



Volume 2 **International Mountain Section Newsletter** June 2009
To Foster Advancement in the Science and Art of Rangeland Management

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President's Message
Mike Alexander

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We'll it seems like weather is once again the appropriate topic for this newsletter. Throughout most of the province of Alberta dry conditions have moved to drought and in some places severe (state of emergency) drought conditions. In some recent travels for family events and our kids swim meets I have been shocked about how dry it is in Alberta everywhere but the southwest corner of the province. Here we have been blessed with adequate (and since I first wrote this now more than adequate) moisture for this time of year. Unfortunately cold temperatures have had an extreme effect on forage production. In June we had 5 days in a row with frost at night. Not just a little bit of frost but 4 – 6 degrees of frost... not those small Fahrenheit degrees but the great big Celsius degrees. *(In past I would have worried about converting metric numbers. However, since at the last two SRM Annual meetings I have only heard pounds, acres and Fahrenheit degrees used in 3 of the umpteen presentations I attended... all the rest were metric, I am convinced the US is quietly going metric. In Louisville KY there were even an electronic billboards that showed the temperature in Celsius)* For our Canadian producers who have not made the jump to metric that would be night time temperature as low as 25 – 21 degrees F. These low temperatures have been very hard on plant growth. We even had the leaves freeze off of two new Ash trees that we had bought and planted. In 2002 we had similar conditions although not as severe and we called it a cold drought as it had a greater negative effect on forage production than the several years of serious drought we had through the end of the 1990's into 2001.

From a range management perspective the late spring has put me a long way behind and it sure does not feel like July is just around the corner and with that the IMS summer meeting. Tracy has put together what looks like an exciting tour and I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the tour and meeting.

Society for Range Management – International Mountain Section
Fall Business Meeting
Great Falls, MT
Oct 31, 2008

Minutes

President George Hirschenberger at 8:20am

Approval of Minutes: George Hirschenberger moved and Mike Alexander seconded that minutes from summer meeting be approved as printed in the newsletter. Carried.

Treasurers Report: Barry Adams presented the Treasurer's report and indicated that the section financial resources continue to grow and that summer tour and fall meetings provided excellent cost recovery and a reasonable profit as well. Discussion about section finances focused on future expenditures for youth related objectives and to support speakers at summer tours or fall meetings. Bob Wesley moved seconded Lou Hagner adoption of the report. Carried.

Old Business:

Parent Society reports: Bruce Fox reviewed the activities of the Centre for Professional Development to foster strong professional development with SRM. Both Rangelands and the journal will have an online presence in the near future. Society continues to develop it's role on Washington scene. Need members to serve on the parent BOD. SRM has adjusted process to support travel expenses where required. Jeff Mosley discussed the question of increasing our dues rebate. Rebate is a tax on ourselves and it may be possible to raise the allocation if that is the will of the sections.

Alicia Hargrave Memorial Award: Barry Irving reviewed the proposed guidelines for the award, the full text of which will be available in the section handbook. Award will be made annually to a young women who shows particular leadership within the rangeland community. Barry Irving moved, seconded by Bob Wesley that the award be adopted and administered by the section. Carried. Hargrave Ranching will fund the award and the section will contribute the cost of the plaque. Wording for award will be approved at the summer tour in 2009.

Bed and Breakfast Initiative: George H. provided the guidelines for the Bed and Breakfast initiative which is supported by the parent society and also indicated his willingness to serve as a host in the program.

IMS Committee Reports:

Auditors for 2008-2009: Auditors Lou Hagner (MT) and Bob Wesley (AB) were confirmed for 2009.

Awards: Updated guidelines will be placed on the section handbook. Reminder about the April deadline for parent society awards.

History: Donna Lawrence will be exploring the establishment of a section photo archive on the website.

Membership: Clayton Marlow will survey communications students at MSU to explore new ways of expanding our membership.

Newsletter: Send photos and articles or the newsletter threatens to feature pictures from his Nieces wedding.

Summer Tour: Likely in the Park City area. Tracy Brewer will advise us as soon as a site and dates are selected.

Webmaster: Website should be moved to parent society server by Christmas. Merrita Fraker-Marble has agreed to take over the job of webmaster in 2009.

New Business:

Tammy DeCock reviewed progress on planning for the Billings Meeting. Guidelines and committee structure will be posted on the SRM website.

George Hirschberger handed over the Presidency to Mike Alexander. Mike concluded with words of thanks for the excellent job George had done for the section in the past year.

Meeting adjourned the meeting at 10:15 am.

**International Mountain Section – SRM
Summer Tour and Meeting, West Fork Camp, Philipsburg, MT
July 16-18, 2009**

THURSDAY (July 16)

12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Arrive and Set Up Camp
5:00 p.m. – bedtime Evening Socializing (Dinner on Your Own)

FRIDAY (July 17)

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast
8:45 a.m. Load busses for morning field tour
9:00 a.m. Depart West Fork Camp for Open Cross Ranch
9:45 a.m. Open Cross Ranch

- *Stop 1: Adjustments to Ranch Management to Accommodate Increasing Wolf Populations – **Lee Skaw, Ranch Owner***
- *Stop 2: Cattle Behavioral Changes and Range Use Changes in Response to Wolves – **Ron Skinner (DMV), Ranch Lessee; Merging Local Ranchers' Knowledge and Knowledge of Carnivore Behavior to Conserve Ranching and Carnivores in the West – Timmothy Kaminski, Carnivore Biologist (Mountain Livestock Cooperative)***

11:30 a.m. Depart Open Cross Ranch for Philipsburg Town Park
12:00 p.m. Lunch at Philipsburg Town Park
1:00 p.m. Load busses for afternoon field tour
1:15 p.m. Depart Philipsburg Town Park for Sand Basin
2:30 p.m. Bowles Creek on Sand Basin Allotment (Pintler Ranger District, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest)

- *Stop 1: History and Background of the Sand Basin Allotment: Grazing and Wildlife Trends – **Dan Lucas, Granite County Extension Agent; Willow Population Dynamics in High Elevation Mountain Meadow Sites – Steve Gerdes, U.S. Forest Service Fisheries Biologist***

4:00 p.m. Depart Sand Basin for West Fork Camp
4:30 p.m. Arrive at West Fork Camp
5:30 p.m. Evening Socializing
6:00 p.m. Dinner
7:30 p.m. Local Entertainment

SATURDAY (July 18)

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast
8:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. IMS Business Meeting
11:00 a.m. Tear down and clean up camp

Directions to West Fork Camp

From Philipsburg, MT, drive approximately 6.3 miles south toward Anaconda on MT Hwy. 1 to its junction with the Skalkaho Hwy. 38. Turn right on Hwy 38 and travel west for approximately 13 miles. The entrance to the West Fork Cabin is on your left, accessed by the paved state highway. Parking is available at the cabin, and there is enough room to maneuver large vehicles/trailers. For more info or to purchase area maps, contact the Pintler Ranger District at 406-859-3211 between 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM Monday-Friday.

OTHER ITEMS

If anyone has a camp stove they would be willing to let us use for the weekend, please email Tracy Mosley at tmosley@montana.edu.

There are many fun things to do in and around Philipsburg, Montana. Visit the Philipsburg Chamber of Commerce website at <http://philipsburgmt.com/> to find out more about the opportunities in Granite County, Montana.

There is plenty of camping space at the West Fork Camp for tents and campers. There is no electricity at the site, so plan accordingly.

Don't forget your bug spray!!

PHILIPSBURG LODGING AND EATING ESTABLISHMENTS

Lodging

All of the following lodging options, except Big Horn B&B, are approximately 20 miles from the West Fork Camp.

Broadway Hotel - 1-800-877-4436 web: www.broadwaymontana.com

The Inn at Philipsburg - (406) 859-3959

Quigley Cottage Bed and Breakfast - (406) 859-3812

Big Horn Bed and Breakfast - (406) 859-3109 – near West Fork Camp

Eating

Sunshine Station - (406) 859-3450

Doe Brothers - (406) 859-7677

Philipsburg Café - (406) 859-7799

Fire on the Mountains Deli - (406) 859-3287

ENTERTAINMENT

Opera House Theatre – Philipsburg – Established 1891 (Adults \$17, Children \$9)

- Thursday July 16th – Vaudeville 7 p.m.
- Friday July 17th – Having a Wonderful, Time Wish You Were Here 7 p.m.
- Saturday July 18th – Vaudeville 2 p.m.; Butterscotch 7 p.m.

REGISTRATION
International Mountain Section – SRM
Summer Tour and Meeting
July 16-18, 2009

Thank you for your interest in attending the International Mountain Section’s Summer Tour and Meeting in beautiful Granite County, Montana. We are looking forward to a great weekend and are pleased you can join us!

To register, please indicate which of the following portions of the Tour and Meeting you would like to participate in. **Base registration is required for all adults and children >16 years of age.** The cost is \$15 for children between ages 7 and 15. **Registration is due by July 7th, 2009.**

Please make checks payable to: IMS-SRM

MAIL completed registration forms and payment to: Tracy Mosley, Park County Extension, 414 E. Callender, Livingston, MT 59047

FAX completed registration forms to Tracy Mosley at 406-222-4199 and plan to pay at the registration table when you arrive.

EMAIL completed registration forms to Tracy Mosley at tmosley@montana.edu and plan to pay at the registration table when you arrive.

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Item	Number of People x Cost	Total
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Base Registration (required for all adults and children >16 years)

(includes Friday Tour, morning snack, lunch, and afternoon snack)

_____ people x \$30.00/person U.S.	\$ _____ U.S.
_____ people x \$35.00/person Canadian	\$ _____ Canadian

Friday Breakfast

_____ people x \$5.00/person U.S.	\$ _____ U.S.
_____ people x \$6.00 /person Canadian	\$ _____ Canadian

Friday Dinner

_____ people x \$20.00/person U.S.	\$ _____ U.S.
_____ people x \$23.00/person Canadian	\$ _____ Canadian

Saturday Breakfast

_____ people x \$5.00/person U.S.	\$ _____ U.S.
_____ people x \$6.00 /person Canadian	\$ _____ Canadian

Children (ages 7-15)

_____ people x \$15.00/person U.S.	\$ _____ U.S.
_____ people x \$17.00/person Canadian	\$ _____ Canadian

TOTAL REGISTRATION

\$ _____ U.S.
\$ _____ Canadian

