



Volume 3 **International Mountain Section Newsletter** September 2009  
*To Foster Advancement in the Science and Art of Rangeland Management*

#14, 51313, Range Road 231, Sherwood Park, Alberta T8B 1K7  
birving@ualberta.ca www.ims.rangelands.org

**President's Message**  
**Mike Alexander**

**In This Issue:**

- IMS President's Message
- 2009 Fall Meeting Agenda
- 2009 Summer Business Meeting Minutes
- 2008 Membership Survey Results
- 2009 Candidate Biographies
- 2009 Officer Election Ballot

Well we are down to mad scramble time. It seems there is so much to do and so little time to get it done before the snow flies. Fortunately the weather seems to be holding and except for the odd chilly morning it has been some of the best fieldwork weather of the year.

In my "spare" time I am struggling to put together what I think will be an excellent fall meeting program. Make sure that you have October 22-23 marked in your calendar. This year the program will be jointly hosted by the Rocky Mountain Forest Range Association, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development and of course SRM – IMS. We have titled the program portion of the Meeting – Bears, Wolves and Rural Communities - A Rangeland perspective. An excellent line-up of speakers from numerous different jurisdictions and a wide range of experience backgrounds are scheduled to present. All that are interested are invited so please advertise this session widely. Registration by October 15 is required. Try registering online under the notice board section of our website.

Looking forward to seeing all of you in Pincher Creek October 22-23.

# **Bears Wolves and Rural Communities - A Rangeland Perspective**

--

**International Mountain Section  
Society for Range Management**  
Rocky Mountain Forest Range Association  
Alberta Sustainable Resource Development

**Fall Meeting  
(Pincher Creek Community Hall, Pincher Creek Alberta)  
October 22-23, 2009**

A very pertinent fall workshop has been organized for the Fall meeting of the International Mountain Section, of the Society for Range Management. The purpose of the workshop is to present current working knowledge and perspectives on large carnivores and how rural communities are managing – from economic impacts to finding solutions to co-exist with bears and wolves. A suite of high quality presenters from multiple jurisdictions (Alberta, British Columbia, and Montana) and experiences will be presenting. The workshop will prove to be both engaging and informative.

People from all backgrounds and disciplines are welcome to attend.

Register soon as this workshop will fill quickly.

(This workshop is being jointly hosted by SRM IMS, the Rocky Mountain Forest Range Association and Alberta Sustainable Resource Development.)

## **2009 Agenda**

### **October 22**

**Registration and Coffee:** - 8:00AM – 9:15AM

### **Setting the Stage - The Current Situation**

Jim Pissot - Defenders Of Wildlife - 9:30AM – 10:00AM

Larry Sears and Hugh Lynch Staunton - A Ranching and Community Perspective – 10:00AM – 11:00AM

### **Who Done It (determining if it is predation and what type of animal did it)**

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development – Kirk Olchoway - 11:00AM – 12:00PM

### **Lunch:**

Hot Lunch Provided - 12:00PM – 1:00PM

### **The Costs of Depredation - Direct and Indirect**

Callum Sears - Alberta Rancher – 1:00 PM – 1:40PM

Dr. Ron Skinner - D.V.M., Montana Purebred Rancher – 1:40PM – 2:20 PM

### **Current Knowledge**

Andrea Moorehouse - University of Alberta– 2:20PM – 3:00PM

### **Coffee – 3:00PM – 3:30PM**

Tyler Muhly – University of Calgary – 3:30PM – 4:10PM

### **Banquet Supper – 6:00PM - 8:00PM**

**October 23**

**Management Strategies - Moving Forward**

Nathan Lance- Wolf Management Specialist, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks – 8:30AM - 9:15AM

Kyle Lay - B.C. Wild Predator Loss Prevention Mitigation Pilot Program – 9:15AM – 10:30AM

**Coffee – 10:30AM – 11:00AM**

Seth Wilson - The Blackfoot Challenge – 11:00AM-11:40AM

TBD - Montana Predator Mitigation Range Rider Initiative 11:40AM – 12:20AM

**Lunch:**

Soup and Sandwiches – 12:30PM – 1:45PM

**SRM IMS Business Meeting – 1:45PM – 3:00PM**

**Hotels:**

Ramada Pincher Creek Inn & Suites – (403) 627-3777

Heritage Inn – (403) 627 – 5000

Super 8 Motel – (403) 627 – 5671

**Bed and Breakfasts:**

There are numerous high quality bed and breakfasts in the area around Pincher Creek. These can be located by searching bed and breakfasts in the Pincher Creek Area on the internet.

**Registration Form**

(Register by October 15, 2009)

Registration can be done Online @

[http://ims.rangelands.org/media/notice\\_brd.html](http://ims.rangelands.org/media/notice_brd.html)

Name:

Phone:

Address:

Email:

			Number	Total
Registration				
Adult:	\$75	x	_____	= _____
Student:	\$65	x	_____	= _____

(Includes full conference lunch and supper Oct 22 and Oct 23 Lunch)

Send your registration to:

Mike Alexander

C/O Sustainable Resource Development

Box 1420

Pincher Creek, Alberta

T0K 1W0

Or by FAX to 403-627-1146

**Total Registration**

= \_\_\_\_\_

US and Canadian Funds at Par:

Make Cheques payable to **IMS- SRM** - Include completed Registration Form

---

---

**SRM-IMS Summer Business Meeting Minutes 2009-07-19**  
Philipsburg, MT

President Mike Alexander called meeting to order at 9 am

Mike thanked Tracy and the Montana members for an excellent tour

**Minutes** from the fall meeting were approved as published on the website.

**Old Business:**

- Reminder that the Bed and Breakfast registration is now available

**New Business:**

- **Treasurers report(Barry Adams):** Finances remain sound with cash balance at about \$8400 US, Kudos to Tracey Mosley for delivering a summer tour that provided a modest profit, Barry is still seeking a new candidate to assume role of Treasurer this fall when his 5 year term ends.
- **Parent Society (Jeff Mosley):** SRM has withdrawn from CAST, not getting money out of it. New coalition, Wildlife Society, Forest Society and Fisheries , al have offices in DC. On Ag side US, Coalition for Conservation through ranching. Led by WWF and Public Lands Council. Any member of the group can bring ideas. With concensus, idea will move forward.; SRM wants to accomplish more in the are of public education. Western Sky strategies has been hired for 6 months to be the DC presence. Directors are back there twice per year. ; One struggle is to change membership software. It has exposed problems in the office. Ken Johnson is approaching first year and is doing a good job and has committed to stay and be steading force. Anne Tanaka has fixed the software. Membership records should be restored now. There is now a monthly report. Phone call from Denver, from BOD member then from section. List from 2008 of who did not renew. SRM numbers are going up. SRM publication costs are increasing. Dues have not been raised. Endowment fund is used to cushion these costs. The downturn in the investment market has been impacted, need to meet shortfall in new ways. Membership services will now be cafeteria style with costs adding as members select different levels of service. Denver office is working well and moral is good. Need to address cost of service shortfall for Life Members. Those present supported additional cost recovery. Budget process is being simplified and made transparent. Members expressed appreciation for Jeff's ongoing leadership and providing us a ring side seat to Parent Society matters and progress.
- **Website(Merrita Fraker-Marble):** Thanks were extended to Merrita for the excellent work on the migration and maintenance of the website. Merrita outlined some possible improvements and new capabilities like web registration and photo archive. Will likely enlist the help of Anne Tanaka to update the style and function of the site.
- **Information and Education(Merrita):** Still looking for new recipes for the reprinting of the Trail Boss cook book.
- **Youth:** Montana Range days and Montana Range Camp were both a success again this year and Tracy Kupchenko reported on the new range youth activities in southern Alberta, including a successful Range Daze event near Cardston with 13 youth attending. The section has provided funds for both Montana and Alberta camps in 2009. It looks like the extra funding made available will be utilized in supporting summer camps/range days and to support the High School Youth Forum.

- **History (Donna Lawrence):** Work will begin on archival photos on our website. Donna invites members to bring photos to the fall meeting and she will scan them during the weekend. There is particular interest in getting photos of older members and special events from the past.
- **Alberta Inst. Of Agrologists:** Bob Wesley has agreed to take on the paper work to establish a Rangeland Network within AIA which would allow us to link our professional development activities with AIA and provide financial benefits to the section.
- **Awards:** Reminder to consider nominations in time for the fall meeting. Some additional refinements to the Alicia Hargrave Award were put forward and Tracey Kupchenko will work with Barry Irving to finalize.
- **Annual Meeting 2011 (Lou Hagner):** Lou mentioned that there may be an opportunity to include a session of Lentic – Stillwater riparian systems and also a session dealing with non grazing related wetland issues (e.g. industrial development related)
- **Fall Meeting – SRM-IMS 2009:** Mike Alexander announced that the fall meeting is planned for Pincher Creek, October 23-24 and will feature a 1.5 day Symposium on Bears, Wolves and Rural Communities: A Rangeland Perspective.
- **Young Professionals Conclave (Jill Burkhardt):** Jill provide an update on YPC activities. Having monthly meetings, posting a newsletter, planning a website all to improve networking.
- **Nominations:** **Montana** Brian Thrift for 2<sup>nd</sup> VP (Mosley/Powell), Tanya Thrift for Director (Mosley/Burkhardt); **Alberta** Tracy Kupchenko for Director (J. Burkhardt/D. Sherritt), Darin Sherritt for Director (J. Vandervalk/K.Burkhardt)
- **Plant ID Contest:** First place - Grant Godbolt; Second place – Jake Powell.
- **Meeting Adjourned at 11 am.**

---

## 2009 Membership Survey

This information is based on results from a survey of current and past International Mountain Section members Mr. Kyle Reichert conducted between February and April 2009. This survey was developed, administered and summarized under the direction of Dr. Shannon Arnold, Agricultural Education Division, College of Agriculture, Montana State University – Bozeman. Survey questions were developed in consultation with Clayton Marlow, IMS membership chair; a draft was reviewed by the IMS Board of Directors and Mr. Reichert included their recommendations in the final instrument. Fifty nine of 125 potential respondents completed the entire survey; an impressive 47% return rate. While a more detailed summary will be available during the Annual meeting, here are the major findings.

1. The section could experience a major decline in membership over the next decade because nearly half of the membership is at retirement age or rapidly approaching that point (Fig. 1).
2. Most of the Section's membership work for state, provincial or Federal natural resource management agencies (Fig. 2). This explains the section-wide recommendation that more ranchers, refuge managers and consultants be recruited as members (see selected comments below).

3. Even though a majority of members are satisfied with the section's efforts to help them with professional development they still ranked additional training opportunities in the form of workshops, management forums and field tours as the second most important activity we should undertake.
4. More than half of the respondents firmly believe the section's primary short term goal should be to recruit more young people, more ranchers and refuge managers. In addition to ranchers, more effort should be put into attracting ecology students/professors, environmental organizations, and urban dwellers who are interested in natural resources.
5. Too few of the educational programs offered by the Section are led by progressive ranchers, refuge managers and consultants. One respondent put it quite succinctly; "Many government and university people have tremendous amounts of knowledge that is very useful but often useless commercially." Another respondent added more detail by pointing out "State and Federal agencies are neither progressive nor effective resource managers at this time." These comments are representative of more than half of those about the section needing to provide more "practical training" to maintain current membership.
6. Recent efforts to put annual meeting presentations on the section website are to be strongly encouraged and reinforced with additional self-training programs.
7. Future educational programs should be joint efforts with other state, provincial and national conservation organizations. Importantly, these should include "technical, educational and extension programs geared to the management of specific resources."
8. Finally, the international makeup of the IMS is a tremendous asset that we don't capitalize on enough when organizing training programs and recruiting members.

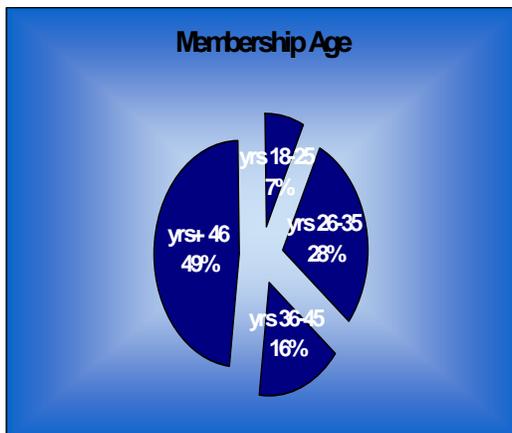


Fig. 1. Self reported ages of International Mountain Section membership during 2009.

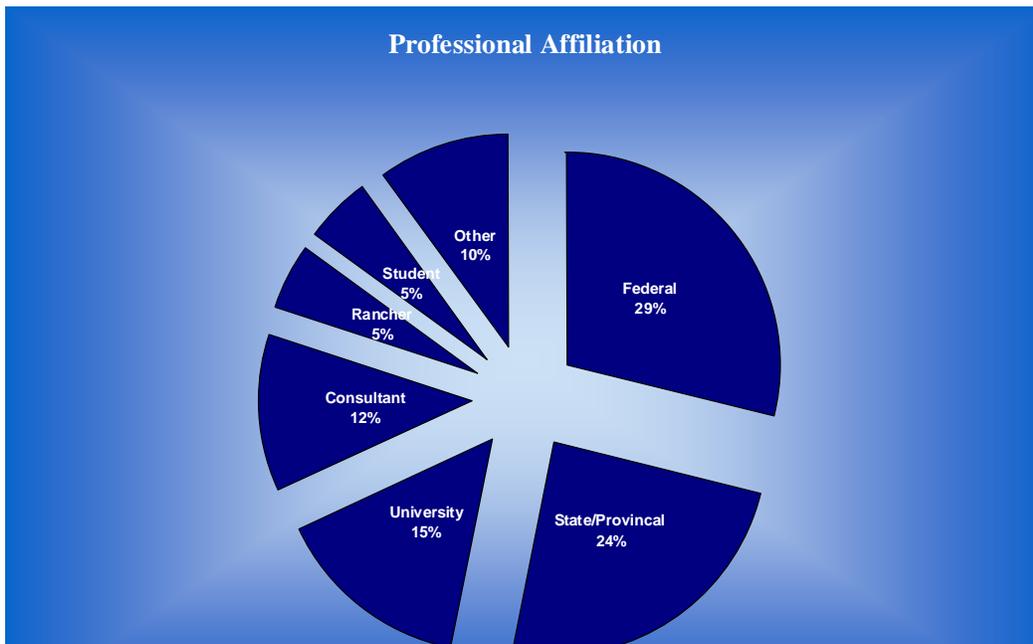


Fig. 2. Sectors where International Mountain Section members were employed during 2009.

The initial results indicate that current IMS members are relatively satisfied with what they gain from the section but they also sense a very real need to change and change quickly. Efforts to broaden participation from youth groups (4-H, FFA, Ag in Montana Schools), wildlife organizations, county commissioners, provincial development groups, tour guides, etc. in management forums, technical workshops and field tours about rangeland management issues would expand the influence of the Section and the parent SRM as well as increase membership. Technical sessions at the annual meeting and summer field tours should include ranchers, refuge managers and consultants as instructors/presenters. This action should also attract more new members.

More information is available on member attitudes and recommendations so I'd like to hear from the directors and summer meeting participants about details or other information to include in the Annual meeting report.

---

## 2009 SRM-IMS Officer Candidates

### **Nominated for 2<sup>nd</sup> VP**

#### **Brian Thrift**

Brian is a Virginia-native and U.S. Marine Corps veteran who received his B.S. in Range-Livestock Management, with minors in Rangeland Ecology & Management and Agribusiness, from the University of Idaho in 2002. In 2005, he completed his M.S. in Animal & Range Sciences from Montana State University, where his thesis research investigated using domestic sheep to graze spotted knapweed-infested foothill rangelands on a landscape-scale.

During college, Brian worked for a livestock auction and several small ranches in eastern Washington, and as a research assistant in the University of Idaho's Ruminant Nutrition Laboratory. While employed by Environmental Careers Organization, Inc. of Seattle, Washington, he worked as a range technician with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Burley, Idaho. He has also been a range technician for the BLM in Dillon, Montana and for Natural Resource Options, Inc. of Bozeman, Montana. Brian is currently a rangeland management specialist with the BLM in Dillon, Montana.

Brian has been a member of the SRM since March 2001 and belongs to both the International Mountain (IM) and Idaho Sections. He has presented his thesis research at the 2004 and 2005 SRM Annual Meetings, served as the inaugural treasurer for the Young Professionals Conclave in 2006, and as a Montana director for the IM Section in 2006-2007. If elected, Brian hopes to carry on the excellent leadership provided by previous section officers and promises that he will not raise taxes.

### **Nominated for Director, Montana**

#### **Tanya M. Thrift**

Currently living in Dillon, Montana, Tanya was born and raised in Idaho and eastern Washington and received her B.S. in Animal Science – Production, with a minor in Rangeland Ecology & Management, from the University of Idaho in 2003. In 2006, she completed her M.S. in Animal & Range Sciences from Montana State University, where her thesis research investigated the effects of long-term grazing intensities on an elk winter-spring range.

While attending the University of Idaho, Tanya was employed by the Meats Laboratory as a processing assistant and as a research technician in the Ruminant Nutrition Laboratory. In 2004, she worked as a senate intern for Senator Conrad Burns (R-MT) in Washington, D.C., where she focused on natural resource and agricultural issues. Tanya has also worked as a Range Technician with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Dillon, Montana, as a rangeland management specialist for the BLM in Salmon, Idaho, and is currently employed as a rangeland management specialist in Butte, Montana.

Tanya has been a member of the SRM's International Mountain Section since October 2003 and the Idaho Section since 2007. She presented her thesis research at the 2005 and 2006 SRM Annual Meetings. If elected as Montana Director, Tanya hopes to encourage greater participation at section events and ensure that persons with a diversity of interests within rangeland management are encouraged to participate.

**Nominated for Director, Alberta**

**Tracy Kupchenko**

Hello, my name is Tracy Kupchenko and I am pleased to have been nominated as a director for IMS. I was introduced to SRM when I was part of the University of Alberta Range Team (1999 & 2000), and enjoy the camaraderie and enthusiasm of its' members. For the past 6 years I have been working for Alberta Government Lands Division, Rangeland Management Branch as a Rangeland Agrologist in the Medicine Hat, Alberta area. I manage a district that is approximately a half-million acres of Crown land. It is a dynamic job that allows me to not only practice range management, but also to learn from the folks that live off the land. My job has provided me with the opportunity to present posters at the 2006 and 2007 Annual SRM conferences, to be involved in the Young Professionals Conclave and to continue working with the wonderful organizing committee which works hard to coordinate the annual Youth Range Daze in Alberta (since 2008). My personal interests are anything horse related, travelling, organizing functions, meeting new people and being outdoors. Thank you for your consideration.

**Nominated for Director, Alberta**

**Darin Sherritt**

I was born and raised in St Albert, but have spent much of my time growing up on the family farm south of Killam. I received my Bachelor of Science (in Environmental Sciences) from the University of Alberta majoring in Land Reclamation as well in Wildlife and Rangeland Management in 2007. My passion for range management was realized while enrolled in Dr. Edward Bork's introduction range course. During my undergrad I spent three years on the U of A range team from 2006 to 2008 where I competed at the Society for Rangeland Management Annual Meeting, helping the team win awards in the plant identification competition. More recently I am finished year one of my Master of Science degree at the U of A looking at the impact of mycorrhizae on the restoration of rough fescue grasslands and have had the opportunity of helping Barry Irving coach the plant identification component of the range team.

**Ballot, International Mountain Section, SRM: October Elections, 2008**

Choose **one** for the Office of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

- Brian Thrift**
- Write In** \_\_\_\_\_

Choose **one** for the Office of Director, Montana

- Tanya Thrift**
- Write In** \_\_\_\_\_

Choose **one** for the Office of Director, Alberta

- Darin Sherritt**
- Tracy Kupchenko**

**To cast your vote you must return this ballot to:**

**Barry Adams**  
**Secretary, SRM-IMS**  
**Alberta Sustainable Resource Development**  
**Agriculture Centre**  
**#100, 5401 – 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue South**  
**Lethbridge, Alberta**  
**T1J 4V6**  
**Barry.adams@gov.ab.ca**



