



# International Mountain Section Newsletter

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## Youth Range Days: July 2009

Contributed by Maddy Knodel

In 2009 I attended Youth Range Days in Cardston, Alberta. I was motivated to attend the camp for several reasons. Although I've always had an interest in ranching, I realized that I knew very little about grass management. I'd also never been camping before and was eager to learn how to set up a tent. The three days were jam packed with plenty of activities.

On the first afternoon we went on a trail ride to assess rangeland health in an area that had been exposed to both fire and erosion. That evening, we were treated to some excellent cowboy poetry which I had never heard before, but quite enjoyed.



Trail riders at the 2009 Youth Range Days. Photo by Tim Romanow, Cardston County, AB.

The next morning, we went to a nearby rancher's field to begin our first lesson on grassland management. With the aid of books provided by our leaders, we learned to identify plants and some interesting facts about them. I learned that cattle find different plants to be more palatable at different times of the year. I also learned what to look before starting to graze a field, and when it's time to move off that field. Our leaders included games as well, to make the learning fun. In the afternoon, we learned how forest management differed from grassland management. We worked in groups to identify the forest's layers (trees, shrubs, forbs, grasses, mosses and lichens).

On the final day, our theme was "Everything Riparian". We went to Lee Creek to electro-fish. From the types of fish we caught, we could assess how healthy the area was. As part of our riparian area management lesson, we identified some of the plants that are found in these areas and learned why each is important in that area. We also learned how to evaluate the health of a riparian area. Our last lesson was about common wildlife and cattle interactions. We learned how problems sometimes arise when livestock and wildlife are in competition for shelter or forage, and some of the solutions being implemented to solve these problems

Throughout the three days, each of us was asked to complete a booklet about different things we were learning about rangeland health. These books were submitted to the Youth Range Days organizing committee to be judged. First prize was a belt buckle and an opportunity to attend the High School Youth Forum in Denver, Colorado in February 2010. The chance to attend the annual SRM meeting and to compete in the High School Youth Forum was a great opportunity to learn more about rangeland management, meet professionals working in the field, and meet other student delegates from other countries.

I had a great time camping, learning about range, and getting to know new people. I plan on participating again this summer.

*Dear International Mountain Section of the Society for Range Management Members:*

*I would like to thank you all very much for sponsoring me to go to Denver, Colorado to attend the 63<sup>rd</sup> annual SRM*

*meeting and to compete in the High School Youth Forum presentation competition. If it was not for your contributions, I would most likely not have been able to go. It was a once in a lifetime experience and I had a great time while I was there.*

*I met so many interesting people and definitely made more friends than I had anticipated. I also got the opportunity to go on a field tour of a local ranch, as well as attend a seminar on riparian management. Both of these activities were very educational and exciting.*

*The presentation competition was very tough but also extremely interesting. I thought it was fascinating to learn how range management differs throughout North America. My presentation, based on my family's management practices, received fourth place.*

*Overall, Denver was amazing! I enjoyed it so much that I am planning on going to next year's SRM meeting in Billings, Montana. Once again, I would like to sincerely thank all of you for providing me with such an awesome and unforgettable experience.*

*Yours truly, Maddy Knodel*



## President's Message

Tracy Mosley

Greetings from the south end of the section, IMS members! I have to start by thanking each and every one of you who attended the annual SRM meeting in Denver in February for so wonderfully representing the International Mountain Section of our great Society. As many of you know, I was unable to attend the meeting due to the arrival of a beautiful daughter, Kendall, to my husband Jeff and I. This is the first national meeting I have missed in many years and I didn't just miss it, but I really *missed* it! It is such a great opportunity to expand our knowledge by attending sessions and talks presented by other great range management professionals, to share our knowledge with others, and to network with professionals from across the country and world. I hope each of you took in a little extra for me!

With the annual meeting behind us, we now can look forward to the remainder of the year as range professionals and IMS members. Spring is in the air and soon we will all be enjoying the outdoors for both work and pleasure. Spring is a great time of year to renew our spirit for and dedication to the rangelands we all love so much. Before we know it, the summer meeting and tour will be upon us. Jack Vandervalk has been busy planning this event. We can all look forward to the time we will spend together as a Section in mid-July for the meeting and tour. With summer comes a very busy time for most, and after the whirlwind of summer, it will be time for the fall meeting, which will occur in Montana this year. This will be another great opportunity to share our passion for the land with one another! At this point, if you're at all like me, you will look back and think, "Whew! It's already fall. Where did the year go?"

My goal for the year is to continue to renew my spirit for the rangelands I love, refresh my perspective on rangeland issues frequently, and most importantly, to enjoy the good times and learn from the challenging times. I encourage you to do the same. Have a great year!

*The prairie, in all its expressions, is a massive subtle place, with a long history of contradiction and misunderstanding.*

*But it is worth the effort at comprehension.*

*- Wayne Fields, Lost Horizons, 1988*

## Editor's Note

Jody Best

I have always loved writing, editing and putting things together. This is my first attempt at the IMS SRM newsletter and I hope you find it useful. If you have any suggestions for formatting, articles to be included, or would like to submit an article for the next issue, please email me at [jody.best@gov.ab.ca](mailto:jody.best@gov.ab.ca). I will be trying to put out three issues of the newsletter per year: Feb/March, June, and September. I look forward to receiving your submissions and comments.

## A Secret Weapon in the Grazing Tool Box?

Contributed by Peggy Strankman

Shhhhh. It's still a secret, but a little plant with purple flowers might just turn out to be the hottest native flower species in the grazing tool box. Well, maybe that's a bit of a stretch, but this native legume does show potential to be more than just a pretty face.



Purple Prairie Clover. Photo by Dr. Alan Iwaasa, AAFC – Semiarid Prairie Agricultural Research Centre

The species under discussion here is *Dalea purpurea*, Purple Prairie Clover, a member of the Legume family. The leaves are fine and alternate, each subdivided into 7-10 small narrow leaflets. The tiny purple flowers are found at the base of a tightly packed spike at the end of a slender stem that grows 20 – 50 cm tall (8" -20"). The plants generally bloom in July through September. The plant is an indicator of dry sites and coarse soils, often found on hillsides. Its long tap root gives it an advantage

in dry areas. The plant is noted as increasing under grazing.

There is a White Prairie Clover similar to the purple one, called *Dalea candida*, formerly *Petalostemon candidum*. Its leaflets are wider and more oblong than the purple clover. The seed heads are brown, with the purple clover having grey seed heads. Butterflies are crazy for the nectar of both species and the seed heads are a popular food source for birds. Purple and White Prairie Clovers are the common native clovers in western Canada. There is a third, designated as a species at risk, *Dalea villosa* (hairy prairie clover).

Both common clovers are widely found throughout the south and central prairies and into the Parklands with the purple being more common. Both varieties are found from Ontario to the foothills of Alberta and deep into the Midwestern U.S. Ongoing seed ecology work by Schellenberg and Henderson has found all three species have differing germination requirements which may contribute to the distribution differences.



Cattle grazing in a pasture of native grassland and purple prairie clover. Photo by Dr. Alan Iwaasa, AAFC – Semiarid Prairie Research Centre.

There is quite a bit of interest in the research community about Purple Prairie Clover powers for good. Hamel and Klabi (AAFC – APARC) are looking into the nitrogen fixing ability of this native legume. Wang (AAFC Lethbridge) and Iwaasa (AAFC SPARC) are harvesting the plants at different stages to determine when they have the highest condensed tannin levels which should decrease bloating. Schellenberg (AAFC SAPAC) is looking at the nutritional qualities at the different stages to

see how to increase protein utilization in cattle. That efficiency results in a decrease in enteric methane emissions. A future sale of carbon credits perhaps?

The antimicrobial activity of tannins against rumen bacteria has been documented in the past. Hufford et. al. looked at the antimicrobial activity of Purple Prairie Clover against bacteria and fungi back in 1993 (J. of Natural Products). However, more recently, work done by Wang, McAllister, Acharya and Iwaasa have shown that purple prairie clover condensed tannins will inhibit the growth of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7. It's interesting to speculate how purple prairie clover could be incorporated into cattle diets to decrease the presence of *E. coli*. What if there was a concentrated effort to include Purple Prairie Clover into all seeded tame forage mixes? Are there grazing strategies to maintain and increase it in native prairie pastures? Is it possible to grow in pure stands and include a percentage in a feedlot ration?

What an interesting plant! What will the researchers discover next? Stay tuned.

## Society for Range Management Awards 2010

Contributed by Barry Irving

Congratulations to the University of Alberta Range Team for winning 3<sup>rd</sup> on both the Plant Identification Exam and the Undergraduate Range Management Exam!

Congratulations also to Montana State, who tied for 4/5 on the Undergraduate Range Management Exam!



University of Alberta Range Team.

Front Row: Sheena Briggs, Kristym Housman, Brett Pagacz, Christine Dahl, Erin Belva, Ashley Easton, Tanner Broadbent.

*Back Row:* Darin Sherritt (Assistant Coach), Barry Irving (Coach), Amanda Zapesocki, Don Kirby (SRM President), Jamie Hill, Mark Hagen, Katryna Forsch, Adriane Clark, & Farley Gould.

Other individuals from the U of A also won awards.



*Left to right:* Dr. Edward Bork, Tanner Broadbent (3<sup>rd</sup> high individual combined score), Ashley Easton (Tied, 4/5 high individual combined score), Dr. Barry Irving (Coach), Erin Belva (Tied, 4/5 high individual combined score).

## Young Professionals Conclave Update from Denver 2010

Contributed by Jill Burkhardt

The Young Professionals Conclave had a great time in Denver at the International SRM meeting. On Monday February 8<sup>th</sup> the YPC had a "No-Host" dinner social at the Paramount Café in Downtown Denver. There were quite a few members, guests, and others there to check out just what the Young Professionals Conclave is about and to network.

On Tuesday February 9<sup>th</sup> the Young Professionals Conclave held their annual Business Meeting and Luncheon. The business meeting began with a greeting from outgoing SRM President Don Kirby. The keynote speaker for the event was Jess Peterson of Western Skies Strategies, Inc and at the time was Co-Executive Vice President of SRM.

Some highlights of the business meeting were:

- A summary of the YPC executive committee happenings for 2009.
- 2009 officers were awarded with plaques thanking them for their service.
- 2010 President-Elect nominations which was won by Seth Kennedy from Colorado.

- The YPC proposal to send the YPC President with the Board of Directors to Washington DC was approved by the BOD.
- Aleta Rudeen was introduced as the new SRM Outreach and Leadership Coordinator.
- A newsletter editing committee was created. It will be chaired by Angie Reid, YPC Secretary/Recorder.

The Young Professionals Conclave is very excited with all the input that was received from the members in Denver and they are already in the beginning phases of planning for the meeting in Billings in 2011.

## Jordan Ranchers, Belgrade Consultant Honoured with Range Leader Awards

Contributed by Heidi Olbert

Helena, Mont. – The Governor's Rangeland Resources Executive Committee (RREC) announced today that ranchers Bob and Debbie Gibbs of Jordan and private consultant Gene Surber of Belgrade have been chosen as recipients of the 2009 Range Leader of the Year awards.

"The Gibbses and Gene Surber are genuine leaders in the field of range management," said Heidi Olbert, Rangeland Resources Program Specialist with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. "Their commitment to education and the principles of stewardship represents the best of Montana agriculture."

Olbert said the Gibbs family's two large pastures of native grassland were continuously grazed. After noticing a decline in range conditions, the couple decided it was time to consider new ways of managing their land.

"They installed cross fences and implemented a rest-rotation grazing plan," Olbert said. "As a result, they were able to give one pasture a full season of rest from grazing each year."

The couple also made use of "chiselling," a low-impact form of ploughing, on their rested pastures. Olbert said that technique helped break up heavy concentrations of club moss and improved soil conditions.

"Their treated pastures now have more native species, including forbs, and are more productive. Within a year

they started to notice more songbirds than in previous years."

In addition to the rangeland improvement, the Gibbsses also added water developments in upland sites. That has improved grazing distribution across their pastures, and also improved the health of riparian areas on the ranch.

"It's a great outcome for both the Gibbsses and the natural resources," said Olbert. "They are seeing heavier weaning weights for their calves, and the grasslands and riparian areas are doing great. The Gibbsses wanted to improve their native rangeland, they were open to trying some new and different ideas, and it paid off."

Gene Surber worked as the natural resource specialist in the Animal and Range Sciences Department of Montana State University from 1994 to 2006; prior that, he served for 22 years as a county agricultural extension agent in Gallatin and Park counties.

"Gene's leadership in agriculture is unsurpassed. He has educated so many Montanans in the areas of crop production, weed control, commodity marketing and water quality," said Olbert. "Gene coordinated the Ag Lenders School and the Western Integrated Ranch Education (WIRE) program, and has served as lead on the beef portion for the Environmental Management Systems, a national project that encouraged landowners to voluntarily address important environmental issues such as water quality. We're lucky to have Gene in Montana."



Left to right: Gene Surber – 2009 Range Leader of the Year Award Winner in the Professional Category, John Hollenback – Rangeland Resources Executive Committee (RREC) Vice Chair, Steve Hedstrom – RREC Chairman, Debbie & Bob Gibbs - 2009 Range

Leader of the Year Award Winner in the Producer Category and Noel Keogh – RREC member.

Bob and Debbie Gibbs and Gene Surber received their leadership awards last week in Havre during the 2010 Winter Grazing Seminar sponsored by Montana DNRC.

For more information on the Rangeland Resources Program, the Range Leader Award, or other grazing and range management efforts sponsored by DNRC, contact Heidi Olbert at (406) 444-6619, or visit the DNRC web site at <http://dnrc.mt.gov/cardd/consdist/rangelandmangement.a.sp>.

## Reduce Livestock Losses to Poisonous Plants

*Contributed By Matt Ricketts, Area Range Specialist, NRCS, Bozeman*

Spring is fast approaching and soon livestock will be moved to spring and summer pastures. One common poisonous plant on mountain and foothill ranges that is often overlooked is weedy milk vetch (*Astragalus miser*). It affects cattle, sheep, and horses. The crude protein content of this plant is relatively high, but it also synthesizes miserotoxin, a glycoside that causes acute and chronic poisoning in ruminants. Weedy milk vetch poisoning *may be mistaken for larkspur poisoning*.

Early signs of poisoning may include finding animals that are gaunt or slightly bloated with some respiratory abnormalities and general lethargy. With continued exposure to the plant these signs will progress to acute poisoning. Signs of acute poisoning include loss of hindquarter co-ordination, excessive salivation, irregular gait, reluctance to move, a strong tendency to become recumbent, and respiratory difficulty which causes a roaring or wheezing sound. Death may follow prolonged grazing with the animal becoming emaciated and weak. In chronic poisoning, there is permanent damage manifested as unthriftiness, diarrhea, loss of stamina, and clicky heels.

According to a recent study conducted in British Columbia, Canada chronic poisoning signs were often delayed and became evident once the animals were suddenly exerted and forced to travel. Affected animals may lag behind as the livestock are moved.

Weedy milk vetch has very small pea like leaves and grows about six inches tall in tufts. The flowers are very small, about one centimetre in length, and pea like. The color varies from light blue to purple with a purple pointed tip on the keel petal. The plant is typically found under or in association with Douglas fir or lodge pole pine.

The recent Canadian study conducted over a six year period found that cattle raised in the area with a known history of exposure to weedy milk vetch were able to tolerate the plant much more than cattle not familiar with weedy milkvetch. First and second calf heifers had the greatest incidence of poisoning. The study also found that *supplementing with molasses protein blocks reduced poisoning from 25 cases without the supplement to 2 cases with the supplement.*

In general good grazing management that promotes healthy plant communities will reduce the amount of weedy milkvetch that exists on the range, and the opportunity for livestock poisoning. But if you identify this plant on your range avoid introducing non-native grazing animals and/or provide a molasses protein block to help with weedy milkvetch detoxification.

If you have any questions please contact us.

## **Abstract: Rangeland Chiselling Trials to Increase Production & Health**

Authors: Matthew J. Ricketts, Area Rangeland Mgmt. Specialist, USDA-NRCS, Bozeman, MT; Jim Jacobs, Plant Materials Specialist, USDA-NRCS, Bozeman, MT; Keith & Karen Schott, Ranchers, Broadview, MT; Sonny Smith, Rancher, Cameron, MT; Valerie Robertson, USDA-NRCS, Billings, MT; & Marnie Thompson, USDA-NRCS, Sheridan, MT.

Rangeland chiselling is a practice that has been used by many ranchers to improve production on club moss or blue grama dominated rangelands in the Great Plains and Rocky Mountain valleys. Two different chiselling trials along with deferment alone, were evaluated to assess the positives and negatives of rangeland chiselling relative to production, plant community change, and economics.

In November of 2005 and March of 2006, a replicated chiselling trial was done on the CB ranch near Cameron in the Madison River valley of southwest Montana. This was a loamy ecological site in the northern Rocky

Mountain valleys averaging 15" of precipitation. This trial compared fall vs. spring chiselling vs. deferment alone. The plant community was about 20% similar to potential with a 70% basal cover of club moss (*Selaginella densa* Rydb. var. *densa*), along with bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata* (Pursh) A. Löve), prairie june grass (*Koeleria macrantha* (Ledeb.) J.A. Schultes), needle and thread (*Hesperostipa comata* (Trin. & Rupr.)), Sandberg bluegrass (*Poa secunda* J. Presl), Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis* Elmer), and a trace of cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum* L.).

In late March and early April of 2002 a range chiselling was done on 640 acres of the Schott ranch near Broadview, Montana. This was a loamy ecological site in the sedimentary plains averaging 14" of precipitation. The plant community was about 25% similar to potential consisting of some blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis* (Willd. ex Kunth) Lag. ex Griffiths) & club moss, prairie june grass, Sandberg bluegrass, western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii* (Rydb.) A. Löve), needle and thread, blue bunch wheatgrass, and a trace of cheatgrass.

The Schott chiselling was done in the middle of a severe drought and it took about 4 years before a positive difference was seen. Annual introduced weeds and cheat grass increased for a time then decreased based on observations.

On the CB ranch spring chiselling provided the greatest economic return at \$3.60 / ac. / yr. greater than the control in 2009. The fall chisel was \$2.40 above the control and the Schott chiselling averaged \$2.00 above the control in 2009.

Analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to evaluate the treatment effects.

Bluebunch wheatgrass production was 50% greater than the control in 2009 on the fall chiselling and 88% greater on the spring chiselling (P=.05). Needle and thread increased three fold with fall chiselling regardless of the year (P=.05). Numbers of native forbs was not affected by treatment or year (P=.05). Other native grasses results were varied with the control treatment having no effect over time. Western wheatgrass, annual bromes, and non-native forbs were not affected by either treatment or year (P=.05).

The Similarity Index improved from 20% to 41% with deferment on the control (more than doubling the stocking rate), from 20% to 57% on the fall chisel (more than doubling the stocking rate), and from 20% to 70% on the spring chisel (four fold increase in stocking rate in four years).

The bottom line is that spring chiselling appeared to be more effective, bluebunch wheatgrass is still increasing relative to the controls, and grazing management improves production significantly. In addition, ecological values and economic returns are improved substantially with grazing management alone and especially with chiselling plus grazing management.



Grizzly bear in the Pincher Creek Area. Photo contributed by Fish & Wildlife Division, Alberta SRD.

## Bears, Wolves & Rural Communities: A Rangeland Perspective

IMS SRM, Rocky Mountain Forest Range Association, and Alberta Sustainable Resource Development

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

A very pertinent fall workshop was conducted during the fall meeting of the International Mountain Section, of the Society for Range Management. The purpose of the workshop was 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 spoke to the group. The workshop was both engaging and informative.

## SRM IMS Annual Fall Meeting Pincher Creek, AB October 23, 2009

Contributed by Barry Adams

### Minutes:

Outgoing IMS President Mike Alexander called the meeting to order at 1 pm. Minutes from the summer tour were approved as published in the previous newsletter. Moved: Jack Vandervalk, Second: Bob Wesley).

### Reports:

**Finance:** Barry Adams presented the audited financial report for 2008-2009 and moved the adoption of the report (second by Jack Vandervalk). Auditors were Donna Lawrence, Barrhead, AB and Merritta Fraker-Marble, Bozeman, MT. The section's finances remain sound; activities were run on a cost recovery basis. The section made progress in directing additional finances to youth activities in the past year. Barry was pleased to announce that Jill Burkhardt of Gwynne, AB would take over as the Section Treasurer in the near future. Auditors for 2009-2010 (Brian Thrift, MT and Barry Adams, AB).

**Election Results:** New section officers elected to serve in 2009-2010 include – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vic President, Brian Thrift, Dillon, MT, MT Director Tanya Thrift, Dillon, MT; AB Director Tracy Kupchenko, Medicine Hat, AB.

**Website:** Merrita Fraker-Marble reviewed the planned upgrade of the website based on a service quote from Anne Tanaka. Members reviewed some options but basically gave Merritta their blessing to proceed with her good judgement. We will attempt to post all presentations where we have wavers from the authors. The photo library proposed by Donna Lawrence will appear on the website as well. Additional ideas and advice are most welcome.

**Newsletter:** Jody Best has volunteered to take over the newsletter.

**Youth Forum Update:** Presently MT does not have a suitable Youth Forum candidate available due to student scheduling conflicts. Bob Wesley reported that an

Alberta candidate was available. Candidate selected from Alberta Range Daze, a Grade 11 student, from family ranching operation. Bob plans to do some fund-raising to make it work.

**AIA Rangeland Network:** Tracy reviewed the AIA network – How to. Need a list of bylaws, officers, put forth a business plan to be reviewed by the AIA council, reviewing objectives? Link could be provided to AIA main page to our Section. A network may have particular value as more and more professionals are being encouraged (compelled) to be members.

### Old Business:

**Foothills Restoration Forum:** Marilyn Neville brought greetings from the FRF and invited SRM members to attend their annual fall meeting to take place Nov. 25 2009 at Chain Lakes. The FRF may share in the sponsorship of the 2010 IMS Summer Tour

**Membership Survey Results:** The section members extended their thanks to Clayton Marlow and the students that completed the membership survey as reported in the fall of 2009 newsletter.

A long period of discussion and soul searching followed the review of the membership survey – focusing on the key question of “What do we want?” as an IMS section. The survey results provided a very logical pathway to improve service to our members. However there was a strong, underlying concern about the potential demands that we place upon our officers to achieve some of the ambitious goals that the survey might suggest. Are we burning out our interested members after a stint as an executive member?

The consensus of the meeting was that we should promote further discussion of the following points:

- Let's try to provide good service to our core group first and then we can remain as a strong platform to extend our message to others.
- Since the Annual Parent Society meeting is also well attended, do we need three meetings a year, given the geographic distances we span with the section?
- Could we focus one meeting in particular that could be very high quality and also be the annual business meeting.
- Summer tour seems to have particular value to address connection to range, social relationships.

- Summer tours provide a quality of “fellowship” that members cherish. Building local people into the program has great value for the insight they can provide on their home turf.
- Summer tours provide the quality exposure of what SRM is about – explore geographic diversity, experience resource first hand, welcome outsiders into a very unique experience.
- Summer tours make us unique (family, fun, learning).
- In essence, the summer meeting is focused on members and the fall meeting could focused on non-members.
- Let's go away from Pincher Creek meeting and consider a change in our programming, perhaps requiring a change of our by-laws. If we shifted to two meetings per year, instead of three, we could focus more on one good summer tour, that would include the annual business meeting, elections and awards, all moved to the summer event.
- With this solid support of the section core through an enhanced summer tour, we can then look at freeing up executive time and resources to consider other technical sessions. Regional issues, AIA network concept, continuing education, events that can be more driven by state and provincial players that focus more directly on the objectives highlighted in the Membership Survey results.

This is a philosophical question to be discussed further at the next meetings.

**Action:** Further discussion on re-jigging our section focus on the summer meeting and possible change in our bylaws to accommodate this.

Meeting Adjourned at 4 p.m.

## **Calling all cooks! Now accepting recipes, stories and photos!**

Do you have a family or ranch recipe that has been around for generations? Does it have a great story or background to go with it? Or maybe you have a great range story, ranch story or an awesome range photo that you would like to share. We are looking for you. The Information and Education Committee is collecting recipes, stories and photos for the next edition of the Trail Boss Cowboy Cookbook.

Submit Recipes, Range Stories and Range Photos to:

[srmcookbook@yahoo.com](mailto:srmcookbook@yahoo.com)

Please Include Your Name, Ranch Name, SRM Section and City, State with each submission.

All recipes must be original recipes (never published). If it is a published recipe it must be changed by 10%, (such as changing an ingredient or amount, adding an ingredient, changing cooking temperature or time.)

#### Featured Recipe Of The Month:

From: Trail Boss's Cowboy Cookbook, 1985

### Montana Beef Pasties (Butte Pasties)

Shelly (Jackson) Van Haur, Van Haur Polled Herfords

- 1 double recipe for pie dough
- 1 c. leftover gravy
- 1 lb. diced, cooked roast beef (3-4 c.)
- 1 tsp. salt
- ½ lb. diced, cooked (boiled or baked) potatoes
- ¼ tsp. pepper
- 1 lge. Onion, diced
- ½ tsp. dried garlic
- 3 diced carrots
- 2 tbsp. parsley flakes

Mix all ingredients in a large bowl except pie dough. Roll pie dough into 1/8 "thick, 8" round circles. Place ¾ or 1 c. of meat mixture on half of dough circle, bring other half over and seal edges. Put small slit in top of each pastie. Cook at 400° for 1 hour. Serve with gravy or catsup.

**Background:** The old Welch miners were known for their lunch of pasties they took down in the mines of Butte, Montana. Later these pasties took on a variety of different ingredients and styles according to the nationality of the miner's wife who made them, and later the ranch wives.



## Our Favourite Places!

Contributed by Jody Best



One of my favourite range places: A fescue grassland on a transition area between the Foothills Fescue Sub-region and the Mixed Grass Sub-region of Alberta. This photo is taken from a coyote's perspective showing foothills rough fescue blooming in large patches out of native grassland dominated by wheat grass. In the background is a buffalo jump historically used by the Blackfoot peoples. I love walking across history and gleaning stories from the plants and soil formations.