

# Society for Range Management



## Utah Section Newsletter

Summer 2009

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

*SRM Utah Section Newsletter*

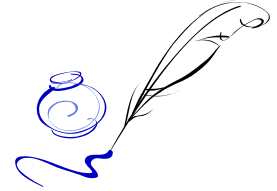
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## Notes from the Editor

Maxine Deeter



Our little corner of the world has suddenly turned into Spring. Seems like it was late in coming this year. Any time now summer will be upon us. For many of us, that means the field season. We can leave the paperwork in the office behind and head out to the beautiful outdoors and do our job there and think "Wow, they are paying me to do this!" That is not to make light of the work we do in the field. Many of us in our professions have the privilege of working with the "grass roots" folks, a pleasure many do not get to experience in our hectic, techno world.

With summer comes some events that need noted – hence the abbreviated but very important Summer Newsletter. The summer tour is fast approaching. Final details and registration forms are found on page two and three.

It would not be summer without George "Cookie" Cook's Field School. Hats off to George and his crew for putting this all together. It seems we are fast losing our young folks to the lure of the bright lights and higher pay of city jobs once they finish school. I know my own children are in fields unrelated to range and agriculture. But, I've never regretted raising them at cow camp with no electricity or running water. They think they had the greatest childhood ever. Now the kids prefer video games and Guitar Hero to climbing red rocks or building "forts".

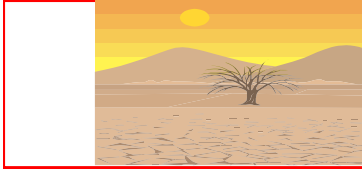
So, if you know young folks who would benefit or enjoy the Field School, pass along the enclosed information. Apprize your local County Agents and Vo Ag teachers.

Okay, so we do depend a lot on modern technology to do our jobs – even the outdoors aspects. Laptops, GPS units, Blackberries – we'd have a hard time working without them. So, in this techno age the Utah Section has hired a new webmaster – though she is not new to SRM. Mindy Pratt has redesigned our homepage so check it out. Pass along any items you'd like to see included on the page. I think Mindy has done an outstanding job in bring our Section website up to par and beyond. Good job, Mindy!

Now, get out there and enjoy the Spring and Summer in the greatest and most beautiful state in the Union.

See you in Tooele!





***SRM Summer Tour***  
***June 4-5, 2009***

**Thursday 12:30 PM** – Registration/Meet at the Tooele County Extension Office, 151 N. Main Tooele (Across from Big 5 Sports).

**Skull Valley**



**Ensign Ranch:** - (Biosolids Land Application). Study to monitor forage production and quality, soil profile changes and benefits to ranching. Mike McFarland USU Department of Civil and Environment Engineering, Joe Thackeray Ranch Manager, Mark Schmitz Utah Department of Environmental Quality.

**Rush Valley**

**Lookout Pass crested wheatgrass diversification site** Interplanting of natives into crested wheatgrass, April Hulet, Bruce Roundy.

6:00 PM – Dinner in Vernon (the pavilion at the Vernon LDS Church, 280 Main St.)

7:00 PM – Evening Program Elizabeth Mitchell history of Benion Area

**Friday 7:30 AM** - Breakfast in Vernon (the pavilion at the Vernon LDS Church, 280 Main St.)

**Rush Valley**

**Onaqui SageSTEP Site: (Sagebrush/ Juniper treatments)**

A regional experiment to evaluate methods of sagebrush steppe restoration in the Great Basin (i.e. prescribed burn, chain saw, mowing, herbicide and bullhog). Bruce Roundy, Gene Schupp, Mark Brunson, Summer Olsen, Jeff Burnham, April Hulet and Kert Young. ([www.sagestep.org](http://www.sagestep.org))

**NEON Project** Mark Brunson/Bruce Roundy

**12:00 PM Tour Ends**





**Lodging in Tooele:**

Best Western Inn Tooele: 365 N. Main (435) 882-5010, 1-800- 448-5010. Ten rooms reserved at government rate of \$102/night until May 31st. Mention SRM Summer Tour.

Holiday Inn Express: 1531 N. Main (435) 833-0500. Ten rooms reserved for SRM Summer Tour at government rate of 102/night.

Rooms fill up fast in Tooele due to Miller Motorsports Racetrack!

Shane Green had previously offered his cabin and bunkhouse for use but that is no longer available.

There are some good camp spots at and around Vernon reservoir. Camping is available on public lands in the area.

UTAH SECTION SRM 2009 SUMMER FIELD TRIP REGISTRATION FORM

June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Tooele, Utah

Name: Member Non-Member

Additional Spouse or Guest Name(s):

Address:

Phone Number or Email:

Registration: \*\$40 per person (**Registration fees must be received by May 29, 2009**)

\*\$30 Student Registration

\$30 Later Registration and Day of Tour (**No Meals**)

\*Includes Dutch oven dinner on June 4<sup>th</sup> and breakfast on June 5<sup>th</sup>

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



# Utah Natural Resources Field School

## RANGE CAMP

August 10 to August 13, 2009

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

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**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  
George Cook, UNRFS Director  
(435) 637-0937 (home)  
(435) 820-0056 (cell)  
gcook@emerytelcom.net

<http://www.usu.edu/range/upcomingevents/unrfs.htm>

*Help spread the word!*



### Who May Take the Course?

The Field School is open to high school students from Utah, ages 15 and older. Graduated seniors may attend the camp, but are not eligible for individual awards.

The Field School will accept the first 25 students who return their application form with the tuition payment.

The Utah Natural Resources Field School is unique in providing students with a complete picture of the natural resources system. The high standards students achieve at the Field School provide the winners of the top Individual Awards a highly competitive edge at the national level of competition.

### Awards:

Each year students compete for the Top Individual Award. The two students with the best overall scores will win an all-expense paid trip to the High School Youth Forum at the International Society for Range Management meetings which will be held in Denver, Colorado in Early February, 2010.

### How to Enroll:

Fill out the attached application and send it with your \$100 tuition to: George Cook, Box 505, Wellington, UT 84642. About the first of July, you will be sent a confirmation packet including a packing list, medical release forms, directions, and a schedule. Travel to and from the Gooseberry Forest Service Camp is the responsibility of the participant.

### Sponsorship and Refunds:

Sponsorships are available by agriculture and natural resource oriented companies and organizations. Some of these include: Conservation District Boards, FFA Chapters, School Districts, Water District Boards, and ranchers in your area. For more information, contact your local FFA Advisor.

If you have any questions or need more information on availability in your area, call George Cook at (435) 637-0937 (home) or (435) 820-0058 (cell), or email at [gcook@emerytelboom.net](mailto:gcook@emerytelboom.net).

Partial refunds can be issued by contacting the UNRFS Director by July 15, 2009. No refunds are issued after this date.



## Utah Natural Resources Field School

### RANGE CAMP

August 10 to 13, 2009

Gooseberry Forest Service Camp  
Fishlake National Forest

Presented by:

Utah Society for Range Management  
Utah State University

Website:

<http://www.usu.edu/range/upcomingevents/unrfs.htm>

### Comments from Past Students:

- "I understand what they were doing and why they were doing it on the land."
- "The camp was well-taught and well-organized."
- "We learned a lot of plants and taking the quizzes helped us remember. It was great going to the different areas to see the different plants in each area."
- "The staff was fun and willing to help you and answer our questions."
- "Range Camp was a great experience and not that hard."
- "The quality of the staff was very high. It was a great learning experience."

# Come Join the Fun!

### Field School Staff:

Instructors come to the Field School from Utah State University, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Bureau of Land Management, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, State Lands, US Forest Service, and the Private Sector. All are professionals with a strong background in rangeland resources, wildlife, watershed, forestry, or natural resource based education. Instructors are members of the Society for Range Management.

**Field School Application can be found at the Utah Section website**



Tara Torgerson & Jesse Malan  
Attendees to the 2008 Field School

Check out our new 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>

Our new webmaster is Mindy Pratt and she has done a great job of redesigning the Utah Section website.



### ***Fall 2009 Utah Section Meeting***

**Dates: November 5 & 6, 2009**

**Cedar City**

Location: Crystal Inn, 1575 West 200 North Cedar City, Utah

Lodging: Crystal Inn 435-586-8888

25 Double Queen Non-smoking rooms have been reserved

Rate: Single/Double \$65.00

Triple/Quad \$75.00

All rates subject to state and local taxes.

\* Includes Hot Breakfast Bar\*

Contact Number: 435-586-8888 be sure to reference Utah Section of the Society for Range Management.

***It is not too early to be finding items for the auction!!!***



**WORKING LANDSCAPES**  
 Providing for the Future

Come to the Joint Annual meeting of the  
 Society for Range Management and the Weed Science Society of America

**7-11 February, 2010**  
**Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel**  
**Denver, Colorado**

For more information go to: <http://www.rangelands.org/denver2010/>

**First Call for Volunteers**

63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Range Management  
 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Weed Science Society of American

Here in Colorado, both Societies are working hard laying the groundwork for what is developing into a fun filled and educational week in Denver Colorado.

Volunteers to assist with the running of the day-to-day events and programs are needed. Most of the volunteer work will focus on assisting the moderators and accommodating the speakers.

If you have a desire to help, please contact:

Josh Saunders  
 USDA – NRCS  
 200 West Railroad Ave.  
 Fort Morgan, CO 80701  
 Work Phone: 970-867-8568 ext. 120  
 Cell Phone: 970-554-1002  
 Email: [josh.saunders@co.usda.gov](mailto:josh.saunders@co.usda.gov)

**Thank you so much and I look forward to hearing from you!**

*Scholarship Winners!*

The Utah Section, Society for Range Management, Scholarship Committee has selected the following two students as recipients of the \$1500 L.A. Stoddart Scholarship for 2009-2010. They are Chris Jorgensen and Levi Bennington. The alternate is Jake Russell. Scholarships are awarded based on membership in the Society, GPA, involvement in SRM activities, demonstrated leadership and potential to contribute to the range management profession. Applicants also composed an essay on "Applying Range Science Principles to the Management of the World's Rangelands". We want to congratulate our well deserved recipients.



# Rangeland Cup Competition

By Garth Nelson

Rangeland Cup is a team competition, a subject is written by a member of the SRM and given to the students in late September. Generally the subject consists of a question relating to Range Management and asks for a possible solution. This competition is not only a great lesson in Range Management is also helps students hone their skills in collaboration, communication, and presentation. While getting our poster ready we also used the opportunity to visit with current professionals from around the state in order to present a more rounded answer and solutions to the topic. As far as the "art" side of range science this was the most valuable student competition I have competed in and that includes URME and Plant ID. The problem solving and presentation skills I learned while competing in the Rangeland Cup have already benefited my life and will undoubtedly continue to benefit me through my career.

Combined our team probably worked on the poster for more than 150 hours and we definitely wanted to win the competition and represent the Utah section to the best of our abilities but third place will just have to do. I would ask other members of the Utah section to be supportive of the students in this competition and provides their professional experiences with them. Our team would especially like to thank Chris Call, Fee Busby, Jim Bowns, Randy Russell, Lelsey Morris, Ben Baldwin, Tom Monaco, Fred Provenza, and all the other members of the Utah section SRM membership. Be sure to help students next year to get the Cup back to Utah.

## "Wicked" Problems in the Wild West

Casey Addy, Garth Nelson, Derek Trautvein Advisor: Dr. Chris Call  
Utah State University Logan, Utah

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### Abstract

The settlement patterns of the western United States created "wicked" problems. We show how settlement was encouraged through legislation, and how the resource damage that followed was accompanied by even more legislation. All of the laws combined to form the mosaic of ownerships and determined how they would be managed. Even though Utah was settled in a very organized and communal way the area faces the same issues as the entire West does today. We examine two areas in Utah that were settled in the same fashion but face their own set of natural resource issues today. The challenge that the West faces is, planning land use to meet present and future needs. Our solution is to use local grassroots efforts to alleviate the problems in the "wicked" West.

### Introduction

The way the North American West was settled provides managers with new challenges everyday. Many of these problems do not find the optimal solutions due to conflicting paradigms amongst stakeholders. In natural resource management these problems are often referred to as "wicked." "Wicked" means that problems are often impossible to solve because of incomplete, contradictory, and changing requirements that are difficult to recognize. In order to interpret how the West was settled one must consider the factors that influenced migration to an unknown territory. Spanish padres and fur traders were assisted by Native Americans and gave the first accounts of the West. Prospectors and pioneers then came west, laying claims to valuable resources following the trails described by the trappers (fig. 1). In Utah settlement was quickly established in a communal fashion by Mormons. In the 1860's the U.S. government began passing laws to dispose of the land to the people, which was further facilitated by the idea of Manifest Destiny (fig. 2).

**Laws that encouraged Western Settlement**

- 1862 Railroad Act → Checkerboard ownership patterns
- 1862 Homestead Act → 160 acres
- 1877 Desert Lands Act → 640 acres
- 1906 Enlarged Homestead Act → 320 acres
- 1916 Stock Raising Homestead Act → 640 acres

**Laws that attempted to protect over-used Natural Resources**

- 1891 Forest Reserves Act
- 1905 Forest Service Established
- 1934 Taylor Grazing Act
- 1964 Wilderness Act
- 1970 National Environmental Policy Act
- 1972 Endangered Species Act
- 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act

**How does the past affect today's management?**

The series of laws and settlement patterns have had a great effect on the way land is managed in the western U.S. These laws have created a large public and private domain in which everyone has an important opinion on how management should proceed (fig. 3). As a result almost all management decisions in the West are "wicked" problems. We have examined two areas of Utah that were settled by the same means but have been affected in different ways.

### Case Study 1: Washington County, Utah

Washington County, Utah was settled by Mormon pioneers in the 1850's for the purpose of supplying cotton, fruits, and molasses to other Mormon communities. Because of the very and environment only a limited amount of land was suitable for settlement and irrigation. The population boomed soon after the establishment of many National Parks such as Zion, Bryce, and the Grand Canyon bringing visitors by the thousands. Spectacular scenery and favorable winter conditions has led to an incredible amount of urban sprawl. Washington County has 264,057 acres of private lands (17% of county) to support a population of 133,791 (2007 U.S. Census Bureau).

**Current "wicked" problems**

- Social: Urban Development, Various Values, Recreation
- Ecological: Several Threatened & Endangered Species (i.e. Desert Tortoise), Wildfire, Invasive Plants (i.e. Red Brome), Water Availability, Habitat Fragmentation
- Institutional: Lake Powell Pipeline, Washington County Lands Bill, Vision Diox Growth Planning

**Challenge:**

Land use planning to meet needs of present and future generations

**Suggested Actions**

- Create grassroots initiatives
- Create relationships and trust
- Help transcend individual paradigms
- Bring stakeholders to the table
- Increase dedicated agency representatives
- Bring science and professionalism to the table
- Be flexible, use innovation, and employ adaptive management
- Provide for future needs
- Avoid litigation
- Treat the divided landscape as a whole using the concepts of Ecosystem Management

### Conclusion

Combining the ecological, socio-economic, and institutional perspectives allows groups and managers to transcend paradigms and work together towards a radical center (fig. 4).

As the resources become more scarce conflicts become more fierce. Even after 150 years of settlement and management we are still trying to adapt to our environments. Settlers were trying to adapt the environment to their needs and wants. The time to adapt to our surroundings has come and compromise needs to be found in order to provide essential natural resources for future generations.

**What we learned from these two case studies**

- Grassroots efforts work in protecting landscapes and merging management
- Grassroots efforts should be started before issues become "wicked" problems
- Grassroots are more difficult with large populations and many stakeholders
- Past and present land use decisions on a local basis can affect millions of people
- Urban planning needs to include large scale ecological considerations for the short and long terms
- Common ground can be found in all communities

**References**

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- U.S. Census Bureau.
- Black and white photos courtesy of Utah Historical Society, all rights reserved.
- Other photos courtesy of Dr. Mark Stinson and Casey Addy.

**Acknowledgements**

Ben Baldwin, Roger Banner, Mark Brunson, Jim Booms, Randy Russell, Fee Busby, John De Tol, Lesley Morris, Tom Monaco, Fred Provenza, Jamn Johanson, Hardy & Charles Reids, Don Dwyer, Neil Fraser