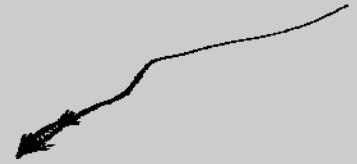




Needlegrass Notes

Volume 55:2
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Society for Range Management
California-Pacific Section



President's Message

Rob Pearce



Your 2009 Section Officers & Board

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I would like to take this opportunity to say I am looking forward to serving the CalPac membership as your president. It is my goal to facilitate greater involvement from our membership, to revitalize our committees, and produce an active newsletter.

I also want to thank John Harper for his dedication and devotion to CalPac during his tenure as president, and to congratulate our two new directors, Alan Bower and Mark Thorne, and our president-elect, Jim Sullins. I look forward to working with them throughout the year.

Thanks also go to our outgoing directors Dan Macon and Larry Ford. We are fortunate to have an outstanding section with active volunteer officers, participants, directors, and committee members.

Associations like ours are successful when we have enthusiastic and committed membership participation. Volunteering for CalPac is great way to meet and interact with professionals involved in all aspects of rangeland management. Our association is distinct in the ecological world in that our membership contains professionals with expertise on the role of herbivory in ecosystems. It is an important niche that we fill in resource management. That being said, I encourage those of you who are thinking about becoming involved in the association, or maybe just wondering how one does that, to contact your CalPac officers and directors and let them know that you want to participate. We have over 200 members in our section and I am positive there are members who would like to serve on committees or maybe help with meetings, and just don't know how to get involved. I also know it can even be intimidating for new members to take the step forward to volunteer. In any event, I am inviting you to participate. Again, contact your officers, or contact me directly, and we will find a place you can serve within our section to help us all be more effective as an organization. Also consider running for office; serving as an officer is an excellent opportunity to grow and be a positive force in our association.

I believe as officers it is our responsibility to serve the membership. We can't do that unless we hear from you. If you have ideas, input, or concerns about our association or rangelands within the CalPac Section let us know. My point is that I truly want to hear from the membership so I can represent you well. Please call me at 760-872-6111.

It is also the responsibility of CalPac to communicate with the membership. Morgan Doran has volunteered to produce the newsletter and Liz Kellogg will send out the hardcopies to those who want it delivered in that form. Please notice the newsletter subscription form on page __. In an effort to save money on printing and postage we are encouraging you to accept an electronic newsletter instead of a hardcopy. If you can, please choose to receive the newsletter electronically. We will still print and mail hardcopies if you prefer. Our newsletter is an important communication tool; with Morgan at the helm I am confident the members will see more frequent newsletters.

On another note, our November San Diego Section meeting was outstanding. Lance Criley,

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Your 2009 Committee Chairs & Members

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Membership Chair:

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Members: Lynn Huntsinger, Bertha Gillam

(Continued from page 1)

Edie Jacobsen, and Cece Dahlstrom put together an informative and fun meeting. I encourage those of you who haven't attended a recent CalPac Section meeting to consider doing so in the future. The programs are informative, field tours give a chance to view rangeland management in different areas of our sections, and the social events are great places to make new friends and visit with old one. I would like to have suggestions from the membership about future meeting locations. We have had meeting locations throughout our section, but I'll bet the membership has some good ideas on areas that we haven't thought of at this point.

SRM's Executive Vice President Ken Johnson and Board of Director Larry Howery both gave informative presentations in San Diego. I also had a chance to visit with each individually; it is reassuring to know our national office is aware of our Section's concerns on many issues and is willing to work with us to achieve some of our goals. It was truly a great opportunity to have the chance to visit with Ken and Larry.

To sum things up, I once more wish to let you all know how much I appreciate the opportunity to serve as CalPac President, and that I look forward to representing the membership.

Range Ramblings: "The current moment is fleeting, the past grows with each passing moment, and tomorrow is shaped by what we do today and what we are willing to learn from yesterday." Joseph M. Marshall, III. A Lakota History, the Journey of Crazy Horse.

New Officer and Directors

By John Harper and Morgan Doran

Please welcome Jim Sullins as our new in-coming President-Elect! Following the national cues in Washington, Jim won by a landslide decision against the ever popular contender, Joe the Write-in. But seriously, Jim has lots of experience both with Cal-Pac (he has actively served as the Chair of our Public Affairs Committee) and as an Advisor and County Director in Tulare County with Cooperative Extension. He is very committed to the principles of our section and will be an excellent officer. As President-Elect, Jim will serve on the parent society's Advisory Council with Past-President, John Harper and our current President, Rob Pearce. He'll also serve as a member of Cal-Pac's board and will, in the event of absence, incapacity, resignation or death of the President; discharge the duties of that office.

We would also like to welcome Alan Bower and Mark Thorne as our two new directors who will serve on the board until 2011. Alan comes to the board with a broad range of experience from jobs with BLM in Kern County, NRCS in Plumas County and from running his own ranch and farrier service in Placer County. Alan is currently a UCCE livestock and natural resources advisor in Humboldt and Del Norte counties. Mark has been a Rangeland Specialist at the University of Hawaii in Manoa, that is on the island of Oahu, since 2003. Mark arrived in Hawaii after living in Colorado where he completed his Ph.D and served as the south-east region's Interim Range and Livestock Extension Specialist.



Aloha Mark and Alan!

2008 Award Recipients

By Theresa Becchetti

Edie Jacobsen is **Range Manager of the Year 2008**. Edie graduated from UC Davis with a degree in range science. She worked for Mel George and Jim Clawson following graduation, then entered an internship with the Navy under the mentorship of Mike Stroud. When the Navy's Natural Resources unit moved from San Bruno to San Diego, Edie and Mike Stroud continued to work together. Edie leads the management and oversight of millions of acres of navy lands in California and adjacent states. She has responsibility for negotiating and managing leases on these lands.

Throughout Edie's career she has been an active member of the California-Pacific Section of SRM. She has served on several committees at the state and national level. Edie has been active with Range Camp as planning committee, chaperone, and instructor. She has served on the section's Board of Directors and she has served in the presidential chairs. Currently she has taken on the important position of Section Treasurer from Ken Fulgham.

Kevin Lunny and the Lunny Ranch are the recipients of the **2008 Excellence in Range Management Award**. The Lunny's grass-fed, organic cow-calf operation exemplifies sustainable rangeland management. They have produced livestock products within the Point Reyes National Seashore for three generations while maintaining and enhancing native plant and animal biodiversity. The ranch supports several federally threatened and endangered species including the California red-legged frog and the only surviving natural population of Sonoma Spineflower. The ranch is certified by the non-profit organization Salmon Safe, having passed a rigorous ranch inspection that focuses on water quality, riparian and wetland management, biological biodiversity conservation and animal management. The Lunny's strive to produce their beef with the lowest inputs possible, relying on composted manure from their feeding areas to fertilize pastures, and minimal purchase of imported feed.

The results of the Lunny's careful stewardship and commitment to sustainable ranching are high quality grass-fed, organic beef, a beautifully maintained pastoral setting within the Point Reyes National Seashore, clean water, exceptional native biodiversity, and plentiful wildlife.

Congratulations to both of our Section's award recipients.

Range Camp Update

By Marc Horney

We are pleased to be sending three delegates to the 2009 High School Youth Forum at the SRM Annual Conference in Alequerque, NM. Our delegates are: (left to right in photo) Natalie Farnham (Los Angeles County), Jessica Jones (San Diego County) and Hannah Yokum (Contra Costa County). Natalie is in need of sponsorship assistance for her travel, and both Natalie and Hannah could use local mentors to help them select and develop their presentation topics. If you may be able to assist with this, please contact Marc Horney (rangelandgst@sbcglobal.net; 530-842-1374).

Promotional information for Range Camp 2009 should be coming out by early January. We welcome any members who would like to participate in camp, which will be held June 21-26 in Half Moon Bay. We can always use help in getting promotional materials distributed to high school agriculture and science teachers between January and April, and there is plenty to do at camp. Let either Marc Horney or Cece Dahlstrom (carol.dahlstrom@navy.mil; (619) 532-2269) know if you can help.



Your 2009 Committee Chairs & Members

Nominations & Elections Chair:

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Members: Mike Stroud, Jack Artz, Neil McDougald

Professional Affairs Chairs:

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Members: Orrin Sage, Dianna Brink, Tom Froli

Public Affairs Chair:

Ceci Dale-Cesmat
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Members: Bill Weitkamp, Todd Swickard

Student/Affairs Chair:

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Members: Dave Dubose, Mike Stroud, Theresa Becchetti, Adriana Sulak

CRM Pael Chair:

Larry Ford
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2008 Fall Meeting Highlights

By Lance Criley

The Fall Meeting and Field Tour were held in San Diego County on November 5-6th. The focus of the meeting was fire ecology and recovery, especially of chaparral and grasslands. Mission Trails Regional Park, one of the largest urban wildland parks in the country, hosted the technical session in their beautiful visitors center. Dr. Jon Rebman, Botanist at the San Diego Natural History Museum, gave a great presentation about investigating plant diversity and species distribution in the most botanically diverse county in the country. Dr. Hugh Safford, US Forest Service Regional Ecologist, brought us up to speed on research about changes in wildfire patterns across the state over the last century. USGS researcher Dr. Jon Keeley discussed the impacts of increasing fire frequency and type conversion in California shrubland communities. Tom Coleman, entomologist with the US Forest Service, talked about discovering the Gold Spotted Oak Borer, a new species to the area that is killing oaks fast in Southern San Diego County and spreading. Carl Bell, regional invasive plant extension advisor, talked about active management to help native plant community recovery from fire and Zach Principe, ecologist with The Nature Conservancy, talked about using fire to promote grassland native plant diversity on the Santa Rosa Plateau Preserve. We also did a short hike through Mission Trails Park to look at areas recovering from the Cedar Fire in 2003. That evening, we had a nice banquet on San Diego Bay at the Bali Hai – pretty much everybody ordered the flat iron steak.

The field tour took a loop through scenic eastern San Diego County to view fire recovery and other management challenges in the area. We were invited onto Rancho Corte Madera, a large private ranch, where we viewed up close the extent of oak mortality caused by the new Oak Borer. Pete Scully, of CalFire, talked about fuel reduction efforts in the area, including prescribed burns and mastication and we got to walk in a recently burned area to look at plant recovery.



The presidents ham it up with SRM director Larry Howery.

We then drove up Mt. Laguna, where we stopped and heard from Brian Rhodes of the US Forest Service about the changing approach to fuel breaks on the Cleveland National Forest. After lunch in the pines, Lance Criley, Range Con for the Cleveland NF, led the group out to Laguna Meadow to discuss management of a grazing allotment with both recreation and endangered species conflicts. We then proceeded to Cuyumaca State Park, which was devastated by the Cedar Fire in 2003, to hear from Dr. Janet Franklin of SDSU about monitoring fire recovery in the area and the potential conversion of pine forests to chaparral. About 40 people attended the technical session and 25 made it on the field tour. In general, a lot of knowledge was shared and a lot of laughs were had.



Field tour of the pine forests and meadows at the Cleveland National Forest.

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The Section Needs YOU!!

By Marc Horney

Below are some of the goals intended for select CalPAC committees as stated in the current Section Strategic Plan. Virtually all of the Section's committees are struggling for want of members, and, as a result, objectives are either not being achieved or progress is extremely slow. Willing to help? Find contact info for committee chairs at <http://www.casrm.org/meetboard.html>.

Information and Education Committee (Chairs: Sheila Barry, Liz Kellogg)

Publish lists of technical assistance, funding, and other resources on the Cal-Pac website.

Work with members to provide SRM information at their events (e.g., fairs, career days, etc.).

Form partnerships and collaborate with other professional organizations to build attendance and effectiveness of annual meetings.

Range Camp Subcommittee

Develop a multimedia and/or video presentation on rangelands and Range Camp.

Support a range management educational element in high school agricultural curriculum.

Awards (Chairs: Holly George, Theresa Becchetti) & Information and Education Committees

Develop "hot sheets" highlighting Excellence in Range Management award winners' management techniques for distribution to industry publications (e.g. *Hot Irons*, *Herd the News*, *Capitol Press*, etc.).

Meetings Committee (Chair: John Harper)

Form partnerships and collaborate with other professional organizations to increase attendance and effectiveness of annual meetings.

Every two years, sponsor an issues workshop or panel discussion at the annual meeting.

Public Affairs Committee (Chair: Ceci Dale-Cesmat)

Develop a "Rangeland Policy and Issues News" section of the website and newsletter.

Have CalPAC added to public notice lists for environmental documents related to rangelands.

Develop and publish position papers and policy statements on key rangeland issues.

Every two years, sponsor a special issues workshop or panel discussion at the annual meeting.

Membership Committee (Chair: Cece Dahlstrom)

Increase membership by 30 members per year over the next three years.

New Student Subcommittee

Increase student membership by 10 members per year over the next three years.

Member Profile of Mike Stroud

By Edie Jacobsen

We thought we should bring you the latest update on one of our respected and esteemed members of the Cal-Pac Section. Mike Stroud (pictured) recently attended the Fall meeting of our Section in San Diego, CA. This meeting was Mike's debut following a two year medical battle including: Radiation, chemotherapy treatments and physical therapy followed by gamma knife radio surgery for a brain tumor. His prognosis is good. To quote Mike "I have God, modern medicine and the unwavering love and support of my spouse, family, friends, and colleagues to thank for my recovery." Congratulations Mike on your successful recovery! It was a joy to have you actively participate at the meeting. You have been missed.



For those of you that don't know Mike, he has been a member of SRM for 42 years. He has held the positions of President, Secretary/Treasurer, Historian, and Board member. He is a cofounder and continuous member of Range Camp and its committee. He is the spark that has ensured that we have had a camp every year since 1985, even in years when camp's attendance was so low we considered cancelling. Range Camp has influenced the lives of over 400 high school youth since its' beginning.

Since retiring in 2003 after 28 years as the Natural Resources Manager for the Navy's western region, Mike has held the position of Director of Operations for the Center for Natural Lands Management in Fallbrook, CA. Mike's contributions are more numerous than space will permit - suffice to say we are thankful for his recovery and his opportunity to continue his life's pas-

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Once completed, mail the form to: Morgan Doran
UCCE, Solano County
501 Texas Street
Fairfield, CA 94533

Name: _____
Address: _____

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California-Pacific Section SRM



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