



Volume 3 **International Mountain Section Newsletter** October 2004

To Foster Advancement in the Science and Art of Grazing Land Management

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President's Message Ed Mott

It's late summer, almost Fall, there've been showers throughout the summer, and some cooler weather than the same time last year. Most of the range I've 'windshield monitored' in Alberta at summer range tour and up and down the East Slope Montana is significantly improved over the last year. Some is the best I've seen in 6 or 7 years; livestock and wildlife definitely show the positive results. It's important the value good range management has had through these drought years reflected in the pastures which show few problem sites of weeds and cheat grass now that there's been some moisture.

The Summer Range Tour (tour was definitely the operative word!) was an awesome success and I didn't even get to attend what was likely the best part: Barry's canoe trip on the North Saskatchewan River. Credit Donna Lawrence, Barry Irving, and I'm sure, several others who helped plan and organize the tour. Special thanks to Christoph Weder and family for their gracious hospitality with a great BBQ and breakfast and most interesting tour of a very innovative ranching operation.

The Annual Fall Meeting will be held October 29 & 30 at the Gran Tree Inn, Bozeman, Montana - details are elsewhere in the newsletter as to location, rooms, etc. This will be an outstanding meeting: Fee Busby, Dean of College of Natural Resources at Utah State University, will be featured speaker at a no-host mixer on Friday evening at the Gran Tree; it's a chance to meet, reconnect and discover what's happening in range and the SRM. Its also a great opportunity to meet and share with members of the MSU Range Club, many of whom are SRM members and we hope to recruit the rest before graduation.

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President's Message Continued

The Range Club and the MSU Range Science Department will make most of the presentations on Saturday. During the Summer meeting Barry and Judy Irving graciously agreed to be editors for the IMS section newsletter as Mandie Reed asked to be relieved. Our special thanks and appreciation to Mandie for her work and her promise to continue to be actively involved in IMS activities.

Enclosed in this newsletter is your ballot for selection of officers for the coming year - please vote and return your ballot or bring it to the fall meeting. Hope to see y'all in Bozeman.

Ride easy

Ed Mott

Summer 2004 IMS SRM Business Meeting

Blue Lake Lodge, Hinton Alberta, July 23, 2004

President Ed Mott called the meeting to order at 8:15 PM

Barry Irving discussed making a joint proposal with the Northern Great Plains section to host a parent society annual meeting. Interest has waned in bidding for the meeting and is effectively dead at this time.

Ed Mott discussed the activities of the advisory council at the Salt Lake City meeting. These included discussion on revising the Standards of Conduct for Rangeland Management professionals, Sustainable Rangelands publicity, and name changes for the Journal of Range Management, Trail Boss News and the Members Resource News.

Stephanie Sever discussed her and Barry Adams investigation into establishing a section web page. One option cost \$200 CN per year and another option costs \$6.95 per month. Any web page the section has would be linked to the parent society page. Students use web pages extensively and are a primary place to search out information on rangelands. Our page needs to look professional and needs to be kept up to date. The web page should contain membership information as well as the newsletter.

Motion was made by Barry Irving and second by Brett Olson to authorize Stephanie and Barry to go ahead and establish the web page by which ever option they see appropriate. Motion carried.

Kara Ricketts discussed the funding of the range youth camp, the governor's range tour and the winter grazing seminar in Montana. These activities were cut from the budget in the last legislative session but

2004 Executive, Directors

2nd Year

Montana

George Hirshenberger

2nd Year

Alberta

Richard DeBruin

1st Year

Montana

Stephanie Seaver

1st Year

Alberta

Christoph Weder

were funded in the end with money in the Growth Through Agriculture program for one year. In recent conversations it does not appear that these activities will be funded in the future.

Motion by Matt Ricketts and seconded by Stephanie Sever that the section president send letters and make follow up phone calls to encourage the continued funding and that the NGP section be asked to also campaign for these activities. Motion carried.

Lou Hagener brought up that the parent society "Bed and Breakfast" program needs to be pushed from the section level. This program would establish a roster of SRM members that will put up other members in their homes and the amount paid would be contributed to SRM to be split for the endowment fund, the section and to cover costs of administration.

Mandie Reed would like to be replaced as the newsletter editor.

Barry and Judy Irving have volunteered to take over doing the newsletter.

Lou Hagener would like to pass along the Secretary Treasurer job. A successor maybe available but is yet to be confirmed.

Brett Olson brought up that the Old West Regional Range judging contest is being held in Glendive and is in need of sponsorships.

Motion by George Hirshenberger and seconded by Matt Ricketts that the section contribute \$150.00. Motion carried.

Awards committee functioning was discussed. Bob Ross and Matt Ricketts handle the Montana side and Ed Nelson and Art Bailey handle the Canadian side. Members should keep in mind making nominations for section awards as well as parent society awards. Nominations for parent society need to be submitted on a specific schedule to be considered.

Nominations for officers

Angela Bogen has agreed to stand for election to 2nd Vice president and Edward Bork will run for Canadian Director. A nominee for Montana director will be forth coming. Nominations need to be received in a timely fashion so a ballot can go into the newsletter announcing the annual fall meeting.

Our Student members from Montana State University will be heavily involved with putting on the fall meeting in Bozeman. Ed believes he will be able to get Fee Busby to be a speaker. Stephanie Sever has discussed meeting arrangements with the Grand Tree Inn. The fall meeting is scheduled for October 29 & 30

Ed Nelson announced that rough fescue has been named the official provincial grass.

Donna Lawrence has established an email roster for the section and will continue to maintain for the near future.

Ed Mott mentioned that the parent society has requested the sections contribute to some unfunded projects. The section maybe willing to contribute to some of these, but the membership needs more information. Discussion of this request is tabled until the fall meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM

Schedule - Fall Meeting IMS of SRM
GranTree Inn
Bozeman, Montana
October 29 - 30

October 29

Afternoon registration, supper on your own

7:00 PM No-Host mixer - Fee Busby, Utah State University,
International Rangelands

October 30

7:30 Executive Meeting & breakfast - GranTree Inn Restaurant

9:00 Registration and Range Program - MSU Student Union Room 278
Look for a diverse program led by faculty members from Montana State University and students from the MSU Range Club. The program will be further grounded by local ranchers and practitioners who will discuss innovative range management techniques.

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Range Program Continues

3:00 IMS Business Meeting

6:30 Annual Banquet and Awards Program - Gran Tree Inn

Best Western
Grantree Inn
1325 N. 7th Ave.
Bozeman, MT 59715
1-800-624-5865

Rooms reserved for Oct. 28-30 at \$75/night (US). Ask for rooms held in a block under the International Mountain Section or block number 802807. The room block will be released on Oct. 10. Room reservations will still be accepted after this date, but will be on an as available basis. Take the North 7th exit off I-90 and head south. The GranTree Inn is the first hotel on the right.

Nominations for 2nd Vice-President**Angela Burkinshaw (nee Bogen)**

Angela was raised on a mixed farm in central-east Alberta. There she “cultivated” an appreciation for land that had never seen a plough. Her interest in agriculture led her to the University of Alberta to specialize in range and wildlife management. Towards the end of her degree she was fortunate enough to find summer employment with Alberta Forest Service where she conducted vegetation inventories in southwestern Alberta. The abundance of native vegetation in this picturesque landscape solidified her desire to finish school and seek further employment in the range management field. After university she obtained a job in central-west Alberta as a range management forester. After five years, further education was pursued. She entered into a masters program at the U of A under the supervision of Dr. Edward Bork. Currently, Angela is working in Central Alberta with Public Lands and Forest Division where she is part the provincial range resource management team and researches range ecology in the Aspen Parkland.

Nominations for Director**Edward Bork, Alberta****Matt Ricketts, Montana**

Edward Bork was raised on a mixed farm in NE Alberta, and completed his B.Sc. in Agriculture, specializing in Range Management at the University of Alberta. After several years working as a Range Agrologist with the Alberta Forest Service, he returned to the U of A and completed his M.Sc. (Wildlife and Rangeland Resources). In 1997 he completed his Ph.D. in Range Science at Utah State University, after which he returned to Alberta taking up the position as Range Scientist in the Department of Agricultural, Food, and Nutritional Science. In that position, he has taught many undergraduate and graduate students in 3 courses which form the core of the Range and Pasture Management Major. Additionally, he has supervised 17 graduate students over the last 7 years, who have and continue to work in a wide range of fields including fire ecology, grazing systems, agroforestry, wildlife-vegetation interactions, remote sensing, and rangeland improvements through nutrient addition and integrated weed control. He has also maintained strong relationships with many collaborating agencies, including government agencies and administrations, agribusiness, and non-governmental conservation organizations, and is reflected by a high level of extension activity. Finally, Dr. Bork has continued his involvement in primary agriculture. He and his brother run a mixed crop/beef operation NE of Edmonton, providing him with a unique perspective on the role and importance of research and teaching in agriculture.

Matt Ricketts has worked for the past 21 years as a soil conservationist, district conservationist, and area rangeland management specialist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. He is a life member of the SRM. He resides in Livingston, Montana, with his wife and four children, where he also raises a few naturally grass fed beef. He was raised on a family ranch in Northeastern Oregon, which was established in 1862 and is still in operation today. Matt graduated from the University of Montana in Range Management. He has been active in youth and adult range education for the past 21 years at Montana Range Days, Montana Youth Range Camp, the Harlowton MT Range Ride, Montana Age Lenders Range School, and numerous other local and regional events. He has authored numerous papers and technical notes, including studies on: "Rangeland Mineral Availability in Montana" and the "Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range". He has had the privilege of working with hundreds of ranchers and land managers in range and ranch management plans over the years. In 2003, Matt received the SRM's "Trail Boss Award".

2004 IMS Summer Tour – Exploring Alberta’s Northern Rangelands
Donna Lawrence, 1st Vice-President

Thanks to all those that attended the summer tour this year. I know most of you traveled many miles just get to the tour and then I took you on a 1000 km drive through the Edson/Hinton area, into the Peace Country and back again! For those unfortunate folks who couldn't make it to the tour, here's what you missed!

Canoeing the North Saskatchewan River. The North Saskatchewan River was at its best for our canoe trip. The skies were blue, the temperature perfect, the water was warm and inviting, especially to the Montanans. The birds were singing, the deer were grazing, the fish were biting (only moderate lacerations were sustained) and the scenery was spectacular. What a perfect way to start the tour! Thank you to Barry and Judy Irving for organizing the canoe trip and to Brian Olson for helping Barry transport boats and all the other required equipment!

Learning about forest grazing. Mike Willoughby explained the classification and inventory programs that have been undertaken in Alberta to describe this resource. We learned about the forested rangeland health assessment developed by Alberta Sustainable Resource Development and we discussed the challenges of integrating livestock grazing and timber harvesting on crown land in Alberta. Thanks to livestock producers Peter Aschenmeier and Ralph Burns for joining us to discuss this issue from their point of view.

Discovering “wild” horse grazing pasture in the northern Rocky Mountains with Barry Irving. The history and culture associated with outfitters and their horses combined with modern day forestry and oil industry makes for challenging resource management issues in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains in northern Alberta. Barry Irving showed us prime winter horse grazing habitat – bog birch and horsetail in hygric meadows on gentle slopes of glacial till; I think we were all challenged to think of that community as a grazing resource! What an interesting stop and it was a hoot to don hard hats, safety glasses and safety vests while visiting cutblocks in Weldwood's Forest Management Area. Thanks to Barry Irving and Brooks Horne from Weldwood of Canada for taking us to such an interesting and scenic spot!

Driving north to the Peace Country to discover unique northern badlands and grasslands. A trip to the **Kleskun Hills** and the beautiful **slopes of the mighty Peace River** made our southern members feel quite at home! They enjoyed seeing the prairie Stipas, Agropyrons and even Opuntia that far north! Thanks to Margot Hervieux, Alberta Parks and Annette Baker, Alberta Conservation Association and Colin Stone, Range Management Specialist with Public Lands, Sustainable Resource Development for exposing us to this unique northern grassland ecosystem. We were also very fortunate to see largest known **prairie sod transplantation project** which took place on the Robert Cochrane ranch northeast of Grande Prairie. A total of 9 acres of this rare Peace Parkland prairie was transplanted to enable the twinning of a principle highway. Dr. Bailey developed the methodology and supervised the transplanting of this sod in the spring of 2000; it was amazing to see this prairie flourishing in its new home. Thanks to the tenacity of the Cochrane family and expertise and science provided by Dr. Bailey, this remnant of rare Peace Parkland Prairie will remain for years to come!

Other tour participants toured **Christoph and Erica Weder's northern Alberta Ranch** located along the beautiful Spirit River near Rycroft. Christoph and Erica have worked hard to develop a rotational grazing system for their Angus herd and have had many successes in just a few years. Christoph was also able to discuss the opportunities and challenges of operating a cow/calf operation in a farming and ranching area in northwestern Alberta. Christoph and Erica hosted a delicious BBQ for the tour participants. We all enjoyed their hospitality and Erica's wonderful food! We loved it so much we had to go back for breakfast the next day! Thanks to Christoph and Erica for being such terrific hosts!

Thanks also for all the IMS members that helped organize and host the summer tour – Barry Irving, Christoph Weder, Colin Stone, Mike Willoughby, Art Bailey, Mandie Reed, and Lou Hagener. I couldn't have done it without your help! Thanks to our sponsors whose financial support helped reduce the registration fees to our

members. Our sponsors included: the Public Lands and Forests Division of Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Alberta Beef Producers, West Central Forage Association, Yellowhead County, County of Grande Prairie, Brazeau County, Ducks Unlimited Canada, and the Alberta Conservation Association.

I hope you enjoyed your tour of northern Alberta and thanks so much for making the effort to attend. As you all know, it takes a lot of work to put these tours together, but it is worthwhile when members attend and enjoy themselves!

Donna Lawrence

Message from the Editor

This is my first crack at the Newsletter, and it has been a bit of learning experience. I will distribute this edition by the traditional mail route and also by e-mail. The Denver office staff have done an excellent job of developing a data base which I can access for mass mailings or e-mails. E-mail is the most efficient way of distributing the newsletter and I am assuming it is also the most efficient way for the membership to receive the newsletter. As a green editor I would appreciate input on the following questions:

1. Are you comfortable with an e-mail distribution (backed up with mail for members who do not have access to e-mail)? E-mail is cheaper, faster, and to be honest it is easier. If we are to develop this method each member should update their personal record on the Parent Society webpage. Go to www.rangelands.org, and click on the "Members" button. Your signon ID is your membership number (on your member card), and your password is your last name. You should change your password after your first sign on. Follow the links to edit and maintain your own personal information, especially your e-mail address.
2. What information would you like to see in future Newsletters? This is a loaded question, because for the newsletter to rise to higher ground, the membership will need to make contributions. I can generate articles of interest, but my well will run dry pretty quick. If we are going to expand the content of the newsletter I am going to need your help.

Barry Irving

Information Sources:

www.agric.gov.ab.ca Agriculture web site for Alberta

Western Canadian Grazing Conference, Mayfield Inn, Edmonton, Alberta. December 8-10, 2004
Call the Ag-Info line at 1-800-387-6030 or 1-403-742-7942 for more information.



Ballot:

For the Office of 2nd Vice-President

Angela Burkinshaw (nee Bogen)

Write In: _____

For the Office of Director

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Edward Bork

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