

Society for Range Management



Utah Section Newsletter

Spring 2012

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

SRM Utah Section Newsletter

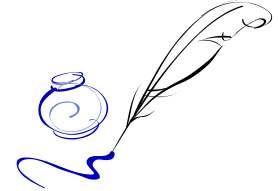
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Notes from the President

Brian Munroe



Random thoughts of a scattered mind:

What is it that causes civilization to lose touch with the basic essentials in life? Some have said that it is urbanization. Others might blame entertainment and media. Has life become so automated that society has lost touch with what really matters? This dilemma has been forefront on my mind lately. I have spoken to educators who have seen the agriculture college budget decline while culture and arts flourish. There has been a surge in recreation, while ranching slips quietly into the night. I fear that there will come a day when civilization wakes up and finds that the sustenance of life has been squandered.

With that dark dismal thought, I would like to report, what many of you already know. The Society for Range Management is an organization that is championing the fight to keep us rooted in agriculture. Each workshop, field tour and convention calls together the greatest minds the world has to offer. I met together with section leaders from around this continent. I am pleased to report that there are powerful captains at the helm. I am humbled and honored just to be in the same room with these driven leaders. Our state section is home to, I believe, most of these distinguished intellectuals.

I would like to call to arms the Utah section. If you have not had the opportunity to participate in this great work, I call upon you now. We need section presidents, chapter presidents, directors and committee chairs. We need individuals to assist the awards committee. We need craftsmen to share their talent within the silent auction. We need mentors to assist in the Range School. We need award nominees. Most of all we need members.

I believe that it is through our meetings and service that we have created a network of colleagues, mentors and friends. I look as forward to reuniting with all of you as much as I do the presentations.

Until we meet this summer may your trough remain full, your hay weed free and your boots smelling fresh.

Sincerely,

Brian Monroe



Scholarships

Scholarships Winners



John Hill—BYU and Trevor Peterson—USU

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.

2012 Scholarship Deadline is April 1st

Send Applications To:

Jeff Barnes
1860 North 100 East
Logan, Utah 84341

Fall Meeting - Richfield

Student Activities

Plant ID



R-L Katherine Willis-BYU 1st, Aaron Searle-UVU 2nd, Bromwyn Maier-BYU 3rd

URMI



L-R Jocalyn Raphael-BYU 1st, Richard Curzon-BYU 2nd, Hanah Ricks-BYU, 3rd

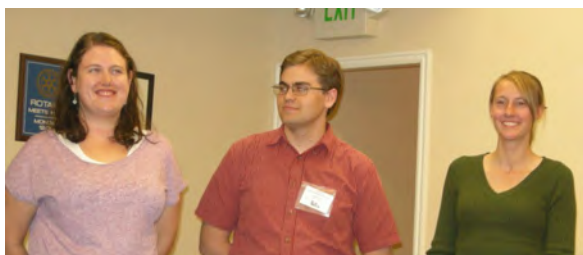


Plant ID Team Winners BYU



URMI Team Winners
R-L - 1st Katherine Willis for BYU
2nd - USU Jace Lambeth
3rd -(not shown) SUU

Overall Combined Winners



R-L Bromwyn Maier -BYU 1st
Richard Curzon-BYU 2nd
Katherine Willis-BYU 3rd

Overall Combined Team Winners

- 1st - BYU
- 2nd - UVU
- 3rd - USU

Rancher of the Year - Taft Farms

Bicknell, Utah

Andrew (Andy) G. Taft and Joni Taft - Owners, Sheep Herder-Bradio

Taft Farms is a Family Ranch. It has been in the family for five generations. Andy took over all management responsibilities of the ranch 21 years ago from his father. However, he bought his own first sheep and land in 1974 – 1979.

Andy has a great looking sheep herd of Rambouillet ewes that are very uniform in their looks. He buys rams from other producers to improve his sheep herd. Andy achieves a good lamb crop each year.

Andy has several grazing allotments on public land to move his livestock through. After feeding and lambing his sheep at the home ranch during February, March and April, he moves his sheep onto the Smooth Knoll BLM allotment in May and stays there through June 24. He then moves his sheep onto Boulder Mountain on the US Forest Service Allotment during the summer months. This area includes the Boulder top and northeast end of Boulder Mountain. On October 15, the sheep are herded through the smooth knoll allotment and taken home to separate the lambs for market. The ewes are then placed on trust lands and BLM Cedar Grove Allotment from November through February, or until the snow gets too deep. His herder stays with sheep in a sheep camp moving the sheep around to prevent overgrazing.

Andy has been using his sheep as a tool to reduce sagebrush canopy cover and improve wildlife habitat in the late fall for three different years. The practice is to supplemental feed his sheep in concentrated areas of sagebrush in a target area after the first fall freeze period when the undesirable chemicals in sagebrush decrease. The sheep utilize the sagebrush thus creating better wildlife habitat. Andy's sheep also benefit from being "flushed" for fall breeding by being fed supplemental feed (whole corn or alfalfa pellets). He has done this to reduce brush canopy on the following projects:

In the fall of 2007, Andy used his sheep to improve sage grouse brood rearing habitat on Parker Mountain. Working with SITLA and USU graduate students, they put approximately 500 head of ewes in a seven acre fenced paddocks for approximately seven days each. The sheep were again fed supplement (pellets) at three pounds per day and encouraged to remove the sagebrush. The sagebrush was removed and in subsequent years the paddocks grew more herbaceous forage for sage grouse and every other ungulate on Parker Mountain. Bird dog surveys showed that the grouse used these grazed areas more than the adjacent un-treated sagebrush sites.

In the fall of 2008, Andy placed his sheep on a Utah Prairie Dog (UPD) conservation easement area on Parker Mountain to decrease brush density so UPDs can see predators easier. It also increased herbaceous vegetation for UPD forage in subsequent years. Andy worked with SITLA, UDWR, and USU and purchased supplement for his sheep with endowment fund money for improving UPD habitat.

Again sheep were used in the fall of 2010 to remove sagebrush to improve sage grouse leks on Parker Mountain. The sheep herd (1,500 ewes) was concentrated during the fall on sage grouse leks that were becoming too "brushy". The sheep effectively removed the sagebrush creating an improved lek. Andy coordinated this project with SITLA, UDWR, BLM, UDA&F, and the Wayne County FFA. One student from the Wayne County FFA is studying the effects of this sheep grazing project. UDA&F also made a video of this project and are using it on the website to promote the "AgriAdvocates.org" project.

Andy's success also comes from the way he manages his sheep herder. Bradio is considered a member of the family and treated with much respect and is highly valued as a worker and friend. Andy sends his herder home to Peru for extended visits whenever he can to visit his family. The sheep, horses, and dogs are "Bradio's" and he takes care of them as such.



Bradio, Andy and Joni Taft with their son

Range Manager of the Year

Nile A. Sorenson

EDUCATION

Graduated from South High School in Salt Lake City in 1965.
Obtaining a BS in Wildlife Management from USU in 1971.
Served in the US Army from 1971-1973.
Obtained a teaching certificate to teach biology from USU in 1974-1975.

WORK EXPERIENCE:

Worked as a conservation officer for the UDWR in Duchesne, UT from 1975 – 1997 – 22 years.
Transferred to Cedar City UDWR and took a position as Biologist from 1997 – 2003 – 5 yrs.
In 2003 he took the Wildlife Managers position in Cedar City UDWR until 2005.
In 2005 he retired for one year.

CURRENT BUSINESS /OCCUPATION:

In 2006 he took the Farm Bill Biologist job which is a joint position with the NRCS and UDWR. He works with private and state lands individuals to implement projects that will improve forage production for livestock but will also benefit wildlife.

ACTIVITY IN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES/ORGANIZATIONS:

Nile has been a member of the SRM for six years.
Member of the Wildlife Society during his career.
Member of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Member of the Mule Deer Foundation
Member of the Wild Turkey Federation
President of the Southern Spurs Chapter in the Wild Turkey Federation
Served as chairman of the SWARM (Southwestern Adaptive Resource Management) Committee

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Nile has been heavily involved in range restoration projects the last 10 years. He has found that by working closely with private land owners and other agencies that he can accomplish many positive projects that will improve range conditions while improving habitat for wildlife and improve watershed conditions. Nile's personality and character traits of trust and honesty have allowed him to implement many range projects on private lands. He was responsible getting several thousands of acres of private lands seeded on the Milford Flat Fire and the Paradise Fire. Nile has been implementing range projects on private and state trust lands in Beaver and Iron counties including chaining thousands of acres each year to improve range and watershed health. He has found that range management and wildlife habitat are connected and he has joined the SRM the last six years to learn as much as he could so he could improve his range practices and personal knowledge. He has gone out of his way to contact private landowners to sign them up for Farm Bill conservation programs that would improve land health. He has also been willing to complete all the necessary paperwork and cultural resource surveys necessary to complete these projects. In the last several years Nile has taken the lead in the NRCS' Sage Grouse Initiative, which seeks to promote rangeland health to protect the Sage grouse, while improving forage resources for the benefit of ranchers. This symbiotic approach has benefited both the private ranchers and the sage grouse in a dynamic way. In his efforts with this initiative, Nile has planned and implemented range improvement treatments on thousands of acres of rangeland in four counties in Southern Utah. His ability to work with land owners and cooperate with agency personnel to achieve many good lands projects has been remarkable.



Outstanding Young Range Professional Carson Kendall Gubler

Carson is a graduate of Southern Utah University. He received a BS in Biology and Botany in 2006. Carson has attended all of the required training BLM offers to rangeland management specialists including National Environmental Policy Act, Threatened and Endangered Species courses, and a number of annual Human Resource Development programs.

All of Carson's on the job experience comes from his time at the BLM's Kanab Field Office (KFO). He is currently Lead Rangeland Management Specialist (RMS), KFO.

However, Carson is active in ranching efforts within his extended family. Carson also loves to hunt a great deal which gives him perspective while working on public lands.

Carson began his career as a seasonal employee working in range while working on his degree. While working for KFO he was able to land a RMS job in the KFO and eventually became the Lead RMS. Through his efforts,

KFO has been able to lead BLM Utah in restoration projects. Thousands of acres across Kane and Garfield Counties that have been restored to a more natural ecological condition will forever have Carson's name on them.

Leadership- Carson is the type of guy that comes early and leaves late. He is the first to step in to get the job done and does not ask others to do a job he is not willing to do. Carson has a great deal of common sense that he passes along to those he works with including a number of seasonal employees each summer.

Carson works actively with his permittees. He trains them in current range and ecological principles and works with them so that they better understand what good rangeland health is.



If you're riding' ahead of the herd, take a look back every now and then to make sure it's still there

Will Rogers

Range Excellence Award Deseret Land and Livestock

The Utah Section's 2011 Range Excellence Award was presented to Deseret Land and Livestock (DLL), Woodruff, Utah, for sustained excellence in improving diverse rangelands and demonstrating profitable livestock production in harmony with healthy wildlife habitats accomplished by a high performing team of managers who openly share their experiences with others. Please see Deseret Land and Livestock's website (www.dlandl.com).

"Deseret Live Stock Company" was formed in 1891 by group of prominent Mormon pioneer families and served as a sheep summer range for six decades. Then the ranch had multiple ownerships for some 30 years. The ranch's cattle numbers increased and the amount of sheep was reduced. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints purchased the ranch in 1983 recognizing it not only as the largest contiguous block of private land in the state but also an historic property. They emphasized growing the cattle enterprise and cutting costs. Deseret Land & Livestock is a legacy to the owners, managers, and employees for the past 120 years.

DLL cattle production provides the greatest contribution toward ranch income and employs the majority of the full time employees. The cattle program maximizes profit by: 1)keeping cost/pound of beef produced to a minimum, and 2)producing quality beef in a manner compatible with our local environment. Calving, breeding, and weaning seasons are timed to match the forage production and weather patterns of the ranch with the nutrient demands of the cow. Genetic selection focuses on matching the cow to the environment while producing marketable offspring that perform in the feed yard and yield high quality beef.

Grazing is used to manage and improve plant communities in the watershed. The DLL grazing management promotes sustainable production and land health. This is possible by monitoring the effects of different grazing practices on resource health. The goal of their grazing management is to balance the effects of use with an appropriate recovery period thus protecting both plant and watershed health. Larger herds graze pastures for brief periods. During periods of rapid plant growth, less than 10% of the ranch vegetation is being grazed while 90% is either recovering from grazing or growing forage for use later. This method increased plant density and diversity and decrease bare ground. DLL recorded dramatic increases in stocking rates from 1983 to 2009: mother cows 2600 to 4800, yearling cattle 3000 to 3500, elk 1500 to 2400, antelope 0 to 850, moose 50 to 200, and sage grouse 800 to 1800. Also, the size of riparian areas increased; one area had 10 acres of riparian vegetation in 1976 and 34 acres in 2006.

Wildlife management involves grazing and combining water resources with other tools such as fire and rangeland treatments to maintain diverse habitats. Emphasis is given to management of big game species; however, consideration is given to all wildlife species in ranch management decisions. Hunts maintain big game herds at population levels in balance with the range resources and are conducted to minimize stressed and wounded animals. Annual harvests take about 10% of elk, mule deer, pronghorn, and moose populations. Hunters must pass a shooting proficiency test and conduct themselves in a safe and ethical manner. Self-sustaining cutthroat trout thrive in miles of healthy stream habitat, and rainbow trout inhabit selected ponds around the ranch. This provides high-quality fly-fishing experiences. The ranch features abundant and diverse bird populations. Three Breeding Bird Survey routes began in 1995. The National Audubon Society and Birdlife International lists DLL as a Utah Important Bird Area where over 275 species of birds have been identified.

These are a few of the reasons that the Utah Section of the Society for Range Management recognized and honored Deseret Land and Livestock for their commitment to excellence in range management.



Robert Campbell presents award to Craig Kennedy for Deseret Land & Livestock as his wife Melva and Shane Green Look On

Changing of the Guard



Jeff Barnes Outgoing President Receives Plaque from New President, Brian Monroe



Jeff Barnes Outgoing President



Jeff Barnes Outgoing President Hands Over the Reins to New President, Brian Monroe

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.



Do not corner something that you know is meaner than you.

National Meeting Awards



**Range Plant ID Team 4th Place
Brigham Young University**



**2nd Place
Undergraduate Extemporaneous
Speaking Bromwyn Maier
Brigham Young University**



**Range Plant ID Team 5th Place
Utah State University**



**RSEC Early Career
Teaching
Steven Peterson**



**Rangeland Cup 3rd Place
Brigham Young University**



Field Tour and Summer Meeting

Hosted by

The Great Basin Chapter of the Society Ecological Restoration (SERGB) and the Utah Section of the Society for Range Management (Utah SRM)

The recently organized SERGB and the Utah SRM announce a combined meeting and field tours on June 18-19 and 20, 2012. The principal tours on June 18 and 19 will visit sites in plant communities ranging from sagebrush foothills to aspen and high elevation subalpine sites within the Wasatch Mountains. Many of the areas were heavily grazed before the turn of the 20th century. Study sites in which seeding and site protection measures were employed up to 100 years ago will be inspected. The ecological responses and changes that have occurred with the use of introduced and native species will be presented. Examination of old photographs and presentation of data will be provided to understand the successional changes that have occurred. Additional stops will include a native plant selection and development garden and a big sagebrush common garden. The event will include an optional one half day tour on June 20th to inspect some successful restoration projects to establish tall forb communities amid high elevation disturbances.

The field tours are open to members of both organizations as well as all other interested individuals. The principal tour will begin at 1:00 pm on June 18th at the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Great Basin Research Center office located at 494 West 100 South, Ephraim, UT. There will be an evening steak-fry in Ephraim on June 18, and lunch will be provided at the historic Great Basin Field Station during the tour on June 19. The optional tour on the 20th will also begin at the Ephraim location at 8:00 AM and conclude at 12:00 noon.

Pre registration is required by June 1st and can be completed by e-mailing the information below to Samantha Schoppe at Samanthaschoppe@utah.gov (phone: 435-283-4441). Registration for the field tours, break on the 18th, lunch and breaks on June 19, and breaks on June 20th is \$15.00. Adding the steak fry on June 18 brings the registration fee to \$25.00.

Registration fees can be paid at the time of arrival.

Additional information will be made available on the SERGB Upcoming Events webpage (<https://www.ser.org/greatbasin/default.asp>)


Registration Information: Name _____

E-mail address _____ Phone number _____

Mailing address _____

Registration fee, Two-day field tour only \$15.00 _____

Two-day field tour and evening meal \$25.00 _____



Utah Natural Resources Field School

RANGE CAMP

July 30 to August 2, 2012

Provides high school students with four days of hands-on experience with natural resource systems and the challenges of managing them.



LOCATION:

Gooseberry Forest Service Camp (East and South of Salina, Utah). Students reside in Station's Cabins.

FIELD SCHOOL STAFF:

Utah State University
US Forest Service

Private Consultants
Utah DWR

Bureau of Land Management
Natural Resource Conservation Service

FIELD SCHOOL SPONSORS:

Utah Section Society for Range Management
Utah State University, College of Natural Resources

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

School FFA Advisor
or

Fee Busby, UNRFS Director
(435) 757-5636
fee.busby@usu.edu

Mindy Pratt, UNRFS Director
(435) 258-3723
mindy.pratt@usu.edu

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>.



APPLICATION

2012 Utah Natural Resources Field School

Applicant Information:

NAME: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Zip: _____

Age: _____ Circle which applies: M F

School Grade Level (in fall 2012): F SO JR SR

Parent(s)

Name: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Have you attended the Field School Before? Yes No

Sponsor Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Affiliation: (Please circle one)

Extension FFA SRM CD Other

Copies are Acceptable

Deadline: **June 30, 2012**

\$100 Tuition due with application

Make Checks to Utah Section SRM

Send application and payment to:

Fee Busby

Wildland Resources Department

Utah State University

Logan, UT 84322-5230



Mark your calendar for the 34th Annual
**2012 AZ/UT Range Livestock
 Workshop and Tour**
April 10-12, 2012

Registration: 7:30 - 8:15 a.m.

Workshop: 8:15 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

April 10 - Washington County Fairgrounds, Hurricane, Utah

April 11 - Frontier Movie Town, 297 West Center, Kanab, Utah

April 12 - Tour: Grand Staircase (TBA)

No cost! Door prizes! Lunch provided from sponsors.

Workshop topics include:

- Beef cattle marketing
- Pinion/Juniper ecology genetics
- Cow disposition's effect on production
- Desired condition of rangeland
- Animal health update
- Mexican wolf reintroduction
- Keeping livestock producers on the land
- Industry sponsor updates

Tour will be on the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument.

Don't miss out on the door prizes!

Savage Rifle/scope, dutch ovens, feed supplements, knives and more! (Must be 18 years of age to be eligible to enter gun drawing.)

Organized by:

Utah State University and University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Bureau of Land Management, Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA Forest Service, Kane County, Fredonia and Hurricane/Littlefield Conservation Districts, local ranchers and sponsors.

For more information contact your local Extension office or one of the following:

Rob Grumbles, 928-753-3788
grumbles@ag.arizona.edu

Kevin Heaton, 435-676-1117
kevin.heaton@usu.edu

Paul Hill, 435-634-2691
paul.hill@usu.edu

Chad Reid, 435-586-8132
chad.reid@usu.edu

Kyle Spencer, 928-643-7062
kyle.spencer@az.usda.gov

extension.usu.edu



Utah State University
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Utah State University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.





BEFORE



AFTER

Photos courtesy of the Bureau of Land Management

3rd Annual Southern Utah Biomass Field Day Beaver, Utah September 18, 19 & 20, 2012

Tuesday, September 18

Biomass Summit

The Utah Biomass Resources Group (UBRG) will hold its second annual Biomass Summit in conjunction with the Southern Utah Biomass Field Days in Beaver, Utah. This meeting will focus on woody biomass utilization and will include participation from industry, academic and government leaders. *All are welcome.*

Wednesday, September 19

"In the Woods" Equipment Demonstrations

Southern Utah Biomass will be hosting its third "in the woods" biomass field day. 28 diverse pieces of equipment have demonstrated/participated during the 2010 & 2011 field days. Attendees from 18 states, Canada, China and Washington DC have traveled to Southern Utah to learn more about Utah biomass.

Thursday, September 20

Pinyon/Juniper Restoration Tour

Retired Forest Service Range Specialist, Dayle Flanigan will lead the tour this year. The focus of the tour will be the ecological effects of woody biomass removal, mastication and burning. We will observe and discuss the overall effects to soils, vegetation community composition, water cycle, nutrient cycle, energy flow and the native wildlife species.

Enjoy a live band powered by the Dragon Wagon (UBRG's mobile woody gasifier) and a BBQ in the park the evening of September 18 in Beaver, UT. Visit www.utahbiomass.com for more information.

Contact: Lance Lindbloom
lance@utahbiomass.com
(877) 340-4801
www.utahbiomass.com

Check out our Utah Section website!



Society for Range Management - UTAH SECTION

HOME NEWS UPCOMING EVENTS OFFICERS COMMITTEES LINKS ABOUT SRM

Current News
Past Newsletters

**Welcome to the Utah Section of
The Society for Range Management**

The Society for Range Management is the professional society dedicated to supporting persons who work with rangelands and have a commitment to their sustainable use. Rangelands comprise almost one-half of all the lands in the world. They are extremely important to society for the goods and services they provide. SRM is dedicated to the conservation and sustainable management of rangelands for the benefit of current societies and for future generations.

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



Membership Information

Membership in the Society for Range Management is open to anyone engaged in or interested in any aspect of the study, management, or use of rangelands. Membership rights and privileges include: voting, committee service, nomination and election to offices, subscription to *Rangelands* journal and the *Rangeland News* (formerly Member Resource News), discounted prices for publications, meeting registration fees, page charges and certification fees. For more information on membership in SRM, or to request a Membership Application, please contact Lesley Radtke, Director of Membership, 303-986-3309, or email LRadtke@rangelands.org.

Membership Applications Forms:

[Online Membership Application](#)

[Printable New Member Application \(pdf\)](#)

[Printable New Member Student Application \(pdf\)](#) - The New Member Application with the Student Verification Form

[Student Verification Form \(pdf\)](#)

[Printable International Application \(pdf\)](#)

[Printable International Application Country List \(pdf\)](#)