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*California-Pacific Section SRM  
8279 Scott Forbes Road  
Browns Valley, CA 95918*

# *2014 Candidate Statements for Section Officers*

*Society for Range Management  
California-Pacific Section*

## **Candidates for Section President-Elect**

This office spends 1 year as President-Elect, followed by 1 year as Section President, and 1 year as Past-President, each with unique responsibilities. To learn more, you may refer to the Cal-Pac section handbook, available on our website: [http://casrm.rangelands.org/Assets/CalPac\\_Handbook.pdf](http://casrm.rangelands.org/Assets/CalPac_Handbook.pdf)

### **Morgan Doran**

Since 2001, I have been a Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor with UC Cooperative Extension covering Napa, Solano, Yolo and Sacramento Counties. Before becoming an advisor, I received my Bachelor's degree at Sonoma State University in business management, served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Ecuador where I worked with indigenous groups to improve animal husbandry practices, and then received my MS degree at UC Davis in International Agricultural Development with a specialization in ruminant ecology. Much of my work in Cooperative Extension has focused on rangeland management and the use of livestock for specific vegetation management objectives in range and croplands. Other work includes invasive weed control, oak recruitment strategies, water quality, niche meat marketing, and grazing management systems. In July 2011 I assumed County Director responsibilities for the UC Cooperative Extension office in Solano County and in July 2014 I became the Director of the new three-county UC Cooperative Extension Capitol Corridor unit that includes Sacramento, Solano and Yolo counties.

I have been an active member of the California-Pacific section of SRM since 2001 and served as a Director from 2006-2009 and as the Needlegrass Notes Newsletter Editor from 2010-2012. It would be my honor to continue serving the California-Pacific section as your President. I have a passion for advancing sound, science-based range management practices and I appreciate the role of our California-Pacific section in reaching a broad spectrum of agencies, academics, professionals and students throughout our region. As President I will strive to continue the excellent leadership of our current and past Presidents at the section and national levels and push the envelope in extending our section's influence in the range science community.

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## **Candidates for Section Board of Directors**

Directors serve 3 year terms.

### **Mike Higgins**

I started with Society for Range Management as a student member attending Oregon State University. At OSU I completed a Bachelors of Science in Rangeland Ecology & Management with a minor in Soil Science. While a student at OSU, I worked for the BLM as a Range Technician, assisted with ranch work in western and eastern Oregon and conducted wolf research with the Oregon Beef Council & USDA's Agricultural Research Service. After graduating, I worked almost 2 years in Idaho for Pheasants Forever, assisting sheep & cattle ranchers with their conservation easements and sage grouse habitat. I have been with NRCS in California as a Rangeland Management Specialist for about a year and a half, working with private land ranches in Kings, Tulare & Kern counties.

I am honored to be a candidate for the Board of Directors. As a Director I would like to see the Cal-Pac section continue to build partnerships and opportunities for college programs, private landowners, federal agencies and the livestock industry.

### **Fadziya Mashiri**

I graduated from The University of Arizona with a Ph. D. in Rangeland Management in 2010 and hold a M.Sc. in Natural Resources Management and Sustainable Agriculture from the Agricultural University of Norway, and a BS in Agriculture, Animal Science from University of Zimbabwe. I was born and raised in Zimbabwe.

I work for the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) as a Livestock and Natural Resources Farm Advisor for Mariposa, Merced and Madera Counties, and County Director for Mariposa County. Before joining UCCE, worked as a Senior Research Specialist at the University of Arizona where my research focused on investigating the potential for using adaptive grazing management in improving sustainable management of rangeland ecosystems. Prior to that, I worked in Zimbabwe as a lecturer and chairperson of the Department of Livestock and Wildlife Management at the Midlands State University and as a Senior Agricultural Extension Officer for the Agriculture Extension Services.

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## **Mindy Niccoletti**

My interest in rangelands started from growing up on a cow-calf cattle ranch with summer pasture in Siskiyou and winter grazing in Tehama County. I have been a member of SRM since 2002 while majoring in Rangeland Resource Science at Humboldt State University. After graduation I started working for NRCS as a soil conservationist in Klamath Falls, OR. In 2008, I became the Rangeland Management Specialist for California NRCS assisting both Mendocino and Lake Counties. Now I work for Red Bluff NRCS as a Soil Conservationist. Due to my personal and professional background I have dedicated my career to providing planning and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers in order to improve natural resources. Throughout my career I've worked on a variety of land uses and ecotypes, but have always enjoyed focusing on pasture and range. In recent years I have been attending Cal-Pac Section meetings. I have found this experience to be personally and professionally rewarding. I'm excited for the opportunity to increase my participation in Cal Pac SRM in effort to become more involved in California rangelands issues.

## **Scott Oneto**

I am a fourth generation native to Amador County, California. For generations, my family has been actively engaged in local agriculture and natural resources. I received my Bachelor's degree in Plant Sciences from U.C. Davis and a Master's degree in Horticulture and Agronomy from U.D. Davis. My thesis focused on developing control strategies for five spreading invasive weeds that lacked sufficient control recommendations in California. They included Scotch broom, tree tobacco, hedge parsley, periwinkle and houndstongue. Many of these weeds are non-agronomic weeds that mostly cause concern in rangelands, riparian areas, forestry, non-crop, roadsides and disturbed sites.

Currently, I am an Agriculture and Natural Resources Advisor and County Director with the University of California Cooperative Extension in El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties. Over my 15 years with Cooperative Extension, I have offered a variety of educational outreach opportunities for my livestock and natural resource clientele including pasture management, ranch water quality, pond management, road maintenance, and a multitude of topics on weed biology and control.

My research program focuses on improving annual range production through successful weed control and preventing the spread of non-desirable plants. Currently I am collaborating on a project with East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) in the Mokelumne watershed to develop a comprehensive range assessment of EBMUD grazing lands and to develop a range monitoring program that utilizes some of the latest science and technology including GIS and residual dry matter mapping to guide landscape scale management decisions for land owners, land managers and policy makers.

I have attended a number of national SRM meetings and California-Pacific Section meetings. I look for-

# 2014 Ballot for Section Officers

*Society for Range Management  
California-Pacific Section*



## **Your 2014 Section Officers & Board**

**President:** Ceci Dale-Cesmat  
[ceci.dalecesmat@ca.usda.gov](mailto:ceci.dalecesmat@ca.usda.gov)  
(530) 792-5658

**President-Elect:** Vacant

**Past-President:** David Lile  
[dflile@ucanr.edu](mailto:dflile@ucanr.edu)  
(530) 251-8133

**Secretary:** Theresa Becchetti  
[tabecchetti@ucanr.edu](mailto:tabecchetti@ucanr.edu)  
(209) 525-6800

**Treasurer:** Edie Jacobsen  
[vitus7@att.net](mailto:vitus7@att.net)

**Newsletter Editor:** Philip Brownsey  
[pabrownsey@gmail.com](mailto:pabrownsey@gmail.com)

**Historian/Archivist:** Mel George  
[mrgeorge@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mrgeorge@ucdavis.edu)  
(530) 752-1720

## **Board of Directors**

**2015:** Breanna Owens  
[bowens@pointblue.org](mailto:bowens@pointblue.org)  
(530) 514-3107

**2015:** Julie Finzel  
[jafinzel@ucanr.edu](mailto:jafinzel@ucanr.edu)  
(661) 868-6219

**2016:** Josh Davy  
[jsdavy@ucanr.edu](mailto:jsdavy@ucanr.edu)  
(530) 527-3101

**2016:** Rob Pearce  
[robert.pearce@ca.usda.gov](mailto:robert.pearce@ca.usda.gov)  
(760) 872-6111

**2017:** Vacant

**2017:** Vacant

## 2014 Ballot for Section Officers

California-Pacific Section of the Society for Range Management

Either mark this ballot and return to Theresa Becchetti, Section Secretary at the address on the reverse side or email your votes to Theresa at [tabecchetti@ucanr.edu](mailto:tabecchetti@ucanr.edu) by **December 15, 2014**, with "Cal-Pac SRM 2014 Ballot" in the subject line. If you are mailing this ballot and received it electronically, print the last two pages double sided, fold with the address on the outside, tape closed, and attach a stamp

Section President-Elect (vote for one):

- Morgan Doran

Board of Directors, term ending fall 2017 (vote for two):

- Mike Higgins
- Fadziya Mashiri
- Mindy Niccoletti
- Scott Oneto

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*California-Pacific Section SRM  
8279 Scott Forbes Road  
Browns Valley, CA 95918*

1st class  
stamp re-  
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*Theresa Becchetti  
3800 Cornucopia Way, Ste A  
Modesto, CA 95358*