

Society for Range Management



Utah Section Newsletter

Spring 2017

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SRM Utah Section Newsletter

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Notes from the President

Kendall F. Nelson



Greetings fellow members of the SRM! As another winter winds down, I hope everyone has found an opportunity to take some time, relax, and appreciate the vast and expansive resources Utah's rangelands have to offer. As the interest in land management continues to increase throughout the west, we should all be able to take some personal satisfaction in our own contributions that we continue to make across the great State of Utah with regards to responsible land stewardship. Further-

more, when the opportunity presents itself, I encourage all of us to share some of these accomplishments with those around us. We need to take the opportunity, when and where we can, to tell our stories of success.

Some of these contributions and accomplishments were on full display last fall at our annual section meeting in Richfield. The theme for the meeting was "Rangeland Solutions through Cooperation and Partnerships" and for a day and a half we heard from about twenty-five different presenters on rangeland successes and ongoing endeavors in scientific research. At our banquet, we were also privileged to recognize some folks that are truly making a difference on the landscape with their efforts to continue to improve the facets that they control on the rangeland resources of which they influence. Also, for the first time, we had student representation from five universities/colleges across the state in our undergraduate contests. It was truly exciting and refreshing for me to hear about real-life current examples of things like opportunity, working together, compromise, finding solutions, collaboration, relationships, and the list goes on. My many thanks to all those that presented, attended, and helped out in other ways to make our meeting a success!

Also, as you know, our Utah Section had the privilege of hosting the International SRM Meetings this year. The theme was "Red Rock and Rangelands" and the meetings were held in St. George from January 29th through February 2nd. This was a wonderful opportunity for our section to showcase some of our most spectacular resources in the southern part of the state as well as spotlight the outstanding section that we are all a part of. On that note, I would like to thank our international meeting co-chairs, Randall Violett and Tom Monaco. They did an outstanding job! Also, my thanks to Mark Brunson for putting together a top-notch program. Another job well done! They, along with many others, did a lot of heavy lifting to make the meetings such a wonderful experience for all those in attendance.

I am humbled and honored to be a part of this great professional organization. As your President, it is my goal, in some small way, to help further the one written objective of the Utah Section of the Society for Range Management: *To foster advancement in the science and art of grazing land management, to promote progress in the conservation and sustained use of forage and soil resources, to stimulate discussion and understanding of scientific and practical range and pasture problems, and to provide a medium of exchange of ideas and facts among section members and allied technologists, and to encourage professional improvement of its members.* It will take all of us working together to more fully see this objective become a reality. I look forward to the upcoming field season and hope to see you all on our summer tour!

Best Regards,

Kendall F. Nelson

Outstanding Young Range Professional Taylor Payne

Taylor has worked for the last six years for the UDAF-GIP program planning and implementing a wide variety of range improvement projects, including fencing, water developments of all kinds, brush management and grazing systems to benefit livestock and wildlife. He is currently the Sage Grouse Initiative/ Grazing Improvement Coordinator for the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food's Grazing Improvement Program in Randolph Utah.

He has also been crucial in working with producers and Forest Service, BLM, NRCS, SITLA, and others on the Three Creeks project in Rich County. Because of Taylor's consistent dedicated efforts the project continues to move forward with the support of the producers. In addition to this Taylor also has his own range consulting firm and works with producers in Wyoming and Idaho on Range issues and monitoring.

Taylor has shown incredible ability to bring various partners together to get effective range management in place on the ground. He has worked on projects large and small, and has shown repeatedly his ability to bring various stakeholders together to accomplish common goals. Taylor is proactive at showing what the positive results both economically and ecologically can be accomplished by good range management. As he works with producers he is able to transfer the good things that have happened on previous projects and leverage them to accomplish new projects. Taylor is also an excellent communicator and those skills and his likability allow him to work with a broad diverse group of people to get things done.

Taylor has been a member of SRM for several years and is was very engaged in helping to put together the National meeting that was held in January/February of 2017. He is the President –Elect of the Utah Section of the SRM.

Taylor has spoken to many large groups about the Three Creeks Project, The Sage Grouse Initiative and other successful projects. These include the Colorado SRM, the Wyoming SRM, The Utah Cattlemen, Utah Farm Bureau and the Utah Woolgrowers. Taylor also presented at the National Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative Meetings in Florida.

Taylor and his wife Krista are very involved in their community of Randolph and all of Rich County. Each year they put on a Zombie run in October for the youth (and any others interested) of Rich County. Krista has also chaired the Raspberry days celebration in Rich County for the last two years.

Taylor and Krista also won the Excellence in Agriculture award from Farm Bureau last year. The award included a Four Wheeler and they were able to compete in the national competition.

Nomination made by Troy Forrest



Taylor Payne (far right) receives the Young Range Professional Award from Utah SRM Section President Steve Deeter (far left) and Troy Forrest (center) who nominated him for the award.



Range Manager of the Year Dr. Eric Thacker

Eric Thacker's education includes the following: 2010 Ph.D., Wildlife Sciences, Utah State University, Dissertation: Greater Sage-Grouse Seasonal Ecology and Responses to Habitat Manipulations in Northern, Utah. In 2006 M.S., Range Sciences, Utah State University. Thesis: Ecologically-Based Management of Snakeweed-Infested Sagebrush Steppe Communities in the Great Basin. In 2001 he earned a B.S., Range Science, Utah State University.

His current position is as Assistant Professor/ Range Extension Specialist which he began in August 2013. Prior to that he was a Range Ecologist (post-doctoral research fellow) from December 2011 – July 2013. From January 2010 – December 2011 he was a Research Range Management Specialist (post-doctoral research fellow) and a Ph.D. Research Assistantship January 2006 – December 2010 and Range Research Technician and M.S. Graduate Student from January 2000 – April 2006.

Dr. Thacker has written and/or published 24 either Extension publications (Peer-Reviewed) or Journal publications (refereed).

Activities in professional societies or organizations include: Member of Society for Range Management: 16 years (2000-2016), Member Utah Section of Society for Range Management: 13 years (2000-2010 & 2013-2016), SRM Wildlife Habitat committee: 6 years (2010-2016), SRM Range Science Education Council: 2 years (2014-2016), SRM Targeted Grazing committee: 2 years (2015-2016), Oklahoma City Annual SRM Meeting Program committee: 2012-2013, SRM "Under Graduate Range Management Exam" committee. 2010-2013, SU URME Coach: 4 years (2002 -2006), Member of The Wildlife Society: 2009-2014 and 2016, and Member of the TWS Range Wildlife working group 2013-2016.

Eric's interest in range management began as a young man growing up in Duchesne County. Early on he demonstrated a vocation for working with diverse stakeholders to identify and achieve excellence in natural resources management. As an undergraduate and graduate student he dedicated himself to following an educational and experiential path to prepare him for a career as an extension range specialist. Since coming to Utah in 2013 he has cultivated and supported a network of landowners, state and federal range and wildlife managers with the most current scientifically-based information regarding the managing Utah range lands for multiple uses. His is regularly sought out for his counsel and experiences and has become a household name as someone who can be counted on to tell it straight.

Here are some examples of his impact. Since arriving at USU in August of 2013 Eric has:

Worked with Chad Dewey from Snow College to develop a 2+1+1 (2 years at Snow, 1 year of broadcast courses at USU Ephraim and 1 year on Campus in Logan) program for future range students at Snow College. Developed and hosted dozens of range workshops and field tours. He has been an invited lecturer and presenter at over an additional 30 at tours or workshops

In 2015, Eric was recognized for his expertise by the Six County Association of Government for his impact in range management and extension. Eric has been contracted by three of the Utah USFS Forest to help them implement the Sage-grouse Land-use Plan Amendments and the BLM to develop and evaluate a protocols for implementing the 4th Order Habitat Assessment Framework. He was involved in the development of draft Utah Range Monitoring Manual. This manual upon implementation will be used to help standardize range monitoring among private and public land managers. Develop an app for hunters and others to record and help in early detection and the management of noxious weeds on remote areas. In brief time, Eric has rapidly become the face of contemporary range management in Utah. Under his leadership, the USU Extension Range Programs has reached thousands of diverse stakeholders. His innovative use of social media – blogging - has created a new forum for the discussion of the emerging science, policy, and management issues. Largely because of his efforts and visibility, the under graduate range management program at USU has nearly double, as incoming students develop a deeper appreciation of the role of science in management.

Eric has been married for 18 years and the father of six.





Rancher of the Year

Parker Mountain Grazers – Dave Christensen President

Dave Christensen had been a permit holder for 20 years. Parker Mountain Grazers had been an organization for more than 65 years, and grazing had taken place on the mountain for more than 120 years. He bought permits starting in 1996. The ranch is located in the Parker Mountain Allotment. The ranch consists of 84,000 acres and runs 1400 head of cattle and 1600 of ewes.

Dave has been a co-chair of PARM (Parker Mountain Adaptive Resource Management) for five years and Parker Mountain Grazers president for 10 years.

Parker Mountain Grazers have had to deal with the issue of Sage Grouse and the management of grazing livestock for many years. Many people felt that there was a significant risk to the grazers' ability to stay on the allotment if they continued to manage in a season long grazing system. Although the sage grouse persisted on the allotment under that type of grazing system, members of the grazing association felt that changes needed to be made. They realized that better control of livestock was necessary to achieve their goals of being able to use the allotment long term. Several years ago the Parker Mountain Grazers changed the grazing system on the allotment. Parker Mountain Grazers wanted to be able to implement a rest rotation grazing system on the mountain, but to do that they needed to be able to have reliable water in each of the pastures in the allotment. Because there is no live water on Parker Mountain, they rely on stock water ponds to catch spring runoff and summer rains. To address the water issue they have cleaned, maintained and in a few cases built new stock ponds. With the help of DWR, Grazing Improvement Program, NRCS, and SITLA the grazing association has done something to more than 70 stock water ponds on the allotment. In addition to the ponds they have maintained more than 50 miles of cross fences and continued to hire a rider to check fence and move cattle during the grazing season. Along with pond and fence maintenance, they have applied Spike to more than 4,000 acres of sage brush in Sage Grouse brood rearing areas of the allotment.

The result of this change in management is that pastures are being rested, forage is being utilized better across all of the pastures, cattle are in better shape, and Sage Grouse have the opportunity to find the type of habitat they like best throughout the grazing season.

Nomination was made by Tom Tippetts.



SRM President (left) presents the Rancher of the Year Award to
Parker Mountain Grazers



Scholarship Winners

Cecily Fitch Wilson – Cecily was a junior at Brigham Young University when she applied for this scholarship. She is now a senior, majoring in the Wildlife and Wildlands conservation program. She will graduate in April 2017. Cecily worked as a student in the Pathway Internship Program for the Forest Service. She worked as a range conservationist in Wells, Nevada, on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. She has been involved with the BYU Plant ID and URME teams competing in state and national SRM meetings. Cecily competed in extemporaneous speaking where she won second place. Cecily hopes to continue to study our rangelands in an effort to preserve their health, beauty and productivity for us and future generation.

Britney Gwen Allen Bosshardt – Britney was a junior attending Utah State University at the time she applied for this scholarship. She plans to obtain a Master’s Degree at USU and continue her lifelong education by working with University Extension. Her studies are centered in Rangeland Resources with emphasis in soil science and agronomy. While in high school Britney attended the Utah Natural Resources Field School. She was selected as top camper and had the opportunity to participate in the High School Youth Forum in Denver, Colorado. She is now involved with the USU Range Club serving as its President. Britney has attended and competed in Plant ID and URME during the collegiate SRM activities in 2013 and 2016. All these experiences have given her keen awareness of the importance of conserving soil, water, air, plant and animal resources. Her passion has been and always will be to work with the and the land managers.



Jeff Barnes presents scholarship \$1,500 checks to Cecily Fitch Wilson (left) and Britney Gwen Allen Bosshardt (center)



Student Awards

	Plant ID	URME	Combined
1st	Alysa DeFranco	Julian Mesick	Alysa DeFranco
2nd	Brie Hardy	Chris Blubaugh	Justin Taylor
3rd	Justin Taylor	Thomas Bates	Britney Allen

	Plant ID	URME	Combined
1st	BYU	USU	UVU
2nd	USU	BYU	SUU
3rd	BYU	USU	UVU/SUU



Plant ID Winners—Justin Taylor, Brie Hardy, Alysa DeFranco



Combined Winners—Britney Allen, Justin Taylor, Alysa DeFranco



URME Winners—Chris Blubaugh, Thomas Bates, Julian Mesick





Student Teams



SUU



BYU



USU

UVU not
available
for photo



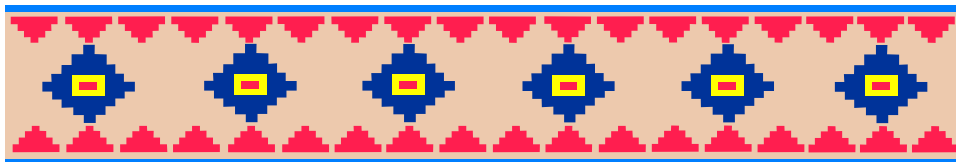
Utah Members Recieve Awards at National Meeting

W.R. Chapline Research Award

For exceptional and sustained research accomplishments
related to rangelands



SRM National President Val Jo Anderson (left) Presents W. R. Chapline Research Award to Dr. Bruce Roundy of the Utah Section at the National Meeting in St. George, Utah



Outstanding Achievement Award in Research and Academia

Dr. Del Despain





This and That



Range Camp dates for 2017 are July 25th thru 28th. Check the Utah Section Homepage to view this year's brochure.



Live Stream Symposium at the SRM Annual Meeting at: <http://rangelands.org/cgi-live-stream-symposium-srm-annual-meeting/>



If you shop on Amazon, go to amazon.smiles.com and select American SRM for a percentage of your purchase price to be sent to the National SRM. Doesn't cost you anything and you only have to sign up once.

Big congratulations to Tom Monaco and Randall Violet for spearheading a VERY successful National Meeting in St. George recently—and also to everyone who helped in the effort. Way to Go Utah SRM!!!



The Society for Range Management – Utah Section

L. A. Stoddart Scholarship

The Utah section of SRM will be awarding two **\$1,500** scholarships for the **2017-2018** academic year. **The scholarship competition is open to students who currently are sophomore or juniors in a range or range-related program at a Utah University.** Applicants must also be members of the Society for Range Management. Past recipients of the scholarship may also apply, however preference will be given to those who have not received the scholarship in the past.

Applications must be received on or before **April 15, 2017**. The scholarship will be awarded on the basis of GPA, activity level with the Society for Range Management which includes involvement with a university range club, demonstrated leadership, letters of recommendation, essay and potential to contribute to the range management profession.

Required application materials

Cover page that introduces the student and describes career goals and activities in SRM and/or other range-related organizations. Include the following information:

Name, birth date, address, e-mail, university, major, and expected semester of graduation. Here students may include anything they wish the committee to know about themselves.

Transcripts for all undergraduate institutions attended which include both courses taken and GPA on a 4-point scale (unofficial transcripts are acceptable).

Two letters of recommendation. May be included with application or sent directly to Jeff Barnes by email from the person writing the recommendation.

- An essay (2-page maximum) on “Strategies and Techniques that can be used to Reduce the Frequency of Large Scale Wildfires”.



Membership Information

Memberships

New members: To pay online, please review the membership options below. When you have decided on a selection, you can then click "Add to Cart" to add the membership to your shopping cart. Once the membership appears in your shopping cart, you can then add a subscription to *Rangelands* and *REM* before checking out.

New Members: [click here](#) and let us know how you heard about us!

Renewing members: Please [login](#) to renew your membership online. Once you are logged in, you may add the available membership to your shopping cart. Once the membership appears in your shopping cart, you can then add a subscription to *Rangelands* and *REM*. Contact information and demographics can be updated under "Member Profile."

All members, new and renewing, also have the option to pay by post; to do so, then please complete the [Membership Form](#) and send it with payment to the below address.

Society for Range Management
Business Office
P.O. Box 1897
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

Please contact us directly (membership@rangelands.org or 785-865-9456) if you qualify for the following SRM [membership rates](#)
Emeritus, Un-Sectioned, Commercial, Institutional

Membership Applications Forms:

[Online Membership Application](#)

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

[Printable New Member Student Application \(pdf\)](#) [Student Verification Form \(pdf\)](#)

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

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

