejon Ranch for hosting our Spring Meeting.

The California-Pacific group enjoying the range on Tejon Ranch.



Your 2011 Committee Chairs & Members

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California-Pacific Ballots Are Due October 28th!

This year we are voting for the Section's next president and for two positions on the Section's Board of Directors. Current Board members Alan Bower and Mark Thorne are rotating off the Board while Larry Forero, the current President-Elect, will assume the presidential honors at the fall meeting in Modesto meeting.

While Alan Bower rotates off the Board, he has stepped up as our only candidate for President . Alan is a the Area 1 Rangeland Management Specialist for the USDA-NRCS. We have four candidates for the two Board of Directors positions, they include: Philip Brownsey, a Range Program Manager for the Shasta-Trinity National Forest; Kristan Flynn, a Rangeland Management Specialist for the USDA-NRCS in Petaluma; Devii Rao, a Range Management Consultant in Paicines; and Heidi Ruhling, Rangeland Management Specialist for the USDA-NRCS in Modesto.

Please read each candidate's statement and send your ballot to Sheila Barry by Friday, October 28, 2011. If you are receiving this newsletter electronically, just print both ballot pages , preferably double-sided if you can, and send in your completed ballot. We will send occasional reminders between now and mid-September.

Candidate for President

Alan Bower, Candidate for President
Area Rangeland Management Specialist
USDA-NRCS, Red Bluff, CA

It is an honor to be nominated for the next Cal-Pac Sectional President position. For the past few years I have served as a director for Cal-Pac and am excited about the possibility of continuing my service for our local section.

My professional experience has consisted of working for the Bureau of Land Management and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (from 2001 to May of 2007) as a rangeland management specialist, in Bakersfield and Quincy, CA, respectively. That was followed by a position with University of California Cooperative Extension as a livestock/natural resources advisor in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. More recently, I have returned to NRCS as the Area 1 (northern California) Rangeland Management Specialist. Throughout my career, I have focused on helping ranchers with performing sound rangeland and pasture management in order to help them be sustainable in their operations, and provided technical information on rangeland planning and practices. Also, I have taught rangeland principles on the university level for a semester, as well as provided training and hosted workshops within the discipline. Additionally, I have performed rangeland and pasture research, and provided livestock health and management technical assistance, to meet the needs of the ranching and natural resource community.

I have been a member of the Society for Rangeland Management since 1999 and I feel my background and experience will help me in the position as President for the Cal-Pac SRM section.

Candidate for Director

Philip Brownsey
Range Program Manager
Shasta-Trinity National Forest

"I am honored to have been nominated to be a candidate for the Board of Directors of the Cal-Pac Section.

I am currently Range Program Manager for the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, where I have taken on the challenge of leveraging limited resources to administer a program that is facing increasing public scrutiny, increasing monitoring requirements, and a decreasing budget. I have found that it is vital that I continue to communicate the range

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program's accomplishments, communicate how the range program can help other resource programs, as well as spend considerable time listening to the concerns of other agency scientists and livestock producers so that I can understand how I can meet their needs.

While I worked as a field laborer on a produce farm in upstate New York during summers while earning my undergraduate degree, I was first introduced to range management in 2004 when I took a seasonal vegetation monitoring position with The Nature Conservancy at the Dye Creek Ranch where I worked on projects focused on assessing and comparing the affects of cattle grazing and fire on annual grasslands and blue oak woodlands. I found that the intersection of production agriculture and natural resource management that range management offers to be both a very intriguing and satisfying approach to land conservation.

I earned an M.S. in Range Management from U.C. Berkeley in 2008 and a B.A. in Economics from Colby College in 1999. I am also an Associate Rangeland Manager through the Cal-Pac Section. I joined SRM and the Cal-Pac Section in 2006 before the fall meeting in Bishop. I have since upgraded to a life membership with SRM.

I see communication as both a challenge and an opportunity for the range management profession. Whether it is with other specialists within our own organizations, other natural resource professions in California, livestock producers, or other land managers, it is vital that we communicate and demonstrate the value and expertise that range managers can provide for improved natural resource management, both as individuals at work and as a professional society."

Candidate for Director

Kristan Flynn

Rangeland Management Specialist
USDA-NRCS, Petaluma, CA

I am pleased to be on the ballot as a candidate for the Board of Directors for the Cal-Pac Section of the Society for Range Management. I have been involved with SRM since 2001, originally as a student, and have continued my participation as a professional. I have attended both sectional and national meetings, and assisted in organizing the 2005 Fall field tour held in Marin County. As a Society for Range Management Director, I look forward to serving my profession in a greater capacity.

My education includes a Bachelor of Science degree in Rangeland Resource Science, with a Minor in Geographical Information Systems, from Humboldt State University (2003).

I began my career in range management with NRCS in 2002 as a student participating in the SCEP program in Humboldt, Marin, and Sonoma Counties. I have continued working with NRCS and currently hold the position of Rangeland Management Specialist in the Petaluma Field Office covering Marin and Sonoma Counties. During my employment with NRCS, I have developed strong working relationships with livestock producers, partnering agencies, and the Point Reyes National Seashore. I have worked diligently to maintain these relationships, and provide direct technical assistance in pasture and range management, dairy production, and weed management.

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Candidate for Director

Devii Rao
Range Management Consultant
Paicines, CA

I was asked to run for Board of Directors for the Cal-Pac Section of the Society for Range Management, and am honored to do so. I have been attending Cal-Pac meetings since 2005 and at each meeting I learn something about the members and their important work. I am pleased to have the opportunity to become more deeply involved and contribute to an organization that is committed to understanding, conserving, and educating people about rangelands and working landscapes.

I believe that my educational and professional experience has prepared me to be a valuable participant on the Cal-Pac Board. In 1996 I completed my B.A. in environmental studies with a minor in economics at UC Santa Cruz and in 2007 I completed my M.S. in range management at UC Berkeley. During the years between my bachelor's and master's degrees I worked in a number of fields related to range management, including wildlife biology, weed management, and native plant restoration. After finishing my master's degree I spent a year and a half working as a rangeland conservationist for the Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District in Sonoma County. In that position I administered grants providing technical and financial assistance to ranchers for inventorying soil erosion sites and implementing water quality improvements. Since then I have been working for Lawrence D. Ford as a range management consultant focusing on rangeland monitoring and grazing management strategies to improve habitat for a wide variety of special-status species. I am currently an Associate Rangeland Manager, and expect to be certified and licensed as a CRM in 2012.

I look forward to the possibility of serving the Cal-Pac community in this significant capacity.

Candidate for Director

Heidi M. Ruhling
Rangeland Management Specialist
USDA-NRCS, Modesto, CA

The first part of my career was spent as a salesperson in private industry working with regular folks. After fully realizing my desire to work in natural resource management, I attended college and received my bachelors in Range Resource Science with an emphasis in Wildland Soils from Humboldt State University. I spent two exciting summers working with innovative and hardworking ranchers and farmers via the NRCS in New Mexico. I was recently hired as a Rangeland Management Specialist with NRCS in Modesto.

My current and future goals involve learning more about managing rangelands by working with experienced range scientists, by getting out on the land, and probably most of all, by listening to ranchers whose lives depend on them.

My grandparents were cattle ranchers in Nevada so I allowed their stories and my summer visits to the desert to fill the cracks that the Sacramento suburbs left in my being. Rangelands are forged within me. Through education, I have learned the vital role that rangelands play for society, for creatures great and small, and for the security of this democracy. I want to be on the Cal-Pac SRM board because I want to be responsible for rangelands in every capacity and to do this, I must become involved.

California-Pacific Section of the Society for Range Management
2011 Fall Ballot

President (Mark no more than one)

Alan Bower

Board of Directors (Mark no more than two)

Philip Brownsey

Kristan Flynn

Devii Rao

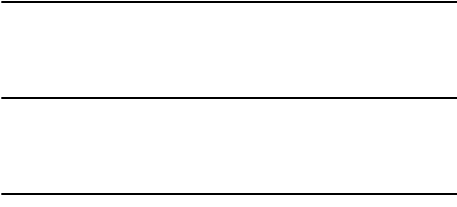
Heidi Ruhling

To send this ballot, print this page and the next page double-sided and mail using the address provided on the next page **OR** print this page and mail in an envelope to:

Sheila Barry

15320 Willow Drive

Los Gatos, CA 95032



Sheila Barry
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Fold

Certified Rangeland Manager Panel Update

By Larry Ford, CRM Panel Chair

Applicants—Breanna Owens recently passed the CRM exam. Three applications are in progress.

CRM Eligibility—The Panel has worked for several years to clarify its guidelines on reviewing Certified Rangeland Manager (CRM) applicants regarding substitutions of related education and experience for the defined qualifications in rangeland management. The CRM Program Description (adopted by the Cal-Pac SRM Board of Directors) focuses on a formal academic program in rangeland management and directly related professional experience, and gives the panel discretion to accept substitutions if appropriate. The Panel reviewed many suggestions from Cal-Pac members and others, the policies of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, and the related eligibility rules for the sister program, Registered Professional Foresters. Progress in making the CRM exam more comprehensive and rigorous has helped the Panel decide that it can rely more on the exam to evaluate any substitutions of education and experience. Subsequently, the Panel reviewed applicants that had been declined previously. Two were approved to take the exam based on substitutions, and a reminder of past correspondence that identified deficiencies. Four required review of an updated application. These applicants will be invited to proceed.

Revised California-Pacific CRM Program Description—The Panel's earlier versions of the CRM Program Description were returned by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection with suggestions for additional revisions and clarifications about rules governing the program. The Board suggested including the eventual revised description in the Title 14 Professional Foresters Rules rather than referring to it there as a separate Cal-Pac document. The Associate Rangeland Manager (ARM) part of the Cal-Pac program was removed because it is not defined specifically enough to include in the Foresters rules. The Registered Professional Foresters program is considering an apprentice program, which might be a useful model for Cal-Pac's ARM. Cal-Pac cannot be involved in the process of appeals for a denied application or failed exam. Such appeals must go through the Professional Foresters Examination Committee of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. The language about discipline of licensed CRMs was clarified. In addition, the Executive Officer for Foresters Licensing requested the panel assist in developing new language to specify discipline for unlicensed practice. The Panel endorsed the proposed revisions, which will be referred to the Cal-Pac Board of Directors. The Panel also agreed to work with the Executive Officer for Foresters Licensing and the Cal-Pac Board of Directors to define a new ARM program and new language regarding discipline for unlicensed practice.

Improved Panel Efficiency—The Panel has been very active over the last few years (four meetings so far in 2011...), particularly on urgent issues beyond review of applications. The Panel is now working on a plan to improve its efficiency and make better use of committees of the Cal-Pac Board of Directors. The new plan will include revisions to panel meetings, panel sub-committee work, and other means to respond efficiently to inquiries and requests.

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Newsletter Articles

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

mpdoran@ucdavis.edu.

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@ucdavis.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.

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Society for Range Management

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