

Society for Range Management



Utah Section Newsletter

Spring 2011

<http://www.usu.edu/range/index.htm>

SRM Utah Section Newsletter

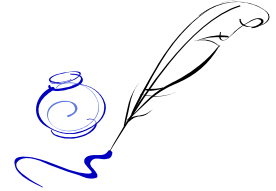
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Notes from the President

Jeff Barnes



It's hard to believe six months have already passed since becoming president of the Utah section. It really is a privilege and honor to serve this awesome society. Back in February, Brian Monroe and I had the opportunity of representing the Utah section at the national advisory committee meeting. It was



held at the national meeting in Billings, Montana. It was a rewarding experience to participate in the making of rules, policy and selecting future locations for annual meetings.

Every time I attend a national meeting I am always impressed with the facilities, organization and planning which has taken place by the host committee. It is a major undertaking and requires a lot of time and energy from those on the planning staff. At an SRM meeting there are so many people who are passionate about everything to do with rangelands. There are so many presentations being made by so many professionals from across the country, covering so many subjects it is hard to decide which technical sessions to attend. I guess that is what I enjoy most about attending the national meeting-it is the training made available by dedicated professionals from around the world. If federal and state agencies only knew how much their employees could benefit by attending these national events they would allow more of them to attend and also provide some sort of compensation.

I am proud to announce that our very own Val Jo Anderson was elected and introduced as one of the new parent society board members.

At the Utah State alumni gathering, Shane Green, NRCS State Range Conservationist for Utah was recognized with a lifetime achievement award presented by Fee Busby on behalf of Utah State University. It was a great opportunity to meet with friends and reminisce about the "good old days".

As a section we currently need a membership chairman.

Please contact me if you would like to learn more about service within our section. Thank you for being members of the SRM Utah Section.

Jeff

FALL MEETING—LOGAN, UTAH

STUDENT ACTIVITIES



Plant ID Individual Winners

R-L 1st Misty Curtis, UVU
2nd Jordan Bybee, BYU,
3rd Kasee Puckett, BYU



URME Individual Winners

1st Jace Lambeth, SUU
2nd Kasee Puckett, BYU
3rd Rio (not shown) Franzman, SUU

Combined Individual Winners

L-R 1st Kasee Puckett, BYU
2nd Jordan Bybee, BYU,
3rd Misty Curtis, UVU




Team Winners

<u>Plant ID</u>	<u>URME</u>	<u>Team Points</u>
1 st – UVU	1 st – SUU	1 st – BYU
2 nd – BYU	2 nd – BYU	2 nd – USU
3 rd – USU	3 rd – USU	3 rd – UVU



Scholarship Winners

Laura Hansen and Zachary Anderson
Utah Section President Jeffrey Barnes (center) Presenting Awards



Rancher of the Year Basque Cross Ranch Lance and Nancy Westmoreland

Basque Cross ranch sits at the foot of the Raft River Mountain range in Park Valley Utah. It is owned and operated by Lance and Emilie Westmoreland. The Basque Cross Ranch currently consists of 381 acres cropland (primarily hay production), 100 acres of pasture, and 4,900 acres of private range. The ranch also holds federal grazing permits and is a principle member of a local grazing association. They run 300 mother cows, 40 replacement heifers, 16 bulls, and 14 horses.


Lance Westmoreland (age: 39) was raised on a ranch in Winnemucca, Nevada. He was an active member of his High school FFA. Two of his highlights with the FFA were winning the Star State Green Hand and runner-up Star State Farmer for the State of Nevada. Lance enjoys history, especially history of the Great Basin. In what little spare time he has, he enjoys visiting hidden historical treasures and exploring new country. His wife Emilie Pugsley Westmoreland (age: secret) was raised in Park Valley, Utah on a neighboring ranch. She was also an active member in FFA and 4H. She excelled in livestock judging, winning a couple of trips to the Denver Stock Show. She now passes these skills on to her kids helping them with 4H steers each year. She loves family outings and camping trips. Lance claims that her favorite past time is moving handlines, so he insures that there is always a few for her to move.

Prior to leaving to serve an LDS Mission, Lance, his father and a business partner purchased the ranch now known as the Basque Cross. The previous owner continued to operate the ranch until Lance returned from his mission in 1992. Lance took over management of the Ranch one week after returning from his mission. At this time there were no cross fences, no water troughs and all crop and pastureland was inefficiently flood irrigated. At that time the ranch could support 200 mother cows year around.

Lance married Emilie Pugsley in 1996. In the last 14 years Lance and Emilie have built a family of 2 Boys and 3 Girls. They have also had the opportunity to purchase the ranch from the other partners and increased the acreage of the private rangeland.

Lance and Emilie are continually striving to improve the resources that they manage. The ranch is kept in orderly condition. Old fences are cleaned up and removed, clutter is virtually non-existent. They love history and tradition. The willow stay fences and juniper post / railroad tie corrals reflect the traditions of a bygone era. Branding is still done with horses, ropes, and a wood fire. Most importantly, the whole family takes part in the day to day operation of the ranch.

Over the last ten years the Westmorelands have vastly improved their ability to manage their land resources. All but a few acres of crop ground have been converted to sprinklers. Miles of cross fence have been constructed to create small manageable pastures. Water has been distributed to troughs in each pasture by several pipeline projects. In several areas of the ranch soil and wildlife habitat concerns are being addressed with range Improvement such as range seedings and brush management. The success of these projects has allowed the ranch to implement a deferred grazing rotation and increase the herd from the original 200 to 300 mother cows.



Rancher of the Year (continued)

A great deal of successes of the Basque Cross Ranch has been the ability to keep “cow cost” down. All of the irrigation water is gravity flow, stock water is either gravity or solar driven. Perhaps their greatest management tools are frugality and an aversion to debt.

Herd health is a major management focus. Their philosophy is that death loss on a small herd like theirs has significant financial impacts. The current herd is crossbred of Hereford X Angus X Gelbvieh. Replacement heifers are selected from the cows who have the best record of bring home a calf. The Westmorelands’ believe this is the most effective method of matching the herd to the ranches grazing resources. Replacement bulls are purchased. They are selected by assessing current performance need of the cow herd, EPD traits, and general physical characteristics. Vaccinations are done on all animals. The herd is checked frequently, allowing rapid medical care for sick and injured animals. Currently the Basque Cross is producing 550 lb calves at above 90% calving rate.

Lance is also involved with the management of natural resources in his community. He currently sits on the West Box Elder Soil Conservation District Board where he helps set conservation priorities that receive Federal funding. He is a member of the Box Elder Adaptive Resource Management Group which is working to understand and help improve Sage Grouse populations in Box Elder County. The Ranch is currently involved with two demonstration projects. The first is a range planting project (partnering with NRCS Plant Materials Center and ARS) to demonstrate the value and palatability of the just released Siberian Wheatgrass Vavolov II. The second, sponsored by the West Box Conservation District, is an irrigation moisture monitoring demonstration to test management methods in Park Valley for saving irrigation water.

The thing that sets the Basque Cross Ranch apart is a love of tradition and history mixed with an eye to future possibilities. They are in a constant state of evaluation looking at how to improve and become better people and managers.





Range Manager of the Year

Mark W. Brunson

Dr. Brunson is currently Professor and Interim Department Head for the Department of Environment and Society at Utah State University. He has been with USU since 1992. Prior to that he was an assistant professor in Forest Research at Oregon State University. He holds a PhD in Forestry from Oregon State University.



Dr. Brunson has had 35 articles published in peer reviewed journals, 13 book chapters, 15 invited book chapters and a variety of other published reports.

Activity in professional Societies and Organizations include having served as President of both the Utah Section of the SRM and President of the Utah Chapter of the Society of American Foresters. He is the member of many other associations and committees.

As evident from Dr. Brunson's list of publications, activities in professional organizations, courses taught, graduate students supervised, and extension activities, he has a remarkable record of advancing the art and science of range management, especially in the long neglected area of social dimensions. Dr. Brunson is truly a leader among the small group of social scientists who have an interest in rangelands, range management, and ranching as an economic enterprise and sustainable lifestyle. His influence is international in scope, as evidenced by paper presentations, consultancies and outreach. He is known as an effective and popular teacher and invited speaker. His grantsmanship record is remarkable, especially for the social sciences area. Mark has the ability to work with an extremely broad cross section of professional and publics.

Dr. Brunson has been a true leader in bring an objective and science based approach to the social dimension of range management and ranching. His research in public perceptions of ranching and rangelands has been pioneering. His ability to forge relationships across disciplinary and emotional boundaries is outstanding. He is viewed as equally credible within the environmental community as he is within the range and forestry professions. Mark has the distinct ability to foster this attitude with his colleagues and to model it to his students. He has recently embarked upon a whole new career path in university administration and will doubtlessly demonstrate the same admirable leadership characteristics in that arena. The Society for Range Management is truly fortunate to enjoy the dedication and professional leadership of Dr. Mark Brunson.



A bumble bee is considerably faster than a John Deere tractor.



Young Range Professional

Brian B. Monroe

Brian has developed a strong and defensible range program on the Cedar City Ranger District. He has instituted an aggressive monitory program that provides photo documentation of compliance with grazing standards on nearly all grazing allotments each year. Compliance documentation and status of the District's range program is summarized in an annual report that so impressed the Forest Supervisor that it became

the basis of an annual Forest wide grazing program report.

Brian is also the weed program manager for the district and has worked with the Iron County Coordinated Weed Management Area (CWMA) to control noxious weeds on both Forest Service lands and adjacent private and BLM lands. He played an important role in the completion of the Sandy Creek project for the control of white top.

His organizational skills have allowed him to complete required task and to ensure that range planning, monitoring and reporting of accomplishments occur in a timely manner.

Brian has developed a good relationship with the grazing permittees and has strived to provide information on sound range management practices. As part of his annual meetings with permittees he prepares summaries of what went well and what did not form the previous year and prepares recommendations on how to improve things. He also keeps permittees informed on potential problems and issues relative to their grazing allotments.

Brian's leadership skills were recently strengthened through serving as the Acting District Ranger for a month during the past summer.

Brian has been an active member of the Society for Range Management since 2000. He regularly participates in the planning committee for the annual Arizona/Utah Livestock Workshop held each April in Kanab and St. George.

Brian comes from a ranching family in Scipio and is still actively involved in ranching activities there. He is also an active member in his LDS Ward and has served in the Young Men organization.

Brian is the President Elect for the Utah Section of the SRM.



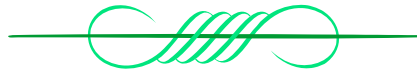
If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around.



Reports from National Meeting

New National SRM Board Member

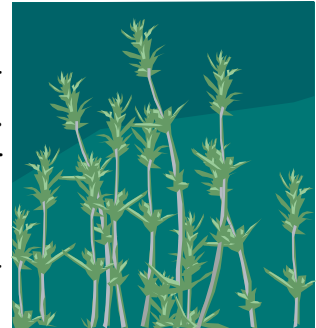
Val Jo Anderson was elected and introduced as one of the new parent society board members.



Student Activities

Congratulations to our Brigham Young University student section for winning 5th place in the International plant ID contest. They also placed 5th in the Undergraduate Range Management Exam. Way to go BYU!

Congratulations also to the Utah State student section for winning 2nd place in the Rangeland Cup Competition.



Achievements by Utah Section Members



Shane Green, NRCS State Range Conservationist for Utah was recognized at the Utah State alumni gathering, with a lifetime achievement award.

Honorary Doctorate, Charles Hardison Redd (Hardy) a long time member of the Utah Section will receive an honorary doctorate degree from Utah State University on May 7. Hardy and his family have contributed much to USU and Utah SRM.





**Utah section SRM 2011 Summer Field Trip
Registration Form**

Dates: June 2-3, 2011

Location: Logan, UT

Agenda: For those staying in Logan we will leave at 8:45am from the Spring Hill Suites Hotel Parking Lot

June 2nd Park Valley, UT

Tour of Ecologically Based IPM Demonstration Areas (USDA ARS Area-Wide Project); and ranch of Lance Westmoreland (Rancher of the Year)

***Lunch and chuck wagon dinner included in registration**

June 3rd Paradise, UT

South Cache County Medusahead Project

Name: _____

Membership Status: Member Non-Member (Circle one)

Spouse/Guest Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number/Email: _____

Registration: *\$45 per person (must be received by May 21, 2011)
*\$35 Student Registration
\$35 Later Registration and Day of Tour (No Meals)

Send Registration form and payment to:

Ron Torgerson
Trust Land Administration
130 N Main
Richfield, UT 84701

Make Checks payable to Society for Range Management. Sorry no credit cards accepted.

Questions or suggestions please email Daniel Cook at Daniel.Cook@ars.usda.gov

Rooms are available at the Spring Hill Suites (625 S Riverwoods Pkwy; Logan, UT 84321 Phone: (435) 750-5180). You must reserve your room by May 19, 2011 to get the government rate. The rate code is SRMC (must be mentioned at the time reservation is made).





Summer Tour Details

The tour will include a visit to the Basque Cross Ranch, Lance and Nancy Westmoreland owners, who were the winners of last year's Rancher of the Year Award. It will also possibly include a fire rehabilitation site.

The second day of the tour will include some of the South Cache County Medusahead Project areas. The community has worked together to go after grant money and develop weed prevention areas including mapping and monitoring. They have approximately 1,000 acres that have been treated.



The evening meal will be at Willow West Rotary Pavilion at Willow Park, Logan



Scholarship Winners

The scholarship committee reviewed three applications for the two, \$1,500, L.A. Stoddart Scholarships for 2011. The two recipients selected were John C. Hill and Trevor Mark Peterson.

John Hill is a junior at Brigham Young University majoring in Wildlife and Wildlands Conservation. He plans to continue his education by entering into a master's program after graduation. John is serving as the SRM President of the BYU student chapter. He is also president of the Wildlife/Range Club. He has attended SRM national meetings and participated in both the plant identification competition and the undergraduate range management exam. John is an excellent student and has maintained a GPA of 3.86! He wants to live in Alaska and raise his family there. His main career goal is to study wildlife and their habitat as a professional biologist.

Trevor Peterson is a junior majoring in rangeland resources at Utah State University. He is an active member of the SRM student chapter and has attended State and National SRM meetings participating in the Undergraduate Range Management Exam and plant identification. Trevor is a serious hard working student whose goal is to become a professional range conservationist. He plans to work during the summer of 2011 either with NRCS collecting ecological site information or on a range survey crew for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.





Range Camp is an intensive 4-day camp held at the Gooseberry Forest Service Campground in Salina Canyon. The dates are from **July 25, 2011 to July 28, 2011**. The cost of the camp is \$100, which includes meals and materials. The camp is open to 25 high school students age 15 and older.

The top two students will receive an expense paid trip to the International Range Society Convention which is held in early February 2012 in Spokane, Washington. While there, they will participate in the High School Youth Forum with other high school students from across the country. More information about this can be found at: <http://www.rangelands.org/HSYForum/index.shtml>

Range Camp offers students a background in ecological principles and the tools used to measure the health of our rangelands, as well as an understanding of the resource management process. A great deal of time is spent in learning and discussing the roles of humans in natural resources, with special attention given to the process of resolving conflict. Over the course of the week, most of the information contained the Range Judging Manual for FFA will be taught, discussed, and practiced. The Field School is a balance of outdoor activities, hikes, and class-room study.

Instructors for the school are Society for Range Management (SRM) members from University Faculty, Agency Professionals, and Private Consultants from across the state.

Sponsorships are available through various county and state agencies, such as Conservation District Boards, Farm Bureau, School Districts, FFA Chapters, and others involved in conservation of our natural resources.

For more information, or to print out additional registration forms, go to the UNRFS section of the Utah SRM website at: <http://www.usu.edu/range/upcomingevents/unrfs.htm>. You can also contact one of the Course Directors:

Fee Busby
Wildland Resources Dept
Utah State University
Logan, UT 84322-5230
(435)797-2319
fee.busby@usu.edu

Mindy Pratt
USU Extension
PO Box 408
Richmond, UT 84333
(435)258-3723
mindy.pratt@usu.edu

Everyone Needs to Get the Word Out About Range Camp





Not Too Early to be Thinking About Award Nominations

Nominations for Section Awards

It is time to consider nomination of section members for different awards. Please keep in mind the section presents the following individual awards each year:

Range Professional, Rangeman of the Year, and Young Professional

Copies of the nomination forms are available from the Section website:

<http://www.usu.edu/range/committee/awards.htm>

They should be completed and returned to Steve Mosen at: 1097 North Main, Mapleton, UT 84664, or by e-mail at sbmonsens@comcast.net.

It is important to remember that the candidate considered for the Young Professional can be individuals that are now 35 years of age. As possible, it is important to visit ranching or agricultural operations that are nominated to better access the qualifications and contributions of individuals considered for the Rancher of the Year award. Please help with this effort. We have recognized a number of excellent individuals the past few years that have contribute to their profession, the Section, and the community.



Nominations for National Awards

National awards are also being requested and the deadline for submission is upon us. It is important for members from the Utah Section to be recognized for their contributions. We have a number of members that have represented the Society and their profession in an excellent and useful manner. These individuals can be sustained in their areas of work through encouragement by the Society.

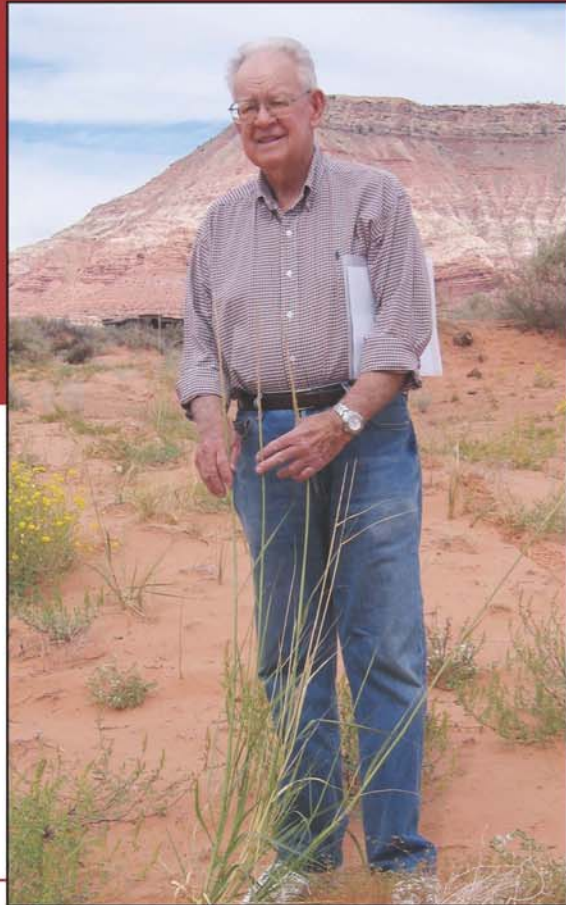


Mindy Pratt will be moving on from her Extension position at the end of this year and needs someone who would like to be willing to administer the State Range Judging Contest for FFA each October starting next year, and would like to start training her replacement at this year's contest. If you are interested please contact her at mindy.pratt@usu.edu.



THE
**JAMES BOWNS
HERBARIUM**

AT
SOUTHERN UTAH
UNIVERSITY



Please help us
honor the lifetime of service of
Jim Bowns
by contributing
to the construction of SUU's
Center for Health and Molecular Sciences.
The Herbarium, as part of the rooftop
greenhouse, will serve as a reminder of the
dedication and commitment
that has marked Jim's career at
Southern Utah University.

GIFT AND PLEDGE CARD

YES! I want to contribute to the James Bowns Herbarium and Center for Health and Molecular Sciences.

I would like to make a gift of \$ _____ METHOD OF PAYMENT: Check (Made payable to SUU)
 SUU Payroll Deduction OR Charge my: VISA MasterCard AMEX Discover

Account Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Print name as it appears on card _____

CONTACT INFORMATION: Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

PLEASE REMIT TO: Cameron Brooks, Director of Development
Southern Utah University, Old Main Building 103C
351 West University Blvd.
Cedar City, Utah 84720