



Volume 3 **International Mountain Section Newsletter** September 2006

To Foster Advancement in the Science and Art of Rangeland Management

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**President's Message
Maynard Smith**

Our fall meeting committee has been getting together via e-mail. We hope to have a program in place that will be educational as well as enjoyable to all attending in Great Falls November 3rd & 4th 2006.

Jon Siddoway(NRCS Great Falls) has been very helpful in setting up the meeting that will be held at the Great Falls Hampton Inn.

Jason Campbell Executive Vice President of the SRM will be in attendance along with Dennis Phillipi 2nd Vice President of the SRM and Jeff Mosley Director SRM.

Jason Campbell was born and raised in Alberta, moved to Montana, worked for the Montana State Lands Department. He then went to work for the Montana Stockgrowers Assn. as the Recourse Coordinator and from there to Washington DC as the Executive Director of the National Public Lands Council.

This will be an opportunity for members of the International Mountain Section to meet Jason first hand and express any concerns they might have about the SRM.

We have had a dry, dusty and smoky late summer and everyone is hoping the prediction for moisture this coming week comes true.

Looking forward to seeing you in Great Falls November 3rd & 4th 2006.

International Mountain Section
Society for Range Management
Fall Meeting

November 3 and 4 2006, Hampton Inn, Great Falls, Montana
406-453-2675 For Room Reservations

November 3	Evening	Casual socializing around the local watering hole
November 4		
	7:30-8:30	Registration
	8:30-10:00	Business meeting SRM 1 st VP Dennis Philippi SRM Director Jeff Mosley IMS members.
	10:15-12:00	Technical Program, Morning Session Matt Ricketts, NRCS Bozeman Montana livestock mineral supplementation. Tanya Thrift, BLM Dillon Elk use on the Sun River game range. Jason Campbell, Executive Vice-President SRM Mapping the future of SRM
	12:00-1:30	Lunch on your own
	1:30-5:00	Technical Program, Afternoon Session Robert Rumney, Rancher Cascade Mapping your rangeland and innovative noxious weed eradication. Fred King, Ennis Russian hunting enterprises. Tracy Brewer, Montana State University Joe Skeen, Institute for Rangeland Restoration Partnership project between MSU, Texas A&M & New Mexico State University Discussion
	6:00-7:00	Banquet and Awards Ceremony Socializing
	7:00-8:00	Dinner, Hampton Inn
	8:00	Entertainment, Bob Ross, Out House Presentation

Important Meeting Information

Lodging: Hampton Inn, 2301 14th Street Southwest, Great Falls, Montana
406-453-2675
Book before October 11 for the SRM Room Block

There is a block of 50 rooms at a rate of \$79.00 + tax **until October 4th** (get reservations as soon as possible).

If you are coming from the north or the south on I-15 take the 10th Avenue South Exit, turn right onto exit 0 (Zero) - this will be within a 1/4 mile of exiting off of 10th Avenue South.

If you are coming from the east on highway 87, just proceed all the way through 10th avenue south, through the last light on 10th and take exit 0 (Zero).

If you are coming from the north on highway 87, proceed south over the Missouri River bridge and continue south on 14th Street to 10th Avenue South, then turn right onto 10th Avenue South and proceed all the way through 10th, through the last light and take exit 0 (Zero).

No matter which direction anyone is coming from - after exiting at exit 0 you will come to a light – turn left - the Hampton Inn will be the first large building on your left.

Meeting Room: **Hampton Inn on November 4th**

Banquet: Also at the Hampton Inn catered by Tony Roma's on Saturday night with a cash bar.

Please notify Jon Siddoway in advance of your plans to attend so he can make the appropriate meeting arrangements. Registration can be paid on arrival and will be in the \$50 US range.

Call or e-mail Jon at:

Phone: 406-868-4434

E-mail: jon.siddoway@mt.usda.gov

Minutes – SRM IMS Section Meeting – Big Valley, Alberta – July 22, 2006

The International Mountain Section of the Society for Range Management held its summer meeting in Big Valley, Alberta, Canada on July 21, 2006. Section President, Maynard Smith, called the meeting to order at about 9:00 AM.

Maynard introduced the officers and board members who were present.

It was moved and seconded that the meeting notes from the fall 2005 meeting be approved as they appeared in the Section's Newsletter. The motion carried.

Thanks to Angela Burkinshaw and all those who helped her put on the tour of the Rumsey Block yesterday and all who helped with the planning for the meeting facilities and meals for the meeting here in Big Valley.

Finance. Secretary/Treasurer Barry Adams was unable to attend today but provided Maynard with a brief summary of our active accounts: As of May, 2006 there is \$1790 on deposit in Canadian funds and \$1669.79 on deposit in US Funds. Recent expenses include a \$100 contribution to the Montana Youth Range Camp and a \$125 contribution to the Montana Youth Range Days. A question was raised about the amount still set aside in the 'speakers reserve account' but Barry did not provide that detail.

Awards. Lou Hagner handed out two papers for consideration and discussion. The first paper sets out the goals of the awards program and lays out the purpose and criteria for the two awards the IMS has given out. After some discussion, Lou said he would make some changes in this paper and would have it ready for final discussion at the fall 2006 meeting. The other handout describes how the IMS Awards Committee is structured and the procedures they follow. **Lou stressed the need to get any award nominations into the committee by September 1, 2006.** Contact Lou for Montana nominees and Art Bailey for Alberta nominees.

Youth Activities. Bret Olson summarized recent activities and thanked the membership for their support of the Youth Range Camp and Youth Range Days in Montana. Bret also provided an update on the SRM's High School Youth Forum. Katlyn Keogh attended last year and IMS gave her \$400 to help defray her costs of attendance. After some discussion about the Youth Forum, Bret Olson moved and Art Bailey seconded a motion to offer two \$400 'scholarships' for next year's HS Youth Forum, one to be awarded to an Alberta student the other to a Montana student. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Nominations for Officers and Directors. Sue De Bruijn was nominated by Art Bailey for Director, Alberta. Barry Irving said he would contact Mike Alexander of Alberta to see if he would run for the same office. Heide Olbert and Jake Powell were nominated for Director from Montana. Other nominations are needed by September 1, 2006 so the ballot can be printed in the fall newsletter.

Fall 2006 Meeting. The meeting is set for Great Falls on November 3rd and 4th. If you have ideas for a speaker or topics we should cover, contact Maynard Smith as soon as possible.

Summer 2007 Meeting. George Hirschenberger asked that anyone with ideas for the summer meeting contact him. One idea is to hold the meeting in the Blackfoot River watershed and look at a variety of range, wetland and timber management initiatives and projects in this area.

Membership. Don Nelson and others emphasized that each of us needs to be looking for and recruiting new candidates who would be good members of SRM.

Newsletter. Barry Irving needs text and photo contributions from anyone with news or a good topic for the newsletter. For instance, articles might include 'why fall calving works', Youth Camp reports, weather updates, reprints of articles from other publications, and updates on projects you are personally involved with. Get your ideas and articles into Barry ASAP.

Barry would also like to get the e-mail addresses for any individuals or groups that might be interested in following what the IMS is doing. For example, if we plan to have a meeting soon in a town, we should send the Newsletter to some key local contacts who can help spread the word and invite interested community members to our functions.

Art Bailey emphasized the need for us to communicate with those in the 'protection or preservation' camps and talk about the benefits from disturbance from grazing, fire, etc.

Meeting Adjourned about 11:00 AM.



Standing Nominated for the Position of 2nd Vice President

Mike Alexander

Originally from British Columbia, Mike was exposed to the field of Rangeland Management in the Okanagan Smilkameen where there are significant resource integration issues. He received his BSc in Agriculture from the University of British Columbia and his MSc in Rangeland Science from the University of Alberta in 1995 (Response of Aspen Forests to Burning and Grazing). Mike's career began with the Alberta Forest Service where he worked in the Whitecourt/Edson area dealing with grazing disposition inventory, management planning and timber integration issues. For the Past 11 years Mike has been based in Pincher Creek in South Western Alberta where he lives with his busy family that includes 5 children. Mike currently works with the rangeland resource management program of the Lands Branch of the Department of Sustainable Resource Development as the Provincial Rangeland Management Specialist for the montane and foothills. Mike works with a group of range management specialists focusing on ecological classification, development of rangeland monitoring tools, and operational research to deal with rangeland and rangeland resource integration issues.

Standing Nominated for the Position of Director, Alberta

Sue De Bruijn

I grew up in Southern Alberta, between Medicine Hat and the Cypress Hills. We both farmed and ranched. I attended the University of Alberta, where I completed both a B.Sc. in Agriculture (Crop Science) and a M.Sc. in Range and Resource Management under Dr. Edward Bork. In my fourth year of undergraduate studies, I was a member of the U of A Range Team, where we competed in Hawaii, and the team won both First in Plant I.D and the URME, and personally I was 5th in Plant I.D, and Second Overall. The following year I presented a Graduate paper and poster at the Annual Meeting in Kansas City on the research I was doing for my graduate thesis, which investigated if grazing could control Canada thistle (if cattle grazing could remove Canada thistle from pasture). I have also presented this research on one of the summer tours (2001). I have worked for Alberta Agriculture at the Ag-Info Centre, for the Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture (AESA) Program, and currently work for Sustainable Resource Development (AB Government) as a Rangeland Agrologist for the Grazing Reserve Program (Southwest Region). My current job primarily consists of coordinating oil and gas activity on public land (grazing, recreation, etc.). I live at Crestomere, Alberta, where my husband and I custom graze stockers and cow/calf pairs in an intensive, rotational grazing system. We have also at times raised pastured poultry and sheep.

Standing Nominated for the Position of Director, Montana

Heidi A. Olbert

DNRC Rangeland Resource Program Specialist

I was born and raised in Colorado and enjoyed visiting my relative's ranch near Durango immensely while growing up. This interest led me to choose a Range Science major at Montana State University. After graduating in the fall of 2001, I worked for the Natural Resources Conservation Service in northeastern Montana in the Poplar and Culbertson Field Offices for three years. I then went to work for MSU's Undaunted Stewardship Program, under the direction of Jeff Mosley, for a year. Since March of 2006, I have held the position of Rangeland Resource Program Specialist for the State of Montana in the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC). In this position, I work closely with the 58 Conservation Districts across the state to plan and coordinate three events throughout the year; Montana Youth Range Camp, the Governor's Range Tour and the Winter Grazing Seminar. I also serve on the steering committee of the Montana Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI), and instruct at the Range Days and the Envirothon competitions. I enjoy studying and continually learning about rangeland management and agriculture, and look forward to continued involvement in the Young Professionals Conclave and the International Mountain Section of SRM.

As the Montana Director for the IM Section I would embrace the opportunity to promote sustainable rangeland management, education opportunities and membership and participation in order to continually improve the section as a whole. Thank you for the opportunity to submit my application and to be considered for the position of Director of the Montana IM Sections and I look forward to seeing everyone at the fall meeting in Great Falls.

Jake Powell

I am a Natural Resource Specialist for Frontier Natural Resource Consulting, basing out of Bozeman. My current work is project leader for the Blackfeet Reservation rangeland inventory. I have also provided technical assistant to ranches in Montana, Colorado, and Nebraska on livestock grazing and wildlife. I grew up in a ranching family in southwest Nebraska. My work experience before coming to Montana includes doing day work on ranches and farms in Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Arizona, and California. I've lived in Montana for 7 years. During my time in Montana, I've done seasonal work for the BLM and USFS, range work for Montana State University extension service, ranch day work, and naturalist guiding. I received a B.S. in Range Science at Montana State University. I enjoy hiking, fishing, hunting, and exploring regional history.

If elected I plan on working with the section to keep developing it as a resource for current rangeland issues in Montana and Alberta.

Mark your calendars for the 2007 Summer Tour in the Lubrecht Forest (July 12, 13, 14), located about 45 minutes east of Missoula, Montana. For a virtual tour of the area and meeting facilities visit "<http://www.forestry.umt.edu>" and type "Lubrecht" in the search box.

The tour will give an overview of the cooperative conservation efforts that have been undertaken in the Blackfoot watershed and then make field stops that illustrate some of these efforts: The Bandy Ranch -a cooperative research facility of Montana State U and the U of Montana (the Bobcats and Grizzlies inside one pasture!) and the Blackfoot Clearwater Game Range are adjoining operations that have some interesting projects going. Another possible stop is trial pastures where goats and sheep have/are being integrated with herbicides, biological controls and revegetation to help reduce spotted knapweed and other noxious weed infestations. There are numerous places to see lands that are under conservation easements where ranching and other active management is alive and well. Habitat improvement projects for waterfowl and fish are also numerous and there are several completed fuels management projects in the area.

On the purely recreational side, the Blackfoot River offers some great Class 1, 2 and 3 boating opportunities as well as fishing. Hiking and some lake fishing are also close-by.

2006 Executive

President:

Maynard Smith
406-835-3441
smith6@3rivers.net

1st Vice President

Angela Berkinshaw
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Angela.Burkinshaw@gov.ab.ca

2nd Vice President

George Hirschenberger
406-329-3908

Secretary/Treasurer

Barry Adams
403-382-4299

Director, 2nd Year

Montana

Matt Ricketts
Mathew.ricketts@mt.usda.gov

Director, 1st Year

Montana

Brian Thrift
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Alberta

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Kelly Burkhardt
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Ballot, International Mountain Section, SRM: October Elections, 2006

Choose one for the Office of 2nd Vice President

- Mike Alexander**
- Write in** _____

Choose one for the Office of Director, Alberta

- Sue Debruijn**
- Write in** _____

Choose one for the Office of Director, Montana

- Heidi A. Olbert**
- Jake Powell**

Mail the completed ballot to:

Barry Adams
Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
Agriculture Centre
#100, 5401 – 1st Avenue South
Lethbridge, Alberta
T1J 4V6
barry.adams@gov.ab.ca

Memoirs of the 2006 Summer Tour, Big Valley, Alberta



Aspen Parkland is a transition zone from grassland to forest. Grasslands dominate on south facing slopes while forest occurs on north facing slopes. As one moves further north the proportion of grassland decreases and the proportion of forest increases. Only 5-10% of the Aspen Parkland has not been cultivated. The Rumsey Block is a large remnant of Aspen Parkland that is managed by Alberta Sustainable Resource Development.



Healthy parkland fescue grassland has a golden hue caused by curing plains rough fescue (*Festuca hallii*) and a thick litter blanket.



Maynard Smith (IMS President) and Angela Burkinshaw (IMS 1st Vice President) bask in the summer Parkland sun.



IMS members (Lou Hagner, top left, Art Bailey, right, and Fred and Pat Randle, bottom left) enjoy presentations on aspen parkland ecology and the integration of multiple land uses within an area that contains a provincially significant plant community.



A proactive relationship between the custodians of the Rumsey Block and the resident oil company was discussed. A pilot project using steel braided plastic pipe that could be plowed in to minimize surface disturbance was the highlight of the tour, at least for the newsletter editor.



Range managers (C.J. Burkhardt) of all ages will find something to smile about on an IMS summer tour.



All aboard for the next SRM-IMS meeting, November 3 and 4, 2006 in Great Falls, Montana and July 12-14 just east of Missoula, Montana

Photo Credits:
Judy Irving
Darin Sherritt