



The Range Rider

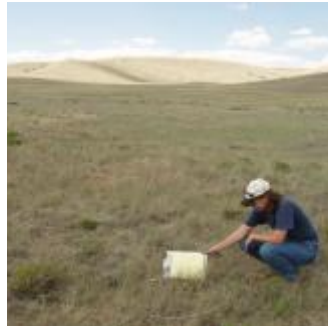
Society for Range Management – Colorado Section Newsletter

Volume 63, Number 1

Fall, Winter, Spring 2012

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

As I write to you today, winter storms are providing much needed snow in our mountains, and March winds are “a-blowing” on the plains. Spring calves and lambs are appearing in some pastures, and our native prairies and meadows are waiting to break winter dormancy. It is time for renewal again!



First I wish to share the latest events in 2011-2012 :

A Board of Directors meeting was held December 6th. Election results were announced. Officers and board members are as follows:

Officers:

President Elect: Matt Barnes

President: Kimberly Dillard

Past President: Scott Woodall

2012-2013 Board of Directors:

Randy Reichert, Greeley, CO

Julie Elliott, Wray, CO

2011-2012 Board of Directors:

Meaghan Huffman, Boulder, CO

Lisa VanAmburg, Saguache, CO

(Continued on page 3)

Excellence in Rangeland Conservation Award

Everett and Jo Jackson

Everett and Jo Jackson have demonstrated how grazing 21 pastures, using fire to control one-seed juniper, and other management practices can



be used to innovatively to manipulate plant communities. Thanks to their management, springs have begun to flow again, plant species have returned, and wildlife habitat has improved. They have been generous in sharing their range management experiences through field days and mentoring both young and experience ranchers. The Jackson Ranch has served as ambassadors between ranchers and outdoor enthusiasts and provided leadership in managing livestock-predator conflicts. For their innovative and out-of-the box approach to range and wildlife management, the Colorado Section was proud to award the Jacksons the Excellence in Rangeland Conservation Award. We tentatively have a date set for the CSSRM Summer Tour of September 13th, on the Jackson Ranch in Kim, CO.

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CSSRM Representatives

The following CSSRM representatives can be contacted for more information on Section Activities



PRESIDENT:
Kimberly Diller
kimberly.diller@co.usda.gov
(719) 275-4465, Ext. 107



PRESIDENT ELECT:
Matt Barnes
Matt.barnes@co.usda.gov
mattk.barnes@gmail.com
970-724-3456



PAST PRESIDENT:
Scott Woodall



SECRETARY/TREASURER:
Shaan Bliss
719-731-3615
Shaan.bliss@co.usda.gov

2011-2012 Board of Directors:



Meaghan Huffman,



Lisa VanAmburg,
lvanamburgco@yahoo.com

2012-2013 Board of Directors:



Julie Elliott
970-332-3107
julie.elliott@co.usda.gov



Randy Reichert
rreichert@fs.fed.us

FROM THE PRESIDENT .. (Continued from page 1)

Outgoing 2010-2011 board members are Matt Barnes and Julie Elliott. As you can see, Matt will continue to serve in the capacity of president elect, and Julie has been reinstalled on the BOD. **I wish to thank these dedicated individuals in their service to the Colorado Section!!!**

The 2011 Colorado Section Winter Annual Meeting was held jointly with the **Colorado Weed Management Association (CWMA)** at the beautiful Cheyenne Mountain Conference Center in Colorado Springs. The meeting covered two days (December 7th & 8th), with 210 total attendees and Colorado Section members comprising of about 25%. There were two joint sessions, with guest speakers from each association.

Topics in the joint session were related to weed management. **Kathy Voth** of "Livestock for Landscapes," gave a great presentation on utilizing livestock for biological weed control in native range and pasture landscapes. Kathy has successfully trained livestock (including cattle) to select for targeted weed species, and teaches other livestock owners how to do the same. Voth provides an alternative to traditional weed control methods using critters.

The centerpiece of the **CSSRM** breakout sessions was the **Livestock Producer Forum**. Several guest ranchers gave their perspective on livestock grazing management and land stewardship on their operations from around Colorado. I would like to thank **Steve Oswald** of Oswald Cattle Co. in Cotopaxi; **Duke Phillips**, manager of the Chico Basin Ranch in Hanover, and **Chip Hines**, from Yuma, for providing us their unique experiences on their livestock operations and views of the livestock industry and their approaches to grazing management. There was a good exchange of information between the guest speakers, livestock producers, and agency professionals in the audience during the panel discussion.

Carrie Balkcom of American Grassfed Association gave a talk regarding the nutritional benefits to the consumer of grassfed vs. grain-finished beef, to provide a different perspective in marketing and consumer interests.

The awards banquet featured our "**Excellence in Rangeland Conservation**" award recipients, **Everett and Flo Jackson**. The Jacksons were



honored by the Section for the stewardship of their ranch near Kim, CO, as their family and friends joined in their celebration. **A summer tour of the ranch is tentatively scheduled for September 13th!!!**

The evening was topped off with entertainment from the bluegrass band "**Fireweed**".

They have hosted the annual "Bluegrass on the River" festival in Pueblo since 1988.

Our own **Scott**

Woodall, provided some impromptu vocals as well.



I wish to thank **Fred Raish**, CWMA President for co-sponsoring this meeting with CSSRM.

Finally, I ask for your continued involvement in the Colorado Section. Tight agency budgets and a sluggish economy is making it more difficult to participate in section meetings and tours within the state, and on the national level. SRM provides an opportunity to foster our professional growth and to network with our cohorts. I know these gatherings renew my commitment and passion in my role as a rangeland specialist. Please attend our meetings and tours whenever possible, and contribute your ideas and talent. If you have any questions, comments or ideas you would like to share, please do not hesitate to e-mail kimberly.diller@co.usda.gov or call me at (719) 543-8386, Ext 125. See you down the trail!!!

Sincerely,

Kimberly Diller, CSSRM President

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2011 CSSRM Summer Tour — LeValley Ranch 2010 Excellence in Rangeland Conservation Award

By Lars Santana, Rangeland Management Specialist, NRCS, Montrose, CO

The Colorado Section of Society for Range Management (CSS-RM) presented the LeValley Ranch of Hotchkiss, Colorado with the Excellence in Rangeland Conservation Award at the CSSRM 2010 annual meeting in Grand Junction. Subsequently, the LeValley Ranch was the Section's 2011 summer tour focus, which was hosted by Lars Santana, Rangeland Management Specialist, of the Montrose NRCS Office.

Founded in 1914 on the Fruitland Mesa near Hotchkiss, the ranch is operated by the third generation of LeValleys. Brothers Mark and Hank, together with Marks' wife Robbie have seen many changes in the land over the last decade. Best of all, they are teaching the fourth generation, James, Ryan and Ross to take great pride in caring for both their private and leased land.



The LeValleys run a diversified business. They run a yearling operation with a mixed-aged herd of cows and yearlings on their ranch and BLM allotment.



They have a haying operation in which they harvest one, cut, then graze regrowth in fall and winter using a High Intensity Short Duration cell system. They run an outfit-ting business which includes hunts for elk, trophy elk, mule deer, and upland game birds; the upland game birds include chukar, pheasant, and Hungarian partridge. They are also a full partner in Homestead Meats, a USDA-inspected processing plant.



The LeValley grazing rotation allows for no more than two weeks of grazing in any one pasture. This grazing strategy is supported by 17 miles of stock water pipeline. This pipeline feeds eight water tanks across their BLM allotment. A second permittee fall grazes with sheep, using the same rotation as the cattle. Three wildlife water guzzlers were also built specifically for sage grouse.



By controlling the time and timing of livestock grazing, the ranch supports a variety of cover types and cover heights across the landscape for wildlife, but in particular provides for the various cover needs of the sage grouse. In fact, all of the LeValley lands meet or exceed the standards of the Gun-

nison Sage-grouse Rangeland Conservation Plan.

The LeValleys are deeply involved in many community and state-wide organizations and work in partnership with Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Colorado State University, Colorado Division of Wildlife, the Delta Conservation District, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

High School Youth Benefit from Rangeland Management Forum in Spokane, Washington

By Ben Berlinger, Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management, Youth Activities Chair

The Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management (SRM) was well represented at the 2012 High School Youth Forum (HSYF) held in Spokane, Washington on January 29 to February 2, 2012. The HSYF is an integral part of the SRM annual meeting. This year there were 26 delegates representing 13 of the SRM Sections. During the Forum, high school youth from all part of the western United States and Canada are invited to participate and interact among the various professionals and college students attending the meeting. Each of SRM's 21 Sections is allowed to send up to three youth delegates to this program that provides a high quality learning experience.

This year the Colorado Section sponsored three delegates to Spokane. **Nakayla Lestina** of Dove Creek, **David**



Everhart of Boone and **Cheyenne Foepfel** of Fountain were selected to participate in the Forum. All three delegates were chosen based on their exceptional participation at the Colorado Association of Conservation District's (CACD) **Camp Rocky**, Colorado's premier natural resource summer camp for high school youth.

The goals of the HSYF are to recognize youth for outstanding accomplishments in rangeland activities and to provide young people the opportunity to discuss rangelands, career options, and meet with leaders in the field of range management. One requirement of the HSYF is that each delegate must present an illustrated talk on some aspect of rangeland conservation or management.

David's presentation was titled ***Drought Management***. During his presentation he discussed how drought is defined and measured, as well as the varying effects drought has on our rangelands and the families who make their livelihoods from their rangelands. David's personal experience regarding the current drought on his family's farm/ranch in northeast Pueblo County was the motivation for his choice of the topic of drought. As a result, David's paper presentation was awarded **SECOND PLACE** out of the 24 presentations made during the Forum!

Nakayla presented her talk on pollinators. It was titled ***The Importance of Native Pollinators and Their Habitats***. Nakayla discussed the different varieties of pollinators and the important role they play to our society. She highlighted the habitats that support pollinators and the need to enhance these habitats through proper management. Nakayla concluded that on rangelands, pollinators benefit people by enhancing aesthetics that improve recreational experiences and that through these activities people get to enjoy the beautiful native forbs that these pollinators help produce. Pollinators also help conserve rangeland plant communities by making them diverse, healthy and productive.

Cheyenne's presentation was about the advantages of grass-fed beef. Her title was ***Grain-Finished Beef vs. Grass-Finished Beef: the Truth Revealed***. During her presentation Cheyanne contrasted the differences between conventional feedlot finished beef that have been fed a grain based diet versus grass-finished beef production. She discussed the health advantages and the environmental benefits of grass-finished beef being reduced feed grains needed leading to reduced soil erosion, less energy inputs and improved management of rangeland & pastureland. Cheyanne cited Colorado rancher Steve Oswald and his successful grass-finished enterprise.

High School Youth Benefit from Rangeland Management Forum in Spokane, Washington

(Continued from page 5)

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The **Colorado Section SRM** and **CACD** congratulate David, Nakayla and Cheyanne for their outstanding achievements in rangeland management and wish them the best of luck as they further pursue their ambitions in the field of natural resource management. Contact Ben Berlinger (719-384-5408), or Naomi Marcus, for more information about the SRM High School Youth Forum and Camp Rocky.

20th High Altitude Revegetation Workshop

Submitted by Donna Goodsell, HAR Committee Member

The Twentieth High Altitude Revegetation Workshop was held March 6-8, 2012, at the Lory Student Center on the Colorado State University Campus, Fort Collins, Colorado. This conference is a continuation of the Workshop series that began in 1974. For over thirty-five years, interested people from the environmental restoration industry, academia and regulatory agencies have gathered every other year to learn about new techniques, products and methods for solving revegetation and restoration problems.

The High Altitude Revegetation Committee, through Colorado State University, conducts biennial workshops and annual field tours to promote understanding of reclamation and revegetation techniques and problems that occur when fragile, high-elevation ecosystems are modified by human activities or natural events. This information is valuable for rehabilitating disturbances at all elevations.

The conference began in the field with a focused visit to Rocky Mountain National Park on Tuesday March 6th for an overview of exotic plant control and native plant restoration techniques and challenges that included changing strategies in light of climate change, nitrogen deposition, beetle tree kill, and fuel reduction (prescribed fire & pile burning). This day was a great day to be in the field to have a tour of exotic plant control and native plant restoration sites active within the park.

Wednesday morning designated the indoor start of the conference with a panel of keynote speakers on Changing Climate as well as a session of long term projects

and how climate change is being seen affecting these projects. The conference topics cover different aspects of the technical academia studies, to overarching theories and paradigms, as well as bringing in professional entities that are putting the theories on the ground as everyday business. The conference is well known for reaching across the boundaries of the different levels of science and how the science is actually being applied and how it is working for business advantages. This year's conference was attended by just over 220 individuals from all parts of the ecological restoration community.

In addition to the focus on Climate Change the conference had presentations of case studies and new directions in ecological revegetation and restoration on the long term vegetation cover, citizen science, using engineering designs for vegetative planning, urban restoration, mine restoration projects, new restoration techniques in mine restoration, restoration of sites with pine beetle kill and clean up, changing restoration requirements to meet climate and social needs and much more.

The conference includes an excellent Sponsorship from vendors for all aspects of revegetation and restoration. The vendors are available all two days of the conference. The conference also includes numerous Poster paper displays conveying additional revegetation information and case studies from diverse eco-regions. The conference is open for students and is a great way for students to see professionals and get to know what their companies are about.

You can find out more about the High Altitude Revegetation at their website: <http://www.highaltitudereveg.org/> and look forward to seeing you for our annual summer tour.

2011 High School Youth Benefit from Rangeland Management Forum in Billings, MT

By Ben Berlinger, Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management, Youth Activities Chair

The Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management (SRM) was well represented at the 2011 High School Youth Forum (HSYF) held in Billings, MT on February 6-9, 2011. In 2011, there were 31 delegates representing 13 of the SRM Sections.

In 2011, the Colorado Section sponsored **three** delegates to Billings. **Jessica Harris** of Manzanola, **Jordan Lestina** of Dove Creek and **Kyle Hartshorn** of Granada were selected to participate in the Forum.



Kyle Hartshorn, Jordan Lestina and Jessica Harris (l to r)

All three delegates were chosen based on the high level of achievement in **FFA rangeland judging** as well as exceptional participation at the Colorado Association of Conservation District's (CACD) **Camp Rocky**, Colorado's premier natural resource youth camp.

The goals of the HSYF are to recognize youth for outstanding accomplishments in rangeland activities and to provide young people the opportunity to discuss rangelands, career options, and meet with

leaders in the field of range management. One requirement of the HSYF is that each delegate must present an illustrated talk on some aspect of rangeland conservation or management.

Jessica's presentation was titled **Important: Rangeland Monitoring!** During her presentation she discussed the different monitoring methods used by ranchers in southeast Colorado and presented the advantages and drawbacks of each. Jessica also highlighted the intensive monitoring methods being successfully used on the Negley Ranch in Kiowa County where she had the opportunity to assist with rangeland monitoring activities this past summer.

Jordan presented his talk on the control of rabbitbrush on the rangelands of southwest Colorado using biological techniques. His talk was titled **Rubber Rabbitbrush: Controlling a Native Shrub.** Jordan highlighted the conventional methods of controlling rubber rabbitbrush as contrasted with biological control using the rabbitbrush beetle. He found that biological control of rubber rabbitbrush appeared to be an effective and economical alternative over the conventional treatments of herbicides and prescribed fire when coupled with prescribed grazing management.

Kyle's presentation was about rangeland education and our youth. His title was **Educating the Next Generation of Range Managers.** Kyle discussed how he put together a workshop/clinic on his family's ranch this past summer to motivate his FFA Chapter and the other local FFA Chapters to participate in the Rangeland Judging Career Development Exercise (CDE). Kyle concluded that the workshop was successful by encouraging more students to pursue rangeland judging in the future and to hopefully go on to careers in rangeland science.

The **Colorado Section SRM** and **CACD** congratulate Jessica, Jordan and Kyle for their outstanding achievements in rangeland management and wish them the best of luck as they further pursue their ambitions in the field of natural resource management.

Applied Science Task Force, formed at Colorado Section's behest, reports to Advisory Council

By Lisa VanAmburg and Matt Barnes

The SRM Applied Science Task Force (ASTF), created by the Advisory Council (AC) based on the Colorado Section's resolutions, submitted its report to the AC at the 2012 Annual Meeting in Spokane, Wash. The report emphasized these issues:

The *Rangelands* publication was identified as one of the most critical applied science communication tools available within the SRM. The central issue with *Rangelands* is the lack of clarity in the vision of what kind of publication it is supposed to be. *Rangelands* should highlight the art of management. Many members felt that *Rangelands* articles should be less technical, and that the process to publish them should be streamlined.

A general lack of awareness of currently available resources provided by SRM. The SRM has undergone significant efforts to improve accessibility to resources; yet information regarding these resources appears to not be reaching many agency employees and other non-active members or non-members.

Underutilization of "modern" electronic media. Expanding the use of internet video (e.g., You Tube), social networking, blogs, electronic archive of posters or presentations, webinars, etc. may be a way to reach a wider audience and provide a forum for non-scientific case studies. (The *Rangeland News* has since transitioned to website delivery.)

The AC received the report and voted to send it to all of the sections' AC representatives for comments, which will be incorporated into the report, a final version of which will be presented to the SRM BOD

by its summer meeting.

The ASTF was formed at the 2011 Annual Meeting by Advisory Council resolution "Applied Science for Land Managers" to refocus the SRM on its core value of caring for rangeland resources. This was based on the resolutions passed by the CSSRM BOD in December 2010 as a result of many land managers having stated to CSSRM BOD and other Advisory Council representatives that their needs and interests in practical, relevant applications of science are not being fully addressed. The ASTF includes members from five sections and various affiliations (extension, consultant, rancher, NRCS, USFS, and a land trust). The CSSRM is represented by Lisa VanAmburg (chair) and Matt Barnes.

Lisa and Matt attended the Quivira Coalition conference to build ideas for making SRM more relevant to ranchers and conservationists.

Simultaneous with the formation of the ASTF, member Jim Thorpe moved from the *Rangelands* Editorial Board to the Steering Committee, and Matt Barnes joined the Editorial Board.

Matt, Tim Steffens, and Jim Thorpe also wrote a letter to the editor of *Rangelands* (February 2012), commenting on an article about the value of cross-fencing and strategic grazing management.

For more information, contact Lisa VanAmburg at: appliedsciencetaskforce@gmail.com

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NEWS FROM CSU RANGELAND ECOLOGY CLUB

The CSU Rangeland Ecology Club has been quite active lately with SRM and expanding life on the range. Congratulations to Kristin Oles for placing 2nd on URME! The club also had astounding success with t-shirt sales, selling out of the stock at the conference and will continue selling "Nice Grass" t-shirts throughout the year.

The club has also been branching out in the realm of rangeland ecology and is focusing time on primary pollinators as a vital part of rangeland ecology. They have chosen to take up beekeeping to assist the pollination of native plants at the CSU owned Gabbard-Rutledge Property north of Fort Collins.



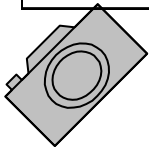
Range Club president Baili Foster holding a frame of honey bees

The club is having a tour of the property (including the beehives) Saturday, May 5th. Feel free to arrive any time after noon for a tour and bbq!

Directions are a little confusing depending on where you're coming from:

http://maps.google.com/maps?f=d&source=s_d&saddr=Interstate+25,+Fort+Collins,+CO&daddr=40.587435,-105.071865+to:64+County+Road+East,+Fort+Collins,+CO&hl=en&geocode=FeXvagIdnM29-SmhdR02UgEVhzG0YtbHhhf_gQ%3BFatQawIdB7u8-SnpJTs280pphzFls3_jd-nfkg%3BFf8ybQIdyRO8-Sn3744M0DNphzG1pgr7mh2Qtg&sll=40.63915,-105.052905&sspn=0.320442,0.724411&vpsrc=0&mra=ls&ie=UTF8&t=m&z=11&via=1&layer=c&ei=qa1ZT-OsNIXsM9nnuI0J&pw=2

Don't hesitate to contact either advisor Paul Meiman pmeiman@cnr.colostate.edu or president Baili Foster baili@rams.colostate.edu (970)581-5271 for further directions.



Have a great photo you want to share?? If you have any info or photo's you would like to submit to the website, please contact Vickie Branch,

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SRM Honor Awards Nominations Due by April 30, 2012!

Do you know someone who has made a significant contribution to SRM or the range profession? Show them how much they're appreciated! Nominate them for an SRM award. The deadline is April 30, 2012, for awards which will be presented at the 2013 SRM meeting in Oklahoma City, OK.

For more info, visit the SRM awards web page at <http://www.rangelands.org/awards/> or contact Melissa Teague, Awards Committee Chair, melissa_budd@yahoo.com.

Submit your electronic nominations to: vtrujillo@rangelands.org.

Winter Dance: A Rangeland Rendezvous

The Society for Range Management 2012 Annual Meeting

Matt Barnes, CPRM
President-Elect, CSSRM

Once a year, the managers of North American natural grasslands, shrublands, savannas, and deserts gather for a rangeland rendezvous where we discuss the science and art of land stewardship. This year's [Society for Range Management](#) annual meeting, *Winter Dance: Lessons from the Past – Strategies for the Future* was held in [Spokane, Washington](#), by the [Pacific Northwest](#) and [Idaho Sections](#) of the [SRM](#), from Jan 28 to Feb. 3. The theme was a nod to our Native American friends, and it did indeed feature a dance.

The primary purpose of the meeting is the many [technical sessions](#), which range from [ecological site descriptions](#) and vegetation dynamics to [wildlife habitat](#) and livestock-wildlife interactions.

I spent Tuesday in the grazing management session, where the morning talks focused on using various forms of intensive grazing management—rotational grazing and resting—to change the way that livestock utilize pastures. The afternoon talks also dealt with changing grazing patterns, but in the context of extensive management, using herding and strategic supplementation to improve grazing distribution.

Ben Norton from [Utah State University](#) presented data that my fellow graduate student Motoko Maeno and I collected, which showed that in the short grazing periods of rotational grazing, cattle ate plant species roughly in proportion to their availability in the pasture. This was neatly balanced out by Colorado rancher Grady Grissom's case study of planned recovery periods to facilitate the return of palatable, native cool-season grasses and winterfat at Rancho Largo. Similar presentations are planned for the CSSRM 2012 annual meeting in late November.

Another favorite was one by Coloradoan Retta Bruegger and Larry Howery from [the University of Arizona](#), with colleagues from New Mexico State University, on herding and strategic supplementation to accomplish targeted grazing. They demonstrated that they were able to herd cattle to a specific spot on a mountainside on the [Santa Rita Experimental Range](#) (my old stomping grounds), where cattle had not voluntarily gone, and reduce fuel loads there. Look forward to seeing Retta back in Colorado after she finishes her thesis.



The [SRM Native Range](#) initiative hosted a two-day session on success strategies for Native American rangelands. At lunch I enjoyed conversation with several representatives from the Columbia Plateau, and at the craft fair I bought a CD of Yakama old-style round dance songs (hand drum and vocals) from [Three Bears Music](#) to add to my unofficial rangeland ethnomusicology collection.

I also enjoyed the Mongolian Rangeland Development and Management symposium, hosted by Jim O'Rourke and 24 delegates from Mongolia. The herder and livestock populations have grown substantially during the transition from communism, and because most of the country is unfenced common land, there is no way to systematically rest pastures and allow plants to recover between grazing events; thus land degradation and poverty are widespread. Through its [Green Gold](#) project, Mongolia is now forming pasture user groups and a pasture use law to combat the problem. The [Mongolian Society for Range Management](#) had a booth in the [trade show](#) where they sold Green Nomad products, and I succumbed to yak wool scarf for Jenny.

In addition to technical sessions, the week included numerous committee and board meetings.



Mongolian Rangeland Development and Management Symposium panel discussion

As president-elect of the [Colorado Section](#), my responsibilities included attending the [SRM Advisory Council](#) meetings, along with Ben Berlinger, Maria Fernandez-Gimenez, and Lisa VanAmburg, on Sunday and Monday. Our discussions dealt mostly with [improving outreach and communications of the applied science and especially the art of rangeland management](#), particularly in the *Rangelands* journal (see [Applied Science Task Force report](#), in this issue).

My other job as president-elect was to chair the [Colorado Section](#) meeting at dark-thirty Tuesday morning, where we fed the [CSU rangeland ecology](#) students (the Student Chapter of CSSRM) breakfast before sending them off to the grueling [plant identification contest, an event that students spend months studying for](#).

We all two-stepped Tuesday night away to the music of [Wylie & the Wild West](#). I declare the women of the [Colorado Section](#) the best dancers, though they might not say the same of me!



[CSU Rangeland Ecology Club](#) T-shirts, an enterprise seeded by CSSRM, were sold in the trade show. I bought one, even though I may not deserve to wear it!

The [Taste of the Northwest](#) on Wednesday night featured beef and lamb from Washington and Idaho, as well as Idaho potatoes, huckleberry jam, and other tasty treats. The event was co-sponsored by the [American Grassfed Association](#), which I like to think is a trend that the [Colorado Section](#) started with the Taste of Colorado and [Sustainable Rangelands Through Low-Input Grassfed Production](#) symposium at the [Denver 2010](#) meeting, which was featured [in Rangelands](#), and [videos](#) of which are available on the [SRM website](#).



Late-night jam session: Jeff Schalau (fiddle) and Julie Conley (guitar and vocals)—*Adios, mi Corazon!*

The [Taste of the Northwest](#) also featured live music by [SRM's](#) own Karen Launchbaugh, a rangeland ecology and management professor at the [University of Idaho](#). Afterwards a spontaneous jam session of traditional country and western folk music lasted until midnight.

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Colorado SRM members,

Before the field season gets going, get going on your Trail Boss and Excellence in Grazing Management 2012 award nominations! Nominations have been very thin, especially for the Trail Boss award. Please take time to nominate your coworkers and cooperators. **Nomination deadline is JUNE 30.**

Non-awarded nominations are carried forward from year to year. Remember to include community activities, ranching related or not.

If you have any questions, please call me or drop me an email. My home number is 970-854-5294, work phone is 970-332-3107. Email: julie.elliott@co.usda.gov

Julie Elliott, Colorado Awards Committee

Proposed *Rangelands* sponsored issue and CSSRM symposium on strategic grazing management

By Matt Barnes, CSSRM President Elect

A proposed sponsored issue of *Rangelands* will synthesize the scientific and technical literature on strategic grazing management, outline the emerging principles and guidelines, and provide corroborating first-person case studies of strategic grazing management on commercial ranches. These will show how these guidelines have been successfully applied, and how specific tactics have evolved and are adapted to changing conditions on a landscape scale.

The guidelines for strategic grazing management have not yet been clearly articulated in a scientifically robust and practitioner-friendly format in *Rangelands*. And while some of these guidelines can be found in the popular literature, they have not yet been reconciled with the existing science in a cohesive way.

This special issue of *Rangelands* will do so, in a format that is practical and accessible to ranchers and rangeland conservationists.

The issue will feature articles inspired partly by presentations in the CSSRM's 2008 *Strategy Vs. System* symposium that was organized by Past President Tim Steffens. The issue will generally follow an outline of paired articles, with principles followed by case studies. Case studies will be from a range of environments in North America. Because of the organized nature of the special issue, it will function like a short book, concise and cohesive.

Articles will be written by authors from several sections, including CSSRM members Larry Rittenhouse, Fred Provenza, Roy Roath, Grady Grissom, Tim Steffens, and Matt Barnes. The proposed special issue will be edited by CSSRM President-elect Matt Barnes.

Rangelands content is dependent on member submissions. It costs money to produce, and sponsored

issues cost \$12,500 (Brown et al. 2011. *Rangelands* 33(3):64-65). At the CSSRM meeting during the SRM Annual Meeting in Spokane, Wash., Matt Barnes presented a draft proposal. The CSSRM voted to sponsor the issue, up to \$12,500, but with the expectation that the amount will be reduced by matching funds from the Colorado Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) and at least one or two other SRM sections and state GLCI committees represented by authors in the issue.

The draft proposal will be finalized as soon as all of the authors commit to write the articles and submit summaries to the guest editor. The proposal will then be submitted to the Editor-in-Chief and the *Rangelands* Steering Committee.

The articles will be presented in a symposium at the CSSRM 2012 Annual Meeting, tentatively scheduled for the last week of November in Fort Collins. Look for details, including a call for contributed poster abstracts, in the next issue of the *Range Rider* and on CSSRM.org this spring.



Connecting with Fellow New Agrarians at the Quivira Coalition Conference

Matt Barnes, CPRM,
President-Elect, CSSRM

The progressive ranching movement that includes many CSSRM members is part of a larger movement of new agrarianism, a forward-looking, well-connected, well-educated, migration back to the land at the speed of the internet. It is about building resilience in agriculture and local food, not just in the linear sense of producing products but in the more holistic sense of a way of life. The movement's philosophical roots are diverse, but the concept of the new agrarianism has its modern roots in the writings of farmer-philosopher [Wendell Berry](#), and among the movement's adherents in the western ranching community, in the [writings](#) of conservationists like [Courtney White](#) and Colorado's own [Rick Knight](#).

In the Southwest, this movement has a home: the Quivira Coalition, a collaboration between ranchers, conservationists, agency personnel, and scientists, led by Courtney White, the executive director. Every year this diverse assemblage convenes in Albuquerque at the Coalition's annual conference, which emphasizes success of ranching and collaboration building resilience, and opportunities to meet and share kindred spirits from almost every state in the West. It culminates in the Radical Center Awards (in four categories for each of the aforementioned groups forming the Coalition), and the prestigious Clarence Burch Award which recognizes the greatest collaborative successes in the West with a \$20,000 honorarium to further their efforts.

Lisa VanAmburg, Cindy Villa, and I represented CSSRM at the 2011 conference.

The show opened with an all-day workshop by Jim Gerrish of American Grazing [Lands Services](#). Jim left a successful career in academic research to ranch in Idaho with his wife Dawn, and is the author of *Management-intensive Grazing*, *Kick the Hay Habit*, and many articles in *the Stockman GrassFarmer*. Most of his material was much like what I've been writing about in recent years; I appreciated the validation of my ideas. That is true for many of the progressive ranchers in the conference, as all of them are doing things differently from most of their neighbors. That, of course, is also one of the benefits of involvement in the CSSRM.



The bulk of the conference was the inspiring first-person narratives of new agrarian farmers and ranchers, including friends Jeff Gossage of the Medano-Zapata Ranch in Colorado, and Ben Forsyth of Three Rivers Station in Western Australia; the consummate northern New Mexico farmer, biologist, and educator Miguel Santistevan; Bryce Andrews of the Clark Fork Coalition's Dry Cottonwood Creek Ranch; Sarahlee Lawrence of Rainshadow Organics in central Oregon, and author of *River House*; and Tyfanny Herrera and Rochelle Vandever of the Navajo Nation's Ojo Encino Ranchers Committee and Hasbiditó youth organization (past Clarence Burch Award winners).

I also attended the Southwest Grassfed Livestock Alliance's annual meeting and dinner -- and not just for the delicious food. SWGLA membership has *tripled* thanks to the dynamic efforts of executive director Laurie Bower. I was honored to hand out reprints of the April 2011 *Rangelands* article on the grassfed



livestock symposium that Dan Nosal, Harvey Sprock, Carrie Balkcom, and I organized for the SRM annual meeting in Denver, which featured Bower and some SWGLA producers. I am proud of that because we brought the vitality and inspiration of these cutting-edge ranchers into the SRM.

Among those producers are George Whitten and Julie Sullivan of Blue Range Ranch in Saguache, Colo., previous winners of the Burch Award, longtime mentors in the Coalition's New Agrarian apprenticeship program, and less officially my own mentors. They spoke to a standing-room-only crowd about mentoring aspiring agrarians. After their talk, many of us participated in the New Agrarian Career Connection, where beginning farmers and ranchers met with potential employers in a speed-dating format.

I was also pleased to see our friend Guy Glosson receive the Radical Center Award for Ranching. Guy is the long-time manager of Mesquite Grove Ranch in Texas, and teacher of low-



Guy Glosson.

stress livestock herding (learned from Bud Williams) to many ranchers over the years. He presented this method at a workshop that we organized with the Middle Park Conservation District and Colorado GLCI at Blue Valley Ranch near Kremmling, Colo., a few years ago.

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Connecting with Fellow New Agrarians at the Quivira Coalition Conference

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The culmination of the conference was the Clarence Burch Award, which was taken home (and to the bank) by the Three Rivers Alliance in the Republican River Watershed in the plains of eastern Colorado, southwestern Nebraska, and western Kansas. The watershed has seen excessive groundwater pumping over many years, and now many farmers in Colorado have to relinquish water rights, which means that a lot of farmland is reverting to rangeland. Some of the farmers and ranchers in the watershed are learning about Holistic Management through the Savory Institute and Kirk Gadzia of Resource Management Services.



Author Matt Barnes at a planned grazing workshop in the Republican River Watershed, summer 2011.

I was honored to give a talk at one of his workshops in the Republican River Watershed this past summer.

The Quivira Coalition is the leader of the sustainable ranching movement, the meeting-place of the radical center, promoting resilience in the American West and beyond. Lisa, Cindy, and I agreed that the CSSRM should consider the Quivira Coalition, Southwest Grassfed Livestock Alliance, and American Grassfed Association as sister organizations and partners—and perhaps the SRM might benefit from modeling the adaptive dynamic energy, and growing membership, of these organizations that span the social-agroecological systems of which rangelands are an integral part.

Summer Tour of our Excellence in Grazing Conservation Award winner is scheduled for September 13th. Please plan on joining us at the Everett and Flo Jackson's place in near Kim, Colorado. More information coming soon!

Stories from the Land: Values, Vision, and Action at the Headwaters Conference

Matt Barnes, CPRM
President-Elect, CSSRM

I value work that sustains life, promotes diversity and harmony, and provides a rich variety of experiences. That is why I work on the land, and also why I love the stories that come from the land, and the intellectual exchange of ideas about how best to live on the land. That is also why I participate in organizations like the SRM, and why I recently attended the [Headwaters Conference](#), part of the [Headwaters Project](#) at [Western State College](#) in Gunnison.



Keynote speaker [Winona LaDuke](#) (Anishinaabeg [Ojibwe]), founder and executive director of Honor The Earth and the White Earth Land Recovery Project, opened the conference with a keynote address on indigenous sustainability. Drawing spirit lines between tribal sovereignty, food sovereignty, and food sustainability, and between cultural and biological diversity, she reminded us that we are all related, and that a cyclical worldview is the basis for sustainability. But the thing she said which I found most memorable was a quote from her father when she was young: "Winona, I don't want to hear your philosophy if you can't grow corn." Growing corn is part of what it means to be Anishinaabeg. More generally, it means that you have to know how to live before you tell anyone else how to live. If we work in the intellectual realm, we still have to live in the real world; even if I pursue an academic career, I will need to balance the ivory tower with actually getting my hands dirty. Appropriately, the academic aspect of the conference was balanced out with local field tours.

On the Food Stories tour, my favorite stop was [Parker Pastures](#), where Bill Parker is producing grass-fed beef, grass-fed raw milk, and pasture-raised eggs, all using holistic planned grazing, on land owned by the city of Gunnison primarily for watershed management and open space. Producing natural food while improving the water and mineral cycles, including increasing soil organic carbon may be the most appropriate food production model in most of the American West—which is why the CSSRM hosted the [Sustainable Rangelands Through Low-Input Grassfed Production](#) symposium at the Denver Annual Meeting ([Barnes 2011. *Rangelands* 33\(2\):31-40](#)).



Parker Pastures, Gunnison, Colo.

Stories from the Land: Values, Vision, and Action at the Headwaters Conference (Continued from Page 14)

The “Finding Your Story” workshop with [Enrique Salmón](#) (Rarámuri [Tarahumara]), assistant professor of American Indian Studies at California State University – East Bay, engaged participants in the process of finding their own stories and communicating them in a compelling way. Enrique began: What if Martin Luther King had said not “*I have a dream*” but “*I have a strategic plan*”? He encouraged participants not to launch right in to data and figures or calls-to-action, but to lead with their values, share their vision, and then after engaging their audience, conclude with a call to action. Beginning with the end in mind is also one of *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People* (Covey 1989), and is at the core of [Holistic Management](#) as well as any good business or grazing plan. And, it is a good way to start a [Range Rider](#) or [Rangelands](#) article.

At night we saw two films about ranching, sustainability, and [Holistic Planned Grazing](#). Melinda Levin and Irene Klaver’s *The New Frontier: Sustainable Ranching in the American West* told the stories of [Jim Howell](#) here in Colorado, Sid Goodloe in New Mexico, and Betsy Ross in Texas. It was gratifying to see the Howell Ranch on the big screen. It was all shot before I started managing the place, which is just as well because Jim was restoring this land for about a dozen years before I came along. The second film, Jack Lucido’s *Sustainability in Ranching*, is a work-in-progress documenting several ranchers in the Gunnison Basin, who are also using holistic planned grazing to both produce meat and restore their land.

The films and the field tour told a story that, while familiar to me, remains somewhat paradigm-challenging for many of my friends in the conservation field. But I think a few of them may have had a realization, even a paradigm shift, thanks to the powerful stories shared at the Headwaters Conference.

THE NEW FRONTIER

SUSTAINABLE RANCHING IN THE AMERICAN WEST

The CSU Rangeland Ecology Club will be selling those great “Nice Grass” t-shirts throughout the year.



Contact President Baili Foster at

baili@rams.colostate.edu (970)581-5271 for further ordering information.

IMPORTANT DATES!

Colorado SRM members,

Before the field season gets going, get going on your Trail Boss and Excellence in Grazing Management 2012 award nominations! Nominations have been very thin, especially for the Trail Boss award. Please take time to nominate your coworkers and cooperators. **Nomination deadline is JUNE 30.**

Non-awarded nominations are carried forward from year to year. Remember to include community activities, ranching related or not.

If you have any questions, please call me or drop me an email. My home number is 970-854-5294, work phone is 970-332-3107. Email: julie.elliott@co.usda.gov

Julie Elliott, Colorado Awards Committee

BZZZZZ! Come join the CSU Rangeland

Ecology Club has been Saturday, May 5th. Feel free to arrive any time after noon for a tour and bbq!



Don't hesitate to contact either advisor Paul Meiman

pmeiman@cnr.colostate.edu or president Baili Foster baili@rams.colostate.edu (970)581-5271 for further directions.

THE RANGE RIDER

Colorado Section Society for Range Management

c/o Pat Hessenflow

1420 East 3rd Street

La Junta, CO 81050

**ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED**