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Photo by Tracy Rains

## Summer Range Tour: Stewardship Initiatives in Foothills Rough Fescue Grasslands (July 15-17, 2010)

Jack Vandervalk

The Intermountain Section of the Society of Range Management 2010 summer field tour will focus on stewardship and restoration initiatives underway in the foothills rough fescue grasslands of south western Alberta. The tour will provide opportunity to view current research projects underway on two decommissioned well sites located in foothills rough fescue grasslands. Two producing well sites and pipelines with contrasting construction and re-vegetation strategies will also be toured.

Students involved in research projects at the University of Alberta, members of the Foothills Restoration Forum Technical Advisory Committee, landowners and representatives from the petroleum industry will be available to facilitate discussion and answer questions. This portion of the tour will be conducted during the morning of July 16, 2010 leaving Chain Lakes Provincial Park at 8:30 am. Lunch will be served at Willow Creek Park at 12:00 noon.

After lunch the tour will proceed to the Waldron Ranch. Waldron Grazing Co-operative Ltd. owns and manages approximately 56,000 acres, in a large contiguous block. The Waldron rangeland spans both Foothills Fescue and Montane Natural Sub-regions. The Waldron Grazing Co-op was awarded the Alberta Beef Producers "Environmental Stewardship Award" for 2010. This award recognizes the co-operative's innovative stewardship practices. This portion of the tour will focus on water development projects and range management.

*We are integrating a family learning program in this year's activities. It will include a fun filled interactive learning and feedback component for each tour site. Families will have the opportunity to discuss the issues, learn from each other. Prizes will be awarded.*

**!!! Registration is on-line. More information on page 4 of this newsletter !!!  
Registration form at the back of this issue.**

## President's Message: Stop & Smell the .....Rain

Tracy Mosley

What more could stewards of our rangelands ask for than ample spring rain? Well, somebody asked, because we have been getting just that! In Livingston, Montana (the town where I work), we have received 2.77 inches of rain already in the month of June, when the "normal" monthly precipitation is 1.78 inches. Many of the old timers recall that "this is how it used to be – getting rain nearly every day in June". Just imagine the great things this moisture is doing for our soil moisture, surface and groundwater supplies, watershed health, and for range plants and rangeland plant communities! For those individuals I interact with that are somewhat less connected to the land, I get a sense that they are less fond of the rain because it is interfering with their summer plans. This is where we, the members of the International Mountain Section of the Society for Range Management, can capitalize on teachable moments. This is our opportunity to educate people about the great benefit of such awesome moisture and its influence on the natural environment that surrounds them. It's simple, we should encourage them to stop and smell the rain – and we should do the same! See you at the summer meeting!

## Editor's Note Jody Best

Another issue of our newsletter ready for your viewing pleasure. This photo says it all for me. I'll be in the field for the next few months and hoping to find lots of healthy range and riparian areas in my travels.



Photo by Jody Best

## Upcoming Events

July 15-17, 2010 Summer Range Tour, Chain Lakes, AB  
July 20-22, 2010 Youth Range Days, Cypress Hills, AB  
August 31, 2010 Submissions due for Autumn IMS newsletter.

## Range Club at Montana State University

Kailee Bickford

This past year, the Range Club at MSU had around 30 members. Preparing to take the Undergraduate Range Management Exam (URME) at the Society for Range Management annual meeting is one of the club's biggest activities. Starting in October, students start practicing for the URME with the help of our coach, Merrita. Twelve range club members attended the Denver meeting in February 2010 and participated in the Undergraduate Range Management Exam. The club tied for 4<sup>th</sup> on the URME against 25 other schools. The top three members of the team were Kailee Bickford, Daniel Pratt, and Daisy Garverich. Kailee Bickford also tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> individually on the URME. Several students began studying for the Plant ID Exam, but the exam was not attempted this year. One of the club members, Daniel Pratt was elected President of the SRM Student Conclave this year.

The club participates in the College of Agriculture New Student Barbeque in the fall, which is a good opportunity for many of the clubs to meet and recruit incoming freshman. Also around Halloween, several students helped in the trick-or-treat for canned food put together by the Collegiate Young Farmers and Ranchers club. In the spring the club has a spring barbeque, this year joint with the Collegiate Young Farmers and Ranchers. The Range Club also had a team for Fun on the Farm. The team didn't win many of the games but did win "Best Dressed" with our "Prairie Fairy" theme! At the scholarship banquet this spring, seven of the club members received scholarships.

A unique opportunity that four students of the club had this year was visiting and helping Mike Frisina and Bok Sowell create a plant list for the Blue Eyed Nellie Wildlife Management Area.

We try to get a speaker or two each semester and our fall presentation was from a group of range students that took a summer class from Clayton Marlow. They presented their management plan for huns and other

wildlife on a ranch owned by an out-of-state landowner. This spring Mike Frisina spoke to the club about his work with Argali, wild sheep in Mongolia.



Members of the Montana State University Range Club with their award.

Our biggest fundraiser is the Christmas Tree Cut. Students work with landowners who need stand thinning by harvesting Christmas trees and then thinning the rest of the stand. The past few years we have received help finding a location and harvesting trees from Hal Hunter. The majority of the trees are pre-sold around campus.

Officers elected for 2010-2011 are:

President – Ben Lynn  
Vice President – Danny Pratt  
Secretary – Lauren Klempel  
Treasurer – Colter Brown  
Ag Student Council Rep – Brandon Hartz  
Historian – Robbyn Reukauf

## Young Professionals Conclave Update

Jill Burkhardt

The Young Professionals Conclave sent out an email at the end of May to our membership, in regards to the call for committee involvement. The YPC is in the process of forming a few new committees in response to the YPC members suggestions at the Denver meeting. Please find the descriptions below and look through them. If there is something else you are interested in, please email YPC Secretary, Angie Reid [ypc@rangemail.org], and we will try to accommodate you.

Second, the YPC is updating our membership contact list. If you are receiving emails from the YPC at an email that is not your primary email please update your information with us to YPC Secretary, Angie Reid [ypc@rangemail.org] with your preferred contact information. Also, if you no longer wish to receive YPC emails or be involved with the YPC let us know this as well so that we can make sure that our membership list is updated. Please let us know why you are no longer interested in being involved so that we can improve.

Third, the YPC is in the planning stages for the upcoming Billings 2011 meeting so if you have any suggestions that you think could be useful, please let us know.

Thank you again for your continued membership and support and please review the committee descriptions below:

### *Planning Committee*

Committee Chair: Liza McDonald, Bureau of Land Management

Mission: To include the YPC membership in planning activities for YPC functions and to allow the officer team to conduct business in addition to planning activities.

Activities: YPC business meeting, guest speakers, social activities, provide conclave with involvement opportunities, trade show booth, committee reports to YPC officer team

How to get involved: contact Liza at [emcdonal@blm.gov](mailto:emcdonal@blm.gov), 435-781-4407

### *Outreach Committee*

Committee Chair: Seth Kennedy, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Mission: To be a vital tool in networking and expanding YPC throughout the state level sections. Through this committee we hope to bring in new young professionals that can benefit from YPC as well as reconnect with former members to gain their valuable insight and ideas to continually build YPC. We would like to see at least one committee member from every state section so that we can cover all the needs at the section level.

How to get involved: contact Seth at 307-760-8910 cell, 303-445-2182 office, [sjkennedy@usbr.gov](mailto:sjkennedy@usbr.gov),

15882 W 3<sup>rd</sup> PL Golden, CO 80401

### *Fundraising Committee*

Committee Chair: Kimberly Haile, Montana Department of Natural Resources

Mission: To raise funds to send a YPC representative to Washington D.C. annually with the board of directors. As funds are raised we will think of other ways to utilize the money within YPC. We need fundraising ideas and people to implement the ideas. A five member committee would be ideal.

How to get involved: contact Kim at [kimberlyhaile@hotmail.com](mailto:kimberlyhaile@hotmail.com)

### *Newsletter Committee*

Committee Chair: Angie Reid, Tall Timbers Research Station

Mission: To provide interesting and relevant information and support to the newsletter and keep our membership up-to-date with YPC activities. Members of this committee will play an important role by going out into the range community and providing articles for the YPC newsletter. Three or more members would be required to provide a good mix and diversity of articles.

How to get involved: contact Angie at [areid@ttrs.org](mailto:areid@ttrs.org) or 850-893-4153 ext. 342.

### *Advisory Council/Section YPC Committee*

Committee Chair: Jill Burkhardt, Ministry of Sustainable Resource Development

Special Member: Aleta Rudeen? SRM Outreach and Extension Coordinator

Mission: To have a member from every SRM section and have each section establish and maintain a functioning Young Professionals Conclave

Committee Meetings and Members: To be determined?if you have any ideas on how we can share information, please let us know.

How to get involved: contact Jill at [jill.burkhardt@gov.ab.ca](mailto:jill.burkhardt@gov.ab.ca) or 780-542-6616 (office)

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Photo by Tracy Kupchenko.

## Summer Tour: Agenda & Other Info

### Thursday, July 15 – Gathering and Camp Setup Chain Lakes Provincial Park

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM – Registration at Chain Lakes Group Camp  
7:30 PM – 8:30 PM – History of ranching in the Chain Lakes and Porcupine Hills area.

### Friday, July 16 – Stewardship Initiatives in Rough Fescue Grasslands IMS Summer Tour

8:30 AM – Depart Chain Lakes Group Camp. Buses will be provided  
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM – University of Alberta well site reclamation research, Compton Petroleum, Landowner Bill Cross  
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM – Conoco Phillips Canada, two different approaches to interim reclamation of producing wells. Landowner Gary Brown  
12:30 PM – 1:00 PM- Lunch: Willow Creek Provincial Park  
2:00 PM – 5:00 PM – Waldron Ranch, Water development and sheep grazing projects  
6:00PM - Barbeque – (Chain Lakes Group Camp ) Fellowship and Socializing.  
7:00 to 8:00PM –Discussion of feedback from family learning program. Presentation of prizes.

### Saturday, July 17

7:30 – 8:30 - Breakfast Chain Lakes Group Camp  
9:00 – 10:30 – Section Business Meeting  
10:30 to 11:30 –Plant identification contest and awarding of prizes

## Directions to Chain Lakes Provincial Park

### Approaching from the South

US border crossing options include: Roosevelt, Chief Mountain and Carway. Check hours of operation specific to each border crossing.

From Roosevelt proceed north on HWY 93 to Elko, east on HWY 3 through the Crowsnest Pass, east on HWY 3 to the junction of HWY 22, then north on HWY 22 to Chain Lakes Provincial Park.

From Chief Mountain proceed on HWY 6 to Pincher Creek then west on HWY 3 to the junction of HWY 22 then north on HWY 22 to Chain Lakes Provincial Park.

From Carway proceed north on HWY 2 to Cardston, then take HWY 5 west to the junction of HWY 6 located just east of Waterton Lakes National Park. Proceed on HWY 6 to Pincher Creek, then west on HWY 3 to HWY 22 then north on HWY 22 to Chain Lakes Provincial Park.

### Approaching from the North

Take HWY 2 south from Calgary to Nanton. At the south end of the town of Nanton turn west on HWY 533 to Chain Lakes Provincial Park

### Accommodations:

Cost per unit at the Chain Lakes Group camp is \$12.00 per night. Campsites serviced with electrical hook-ups are available in the main campground on a first come - first served basis for \$25.00 per night. Similar prices apply at Willow Creek Provincial Park.

A list of available accommodations and contact information is in the table below. These include campgrounds, and hotels. There are also several high quality bed and breakfasts in the area. These can be located by searching bed and breakfasts in the Claresholm or Nanton area on the Travel Alberta website.

| Accommodation                | Phone        | Type        |
|------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Chain Lakes Provincial Park  | 403-646-5887 | Campground  |
| Nanton Campground            | 403-646-5673 | Campground  |
| Pine Coulee Campground       | 403-549-2218 | Campground  |
| Willow Creek Provincial Park | 403-549-2218 | Campground  |
| Auditorium Hotel, Nanton     | 403-646-2746 | Hotel       |
| Double D Motel, Nanton       | 403-646-2170 | Motel       |
| Ranchland Inn Motel, Nanton  | 403-646-2933 | Motel       |
| Motel 6, Claresholm          | 403-625-4646 | Motel       |
| Bluebird Motel, Claresholm   | 403-625-3395 | Motel       |
| Lazy J Motel, Claresholm     | 403-625-4949 | Motel       |
| Thrift Lodge, Claresholm     | 403-625-3347 | Motel/Hotel |

## Cows, Birds and Hoppers

Peggy Strankman, CCA Environment Manager

Each year on the first Saturday of May Canada celebrates International Migratory Bird Day. Created in 1993, it helps focus attention on a remarkable event, the amazing migration of 90 per cent of Canada's birds back from the southern United States, Mexico and Central America.

Unfortunately many of those bird populations are in decline. The reasons are varied and sometimes uncertain but for sure an abundant food supply is a good thing. For many of the grassland birds that means grasshoppers. However in agriculture extraordinarily high numbers of grasshoppers can mean crop damage

Fortunately believing that every insect has its place, and ecological role, Dr. Dan Johnson, University of Lethbridge, wrote a book on how to identify grasshoppers on the Canadian prairies. "Grasshopper Identification & Control Methods" was conceptualized by the Saskatchewan Pulse Growers and funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. It includes photographs of the most common 25 species, and explains how to tell pest from regular run of the mill type.

Johnson says, "The first rule is any grasshopper flying before June is not a pest. Second rule is that crop pest grasshoppers hatch in late May and early June, are brown or black and always have tiny triangular wing buds, not large wings that can be folded back when examined closely. Third rule - any hopper with hind wings highly visible in flight (red, yellow, orange or black ) is not a pest. Fourth rule - any grasshopper that sings, calls, clacks, clatters or makes other similar sounds is not a pest. The pest species are silent."

The book is an easy read, starting with how to recognize grasshopper ages and stages. There are great photographs of pest species like the two-striped grasshopper and the neutral or beneficial species. It can be found on line at

[http://www.saskpulse.com/news/latest\\_pulse\\_news.php?detail=182](http://www.saskpulse.com/news/latest_pulse_news.php?detail=182)

Or <http://research.uleth.ca/spg/> under "Grasshopper Guide"

"Reducing the cost of pest management can only be a good thing," says Lynn Grant, Chair of the Environment

Committee for the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA). The other major benefit is that being very selective in taking out only the grasshoppers that are a serious problem also protects the food supply for the prairie grassland song birds," says Grant.

CCA is in discussions with Dr. Johnson and AAFC to prepare a sequel that will focus on the range and pasture land species that will be of more interest to grass and forage managers.



Photo by Tracy Kupchenko

*I am the grassland,  
out of the abyss of a million years.  
I have been a sea and the tropical jungle, the  
home of the coral and the dinosaurs.  
I have been a sleeping giant under the masses  
of glacier ice and I have awakened.  
I am a part of the changing earth, but for  
centuries my constancy has been my silence.*

*Today, I am the prairie green and gold,  
silvery grey, freckled with the flowers of my  
seasons.*

*I am trodden by fleet hooves and weary paws  
and creatures that slither over me in delicate  
embraces. I have known the buffalo and the  
people of the buffalo.*

*I have known the kit fox and the prairie dog,  
the predator and the prey, coyote and antelope,  
falcon and hare, each in their quest for  
survival are the inhabitants of my domain.*

*- Thelma Poirier, excerpt from Grasslands.*

## Is the IM Section interested in hosting a parent society meeting? Brian Thrift

During the Advisory Council meeting in Denver, while discussing potential meeting locations for the 2014 SRM Annual Meeting, we discovered that the officers from several sections, where likely meeting sites were located, were unaware that they were being considered. To prevent this from occurring in the future, we began soliciting interest in potential meeting locations for the 2015-2017 SRM Annual Meetings.

I suggested that they consider looking at Edmonton and Calgary as possible locations and thought, that after helping the NGP Section in Billings, we might be up for hosting the annual meeting in 2016 or 2017. As near as I can tell, the last time the IM Section hosted a meeting within the section was in Calgary in 1982. The logistics for both of these proposed locations would weigh more heavily on the Albertans, although I'm sure that we would have numerous volunteers from Montana and the NGP Section, if we host it jointly.

The Advisory Council is requesting a response by **June 30, 2010** as to whether or not our section would be interested in hosting the meeting in 2015. This is not a commitment that we will host it, but rather an affirmation of our interest and support, at which point they will more closely investigate the locations. Please consider whether our section should volunteer to host the 2015 SRM Annual Meeting, or if we would prefer to vie for the 2016 or 2017 meetings, or if there is no way on God's green Earth that we want to host a meeting.

E-mail your thoughts, to Tracy ([tmosley@montana.edu](mailto:tmosley@montana.edu)), Jack ([vans@xplorenet.com](mailto:vans@xplorenet.com)), and me ([Brian\\_Thrift@blm.gov](mailto:Brian_Thrift@blm.gov)) by **June 28, 2010**. We will weigh the group's responses and submit a response to the Advisory Council. If the interest is there, we can discuss this further at the summer meeting. See you in Nanton!

## Billings 2011 Annual Meeting Planning Committee Update Jennifer Muscha

Planning is well under way for the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Society for Range Management Meetings in Billings, Montana, February 6-11, 2011 hosted by our section. Our website is up and running and can be found on the Society for Range Managements homepage. The direct link is

<http://www.rangelands.org/billings2011/>. The most current information about the meeting can be found on that site and we try to update it on a regular basis. The minutes from all of the meetings and teleconferences are posted and also a contact person is listed if you are interested in volunteering. Most of our volunteer help will be needed during the actual meeting and it is never too late to sign up! Thanks to those of you who have already volunteered. The Holiday Inn Grand and Billings Hotel and Convention Center are the host hotels.

We have a few deadlines fast approaching and some have already passed. May 1<sup>st</sup> was the deadline for symposia submissions. We had a little over 20 symposium requests submitted and we are hoping to accommodate all requests. Articles to be submitted for the Rangelands issue that highlights the Northern Great Plains Region was due May 15<sup>th</sup>. The deadline for all planned activities to be included in the Preconvention Trail Boss is due June 1<sup>st</sup>. August 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline to have information to the printers for the Preconvention Trail Boss. The "Call for Abstracts" for papers and posters will go live July 1<sup>st</sup> with a submission deadline of September 1<sup>st</sup>.

A few of the highlights that are still in the planning process include an all day Rancher's Forum targeted for Producers on Tuesday. The Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range, Little Bighorn Battlefield, and Pompey's Pillar are potential tour sites. The Moss Mansion and trips to shopping and downtown area are a few of the potential day tours in Billings. Bucky Beaver and the Groundgrippers is the band contracted for the dance Tuesday night. We are also planning an alternative banquet function with a western themed meal and the Ringling Five as entertainment for Wednesday night.

Our hope is to create an enjoyable experience for all participants and also highlight the Northern Great Plains Section.

## Nominations for IMS Officers

The Summer Business Meeting is a good time to nominate candidates for 2nd Vice President -this year that office will go to an Albertan. Nominations are also open for two First Year Directors: one from AB and one from MT. If you know of a good candidate, talk to them now!

## Our Favourite Places!

Tracy Kupchenko



*Milk River Badlands, Milk River Natural Area. Places like this remind us how ancient the landscape that we work on is. All the millennia are recorded in the soil layers like rings on a tree. We are a drop in the bucket of time.*

## 2009-2010 IMS Executive Committee

|                                    |                       |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>President</b>                   | Dr. Tracy Mosley      |
| <b>1st Vice President</b>          | Jack Vandervalk       |
| <b>2nd Vice President</b>          | Brian Thrift          |
| <b>Past President</b>              | Mike Alexander        |
| <b>2nd Year Director- MT</b>       | Cindy Selensky        |
| <b>2nd Year Director – AB</b>      |                       |
| <b>1st Year Director – MT</b>      | Tanya Thrift          |
| <b>1st Year Director – AB</b>      | Tracy Kupchenko       |
| <b>Secretary-Treasurer</b>         | Jill Burkhardt        |
| <b>Youth Program Chair - AB</b>    |                       |
| <b>Youth Program Chair – MT</b>    | Cindy Selensky        |
| <b>Young Professionals Gp – MT</b> |                       |
| <b>Young Professionals Gp – AB</b> | Tracy Kupchenko       |
| <b>Newsletter Editor</b>           | Jody Best             |
| <b>History Chairperson</b>         | Donna Lawrence        |
| <b>Section Webmaster</b>           | Merrita Fraker-Marble |
| <b>Membership Comm Chair</b>       | Dr. Clayton Marlow    |
| <b>Nomination Comm Chair</b>       | George Hirschenberger |

Note that contact information for these folks is available at <http://ims.rangelands.org/contact.shtml>.

## Summer Tour Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number in Party  
 Adults \_\_\_\_ Children \_\_\_\_

|  |  | Number | Total   |
|--|--|--------|---------|
| Early Bird (Prior to July 9) Full Registration Adult: \$50 x<br>Includes Saturday and Sunday Breakfast, fieldtrip,<br>Saturday lunch and Friday night Barbeque |  | _____  | = _____ |
| Full Registration (After July 7) Adult: \$60 x   |  | _____  | = _____ |
| Post secondary students \$30 x   |  | _____  | = _____ |
| Youth and children under 18 free   |  |        |         |
| Field Trip and Barbeque: \$40 x<br>Includes Field Trip, Friday lunch and Barbeque  |  | _____  | = _____ |
| Field Trip: \$20 x   |  | _____  | = _____ |
| <b>Total Registration</b>  |  |        | = _____ |
| US and Canadian Funds at Par:  |  |        |         |

Register online at [www.ims.rangelands.org](http://www.ims.rangelands.org), or [www.foothillsrestorationforum.com](http://www.foothillsrestorationforum.com)  
 Deadline July 9, 2010  
 Pay when you arrive and make cheques payable to **IMS- SRM -** Include copy of completed Registration Form

**We look forward to having you join us.**