



International Mountain Section Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 1

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Plant ID Quiz: Do You Know What This Is?



Answer in next issue of the IMS Newsletter.

President's Message Jack Vandervalk

Most of us are tired of winter. We received more winter this year than we have the last few years. Last year we managed to time our calving without any bad weather. Not so this year. Today we have a cold north wind and have received at least 4 inches of wet snow by noon. That, on top of the 2 feet of snow we had last weekend, makes for poor calving weather. When you have 250 to 300 baby calves you want good weather! The snow and wind makes for some cranky cows that will not let their calves nurse. This can make for a lot of extra work.

That's enough of my immediate concerns. Thinking down the road I would like suggestions for a good, timely topic for our fall meeting. Also, where is the best place to have the meeting? We have been to Red Deer and Pincher Creek over the last few years. Maybe Lethbridge would work out best depending on the topic?

I hope to hear how Brian is coming along with the summer tour. Thank you for your continued involvement in SRM.

"The mountain spring, storybooks to the contrary notwithstanding, did not come with a rush. Balmy days alternated with bitter winds, even after the sheep had gone up. I have seen few colder sights than a drab gray mountain meadow, sprinkled with complaining ewes and half-frozen lambs, pelted by hail and snow. Even the gay nutcrackers humped their backs to these spring storms."

- Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac

Editor's Note Jody Best

Once again folks have been fabulous about submitting material for our growing newsletter. I love this task! I'm only sorry that I got bogged down by the weather and other work due this spring and haven't been able to put this together until now.

As Jack wrote in the President's Message, spring is a long-time coming this year to the southwestern Alberta part of the world. I am trying to exercise patience, but I'm getting antsy to begin the outdoor portion of my year.

Looking forward to the outdoor activity made me think of the first flower I usually see in spring, the prairie crocus. It really makes me feel good to see the flowers poking their heads out of the snow. I can't wait to see my first crocus this year. They seem to me to be such courageous flowers, in light of the harsh weather we sometimes have. They know what they want, too, following the sun with their centre, then closing for the night.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the newsletter and continue your wonderful submissions!



Prairie crocus. Photo by Jody Best.

Going to Stavelly with John: Farewell to Colleague and Friend Barry Adams

I first heard of Dr. Johan Dormaar as an undergraduate, he was one of the Canadian rangeland trinity, Dormaar, Johnson and Smoliak, and every permutation of those names in the many papers that these gentlemen crafted. Since my job brought me to Lethbridge in 1984, John has been a dear friend and mentor from whom I have received so much good council and support in my life and work.

One treasured duty that I shared with John, right up until this past September, was frequent trips to the Stavelly substation where, often with Walter Willms as well, we would share the story of what it takes to sustain precious foothills grasslands. Although John's research in rangeland soils was very much balanced between prairie and foothills, One Four and Stavelly respectively, it was Stavelly where John told his stories of rangeland soils to literally thousands of listeners over the years.

More than 60 years ago, Alex Johnson established a four field study at Stavelly to evaluate the effects of light, moderate, heavy and very heavy grazing. Over more than 40 years, working first with Alex and later with Walter, John captured the effects of these different stocking rates on the rangeland soils.

John often felt that the hidden world of the soil was short changed in the story telling process. It was easy to see the effects on top, but the profound impacts below ground needed some commitment from the audience to "get it".

First off, unless very elderly or disabled, John insisted that the Stavelly tour was a walking tour. The tour would officially begin at a small fenced plot on a sharp hilltop, providing a broad overview of lush fescue grasslands. John would sprint ahead of the main group to prepare the site. So frequent were these visits that a sheet of plywood covered his soil pit. This provided quick access followed by some trimming of the soil face to expose the deep black topsoil. At this point, John stepped onto the stage and began to spin his story of time, bison, fire, drought and the practices of First Nations that maintained the fescue range. All were invited to view and touch the moist rich soil.

From the hilltop the group would proceed through each of the fields, viewing first the healthy grasslands, then the progressive changes with increased stocking and declining range health. This walking process was essential so that each person could feel the changes as they tramped across each field. At regular intervals, like a physician with his stethoscope, John would expose the soil profile and mark the changes in soil color and chemistry.



Range health field day at Stavely with Blood Tribe. Dr. John Dormaar seated first row centre (denim shirt with red vest). Photo by Jennifer Richman.

Then the group would arrive at the final field, called D field, which was very heavily grazed for over 60 years. The tour group could sense John's eagerness to deliver the final punch line. Out came the slice of thin, dried out, eroded, compacted top soil that contrasted like day and night with that first deep slice.

This walk would make believers of one and all. It was like the Chinese proverb:

*"I hear and I forget.
I see and I remember.
I do and I understand."*

Our last trip was in September with a mixed group of scientists and artists.

Over the years John will have spoken to thousands of people on this time honoured path including ranchers, politicians, First Nations, professionals of every stripe, and even David Suzuki! The ranchers and cowboy stewards of our rangelands loved to listen to John

because his insights provided the Gee Whiz learning connection to their experience on the land.

I would like to conclude with a quotation from the Cowboy painter and writer CM Russell. What he said of First Nations observers could apply to John as well:

"The only book he's got is these old prairies, but it's open to him an' he knows every leaf in her; I tell you, fellers, she sure holds good yarns for them that can read her."

John was one who could read from nature's book.

Dear departed friend, may you rest in Peace. Amen.

His Door is Always Open Gerry Ehler

A tribute to John Dormaar a wise and dedicated range soil scientist and partner from the Canada Lethbridge Research Station. His research work helped rancher, government, industry, and communities have a better understanding of rangeland soils and the effects of grazing. John's research helped people apply practices that keep a healthy landscape for humans and wildlife throughout time.

*warm sweet memories moves softly through Alberta's
grasslands
gently flowing over the mixed grass and up into the hills
they stop and look over a benchmark of time
embracing the soft tall clumps of majestic rough fescue
and enjoying the diversity of pinks...reds....yellow... and
blue herb-friends
their long hands descend and fingers wave into the years
of community development..... integrity and structure
and through the layers of litter in various states of
decomposition
exploring below the waist-linelong sinewy finger tips
reach down deep
into a world of tiny tiny bits.....ferment.....and
humus
deeper still the memories curl up a sample of the rich Ah
looks...feels..and tastes of good earth..... ..and so shall it
be*

*friends and family sing songs of praise
tributes to John of Dormaar.... a humble and dedicated man*

we shall forever defend his honour
and cherish his stories of kindness.... compassion and worth
they will drift and mix into the milky ways' night sky
recycle back again to remind and serve as building blocks
of
rangeland protection.... conservation.... stewardship...and
life

a fellowship gathers around an old wooden enclosure
a history and landscape piece of a foothills fescue loamy hill
slope

it is a beautiful day.... the sun rays warm and a bit of a
breeze comes by
keeps the flies awaywe give thanks for a good thing
we anxiously await John's messages of science
findings from studies about ecosystem health.....soils...and
carbon storage

and follow-up discussions that bring new seeds of
prosperity and hope
he bends down ...takes a range position and lifts the cover of
life

then stands ...his right elbow bends...and begins to finger
tap
his magic wand begins to move to and fro ...up and down
his music leads us through a loving story
a story and discussion about nature and humans
their relationships and impacts on the landscape over some
16,000 years

John speaks to us in common tongue
and with a cup of humour and wit ...we listen....
remember.....
learn..... and park our sponsoring thoughts
our face muscles respond widely.....we smile and inhale the
wisdom of it all
glaciers melting ... climate....grazing animals....
wildlife...fire...settlement
stewardship practices for the soil-plant-human-wildlife
complex and continuum
information blends and pulses....questions are posed
John gives pause and then begins to verse

what happens to the ecosystem when animals graze very
heavy
without providing effective rest and over a long time?

serious declines in ecosystem health and function can occur
above and below her waist line we have found
trouble starts brewing when the fescue plant communities
decline

in kinds, proportions and amounts....you know this from
before

often they become replaced by the "shallow-ones"
few ecological functions are being preformed
all life is being hurt...examples can be readily seen and
measured

litter can be much less than a handful and invasive plants
may carry the tune

soil is more compacted ...bare soil usually increases too
erosion on the landscape sounds a 3 bells alarm
the upper black soil becomes thinner and changes to a dark
brown

what about grazing impacts on soil moisture should we be
concerned

in healthy..... we understand that moisture moves more
slowly and gently penetrates
through the thicker vegetation, litter and is stored into the
ground...

what happens on an unhealthy patch of fescue ground?

less cover and more open space can reduce the trapping of
snow

rains do not infiltrate as wellmore run-off
and less of the wet stuff (especially on slopes) going into
the soil

down stream users may also get a kick from upper
unhealthy ground

things may slide even more during days of desiccating
winds and drought

in summary ...unhealthy can reduce the amount of soil
moisture

held in a watershed and negatively impact its slow release
for its needed landscape functions and uses

you hear about the harmful effects of a warming planet
does this relate to here and what if anything we can do?

native grasslands such as fescue are remarkable stores of
soil carbon

they help keep the warming gases like carbon dioxide below
the ground

and do not contribute much too green house gas emission concerns
exceptions to this can be when these landscapes are invaded and eroding
suggest helping the greenhouse effect is not our chosen rangeland path
conserve these lands for native fescue storage as much as we can

thank you John for all your precious time, council and gifts
we will build upon your wisdom
working together scientist-rancher-extension an important family tree
your door is always open
for those who want to hear and see

Save the Date! IMS Summer Tour Lima, Montana (July 14-16, 2011)

Brian Thrift

Although still in the early planning stages, this year's summer tour will be based out of Lima, Montana, about 50 miles south of Dillon on Interstate 15. My preliminary plan is to have brief presentations on the geological formation and cultural history of the Centennial Valley on Thursday night.

On Friday, we will visit with a local livestock producer to learn about his family's operation. We will then travel into the Centennial Valley. Potential stops include a quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) habitat restoration project, a habitat restoration project for pale evening-primrose (*Oenothera pallida ssp. pallida*) (as well as Fendler cat's-eye (*Cryptantha fendleri*), painted milkvetch (*Astragalus ceramicus var. apus*), and sand wildrye (*Elymus flavescens*), all of which require blowout areas or sparsely vegetated sand dunes), a discussion of sage grouse and pygmy rabbit habitat, and a visit to the Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge.

A brief business meeting will follow breakfast on Saturday morning. As soon as more specific details are available, I will distribute them via e-mail, the Section's website, the Section's Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=148562395169622>), and the summer newsletter. I look forward to seeing everyone this summer in Lima!



As part of our job working with the pasture managers, my boss and I try to take time and help the pasture managers with their daily tasks. This photo was taken in October, while moving cattle on the Sang Lake Provincial Grazing Reserve (near Edson, Alberta) from one pasture to another. Photo by Jill Burkhardt.

Update on the U of A Range Team

Barry Irving

The U of A Range Team competed in two academic competitions sponsored by the Society for Range Management at the Annual Meeting held this year in Billings, Montana. The competitions were a plant identification exam (PIE) and a general knowledge exam (undergraduate range management exam or URME) which encompasses at least the last 20 courses of a typical resource management degree.

There were six undergraduate students on the 2011 Range Team. They won a total of seven awards on the two academic exams. Awards won include:

1st place team on the URME
Jordan Burke, 2nd place individual on the URME
Jolene Noble, 4th place individual on the URME
2nd place team on the PIE
Kristine Dahl, 4th place individual on the PIE

There are also individual awards given for the combined high individual score on these two exams. Kristine Dahl won 1st High Individual Combined (cash award and free trip to Washington, D.C.). Jolene Noble won 2nd High Individual Combined (cash award).

The SRM Annual Meeting was last held in Billings in 1989 when Dr. Edward Bork won the High Individual Combined score award, starting a bit of a winning streak for the

University of Alberta. Since 1989 the U of A Range Team has won 43 team and 71 individual awards at the annual competitions.



Members of the 2011 U of A Range Team are pictured above with Jeff Mosely (back right). Back row: Kim Kuneff, Jordan Burke, and Jolene Noble. Front Row: Christine Buchanan, Karen Anderson, and Kristine Dahl.

There were 1600 registrants at the conference including 350 undergraduates from 25 universities and colleges from western North America.

Men of Vision:

*"Men of vision guard the trust
This land so much desired
To whom much is given
The more will be required
God gave stout hearts to pioneers
Their legacy to you
Change in progress, hand in hand
Twas thus Alberta grew.*

- Ray Bagley, Alberta Pioneer

Greetings! Tanya Thrift

Greetings! Like many of you, the thought of green grass and fairer weather is starting to creep into my mind as I spend my days indoors working for the BLM in the Butte Field Office to renew grazing permits and plan range improvement projects to improve range management.

I always find myself reinvigorated after attending the national SRM meetings as I take home new ideas, make new acquaintances, and catch up with old friends. The challenge I find each year, is keeping up the momentum to follow-up with all of those great new ideas with a new water development design, enhanced weed management, or improved riparian management. I find that I never seem to have enough hours in the week to complete all of the projects I would like, but I also realize the importance and value of the small projects too.

Maybe due to funding or other limitations at home on the ranch or at the office we can't always get that big project completed all at once, but the small incremental improvements that we all make out there on the range really do make a huge difference on the land! Keep up the good work everyone, and don't forget that even small adjustments that we make out there on the range add to our collective knowledge of range management that benefit us all.

AAFC Releases New Publication on Managing Canadian Prairie Rangeland

Dr. Michael Schellenberg, Agriculture & Agri-food Canada

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has just released a new publication called "Management of Canadian Prairie Rangeland." The book, which updates a previous publication (AAFC #1589), was written by Arthur Bailey , professor emeritus at the University of Alberta, Duane McCartney former forage and beef systems specialist at AAFC's Lacombe Research Centre, and Michael Schellenberg, forage and range plant ecologist at AAFC's Semi-arid Agricultural Research Centre in Swift Current.

The new publication focuses on management and conservation of natural grasslands on the Canadian Prairies. All Canadians have a vested interest in developing policies to sustain prairie rangeland, a threatened habitat, for future generations.

Six chapters discuss a variety of topics related to conservation of endangered ecosystems – including individual plant and animal species, health issues of ecosystems and animals, biodiversity, ecosystem services and the effects of recreation, oil and gas exploration, military training, re-establishment/reclamation of native grasslands and livestock production on prairie rangeland.

Grazing practices by livestock and wildlife affect the sustainability of grassland ecosystems, which contain many rare native plants, birds, animals, reptiles and watersheds under threat of extinction. Threats may come from overgrazing, trampling and compacting soil, erosion, wildfire, invasive weeds and loss of biological diversity or forage productivity.

Disturbances made by grazing, cropping and tillage, as well as industry, recreation and military training need to be managed. All users have the potential to disrupt the ecological health of our natural grasslands.

The new publication was made possible through financial support of AAFC's Research Branch, Agri-Environment Services Branch and Greencover Canada Program, Canadian Cattlemen's Association, Alberta Beef Producers and Grey Wooded Forage Association (Rocky Mountain House, Alberta).

For a print copy, contact your local office of AAFC's Agri-Environment Services Branch, your provincial forage association or your provincial forage and beef cattle specialists. For more information, contact Dr. Michael Schellenberg at e-mail: mike.schellenberg@agr.gc.ca or phone: 306-778-7247.

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Riparian Fence Design Leanne Columbo

Kootenay rancher and fence builder, Dennis Dilts, came up with an innovative design for riparian wing fences for a CRIRRP (crown range infrastructure repair & replacement program) fence last fall. CRIRRP, also known as the Job Opportunities Program (JOP) Fencing Program, replaced aging range infrastructure across the province in 2009 and 2010 with \$5M Prov/Fed funding.



Riparian fence extending into water. Photo from Leanne Columbo.

The 30 ft poles in the water are cedar which will be long lasting in the water. They are designed to pivot on the bolt in the brace to float with water level. The metal posts on either end of the cedar pole are set into drilled holes. It's hard to see in the photos, but there are several wire twist stays in the span.



Cedar post construction. Photo from Leanne Columbo.

Everyone who has seen the riparian fences, from ranchers to range staff to DU staff, have been very impressed with Dilt's design. It is definitely a great option for riparian management.



Livestock view of watering area. Photo from Leanne Columbo.

IMS Executive & Directors Meeting

February 7, 2011 Billings, Montana

Jill Burkhardt

Present: Jack Vandervalk, Pres., Brian Thrift, 1st VP, Kevin France, 2nd VP, Jill Burkhardt, Sec/Treas., Directors: Tanya Thrift (MT), Jake Powell (MT), and Tracy Kupchenko (AB)

Absent: Darin Sherritt, AB Director

The meeting was called to discuss finances regarding the HSYF and other miscellaneous items.

Due to some issues surrounding the HSYF candidates and finances this year, it was decided that a handbook amendment is necessary. Tanya moved for the directors to take on the task of drafting up an amendment for the handbook for Youth Activities and solicit advice from the Youth Committee chairs. Tracy 2nd the motion and it passed.

In the past the Youth Activities fund has been replenished by using the dues rebate. Because it has been upped to \$1000/side and the dues rebate will not cover the full amount anymore, Jill moved that any Youth Activities funds be earmarked from the general revenue for that side at the Annual Fall Business meeting. Kevin 2nd the motion and it passed.

Jake moved that the Alberta HSYF student be reimbursed \$280 US (in CDN funds), the Montana HSYF student be reimbursed \$750 US; provide 2011 Alberta Youth Range Daze \$190 CDN for a buckle; provide 2011 MT Youth Range Days a \$125 donation; and provide 2011 MT Youth Range Camp a \$100 donation. Also any additional youth expenditures beyond these will be suspended until the 2011 Fall Business Meeting.

It was noted by the Advisory Council that the sections may not legally use the parent society's "not-for-profit" status. The sections that do not have NFP status have several options available to them, should they decide to pursue gaining NFP status. We were given a fact sheet from the Advisory Council meeting and NFP status for the IMS section will be looked into.

Jody needs input for the newsletter.

Tentative dates for the summer tour are July 15-16.

Location is TBD.

Jack will try to get in touch with other section members in Billings for the Annual meeting to get together. The time and location are TBD.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

SRM – IMS Fall Meeting

Great Falls, Montana

November 19, 2010 Jill Burkhardt

The meeting was called to order by President Tracy Mosley.

The minutes were read and approved by Merry VanderValk and seconded by Merrita Franker-Marble.

The Treasurers report was given. There was an overage spent on HSYF for 2009-2010. It was brought up that two years ago there was approved \$1000 per state/province for HSYF activities. Bob Wesley made a motion to approve the overage for the 2010 HSYF candidate Jeff Mosley seconded the motion and it passed.

Correspondence was read from Jan Pratt thanking the Section for sponsoring 2010 MT Range Days.

Committee Reports:

Membership Committee No report

Youth Committee

AB—HSYF candidate couldn't attend the fall meeting from Alberta due to poor road conditions.

MT—Lots of interest in HSYF this year. There were 2 finalists but only 1 scholarship. The HSYF candidate is speaking at the banquet tonight. Barry suggested providing her with written comments.

Awards Committee Three awards yearly and we need people to submit nominations for these awards. Barry Irving brought up the fact that you need to receive a section award to be eligible for an award at the International level.

History Donna still needs pictures from meetings.

Nominations Committee No report

YPC Montana representative slot vacant. Jill gave a quick report on what is going on with the YPC executive team.

Website Merrita is looking for more information still to put on the website. Call for nominations and awards was posted. Student information is coming. Online voting went ok, there were still quite a few ballots mailed.

Newsletter Jody wanted to know when the best times for the newsletter were. A month before the Summer meeting; a month before the Fall meeting; and a March issue will suffice. Jody is doing a great job with the newsletter.

Jeff Mosley brought greetings from the **Parent Society** and passed around a Fall Highlights sheet detailing what has been happening at the Parent Society level. A few highlights from the Parent Society:

- The ESD has been adopted in the US for all Federal Agencies. SRM is the facilitator. A pilot workshop was held in Lac Cruces, NM. Linda Coates-Markle and Aleta Rudeen were instrumental for making this happen.
- The Parent Society has also been working on the Hope on the Range documentary. The previous 9 minute version is now 28 minutes and will hopefully be aired on PBS stations across various States.

- There has been a staff restructure in Denver. Many positions have been outsourced. A question was asked in GLCI is able to coordinate registration with SRM and the answer is yes, Jess Peterson has been working on it.
- There is a new membership dues structure. With the new structure, these changes should be good until 2015. Existing Life Member is the same; new life members will get both REM and Rangelands electronically. A hard copy will be additional. Merrita raised the question many people got out the habit of joining after they quit receiving notices. What is the Executive going to do about it? 700 letters went out last year, got ½ back. We need to try to get those people back. Barry said we should be doing it at the section level. The President or Clayton has not been getting any membership reports. Members with issues concerning registration or the new membership structure were brought up and Jeff addressed them

2011 meeting—(Merrita) Nov. 30 for early registration. Hotel room fees have been refigured.

2012 meeting—(JD Wulfhorst) Spokane. Partnering with ID and PNW Sections to plan meeting. Planning has been going well so far. He will be here throughout the day to address questions.

Old Business

Elections--we were able to get nomination for all 3 position vacancies.

Dan Lucas asked SRM to sponsor wolf interaction group within Granite county. It was decided to wait until we have more information.

IMS has been asked to host 2016 annual meeting. We have allowed the Parent Society to investigate us.

New business

INE committee to revisit the Redd Fund (funds given from the Redd family to SRM designed to pay for producer registration and get producers who aren't SRM members to annual meetings and get SRM display to travel to different areas from the Denver office). Asked to revamp, guidelines are available online. Formats have been approved by BOD. Section has to approve nomination. 25% Paid by section 75% paid by Redd Fund. A mechanism to get producers to annual meeting and includes annual membership. Brian has people in mind to nominate & wants to know if the Section is willing to

contribute? Dec. 1 deadline. Nomination letter & letter of support from is needed from the Section. Thoughts were try to get 2 people to go (one from each side of the border). Merrita moved to have Executive select 2 people one from each side of the border if possible to utilize the Redd Fund. Bob 2nd. Approved.

Tracy will call Erin Frye to see if there are going to be displays at the Montana Stockgrowers meeting and if we can find & get the IMS display there.

Bob Lee thinks that SRM needs to connect to the people "on the ground". If we are going to provide info to ground people SRM has to do it.

No information yet on the summer meeting.

Bob adjourn meeting. Kailee Bickford 2nd. Approved. Meeting was adjourned at 9:49 am.



While scouting for dugout cleaning locations with a contractor, we came across the pasture manager's horses out on the pasture. It was a cold & stormy December day and the horses were chasing after us (probably looking to see if we had treats for them!). I was able to snap this picture before they caught up to me. Photo by Jill Burkhardt.

Targeted Grazing Committee Rachel Frost

The Targeted Grazing Committee of the Society for Range Management held its annual meeting on Sunday, February 6th during the SRM international annual meeting in Billings, MT. Rachel Frost, member of the International Mountain Section took the reins as the committee chair for 2011-2012.

Although one of the newest committees in the parent society, it is one of the largest, and is quite active. The committee was formed in 2009 and immediately began

organizing a symposium for the 2010 meeting held in Denver, CO. The presentations from that symposium, "Targeted Grazing: Applying the Research to the Land" were recorded and are available for viewing on the committee website (<http://www.rangelands.org/targetedgrazing/>).

The committee is in the process of publishing a Rangelands article on the symposium and has received approval from the Board of Directors to publish an issue paper on targeted grazing. Members of the committee will also publish a synthesis paper in a peer reviewed journal describing the current state of the science for employing targeted grazing by livestock to manage vegetation.

We invite all members of the IMS to visit the committee website where you will find information on the mission and goals of the committee, a current member roster and a list of planned committee projects. There is ample opportunity for all interested in targeted grazing to become a part of this committee and to contribute to the many valuable projects that will unfold in the coming years.

In this day of unlimited information, finding the most relevant and reliable scientific information can be a real challenge. Google is great, but is the information we find of the best value to natural resource professionals needing to make management decisions?

In an effort to provide rangeland professionals with better tools to find and evaluate information, Merrita Fraker-Marble and Rachel Frost, members of the IMS section, co-organized the session "Foraging for Rangeland Information in an Unfamiliar Virtual World" at the annual Society for Range Management meeting in Billings. The well-attended session highlighted virtual databases and information systems specifically designed for rangeland managers. The session featured speakers from Montana State University Libraries highlighting the Gus Hormay collection housed in the digital collections library. Other presentations included "Global Rangelands" by Barb Hutchinson from the University of Arizona, "eXtension: Collecting the Best of the Best for Rangelands" by Rachel Frost, Montana State University and "Internet Technologies for Rangeland Ambassadors" by Lovina Roselle from the University of Idaho. Jim Dobrowolski from the USDA provided insight to how these electronic databases and information systems might be used to make integrated grant applications more successful.

The task of developing and refining electronic resources for rangeland managers will be continued at a meeting of the Rangelands West partnership in Bozeman, MT on the 22nd-24th of May, 2011. The Rangelands West Partnership (<http://rangelandswest.org/>) is a collaboration of rangeland specialists and agricultural and natural resource librarians from 19 western land-grant universities. The general mission of the partnership is to provide researchers, educators, and public and private land managers with electronic access to the full scope of information in the field of rangeland ecology, management, and conservation. This is accomplished by collecting, creating, evaluating, and organizing relevant data, information, and educational modules.

For more information on the meeting contact Rachel Frost at frost@montana.edu or 406-994-4003.

2010-2011 IMS Executive Committee

President	Jack Vandervalk
1st Vice President	Brian Thrift
2nd Vice President	Kevin France
Past President	Dr. Tracy Brewer
2nd Year Director- Montana	Tanya Thrift
2nd Year Director - Alberta	Tracy Kupchenko
1st Year Director - Montana	Merrita Fraker-Marble
1st Year Director - Alberta	Darrin Sherritt
Secretary-Treasurer	Jill Burkhardt
Youth Program Chair - AB	Tracy Kupchenko
Youth Program Chair - MT	Cindy Selensky
Young Professionals - MT	Heidi Crum
Young Professionals - AB	Tracy Kupchenko
Newsletter Editor	Jody Best
History Chairperson	Donna Lawrence
Section Webmaster	Merrita Fraker-Marble
Membership Comm Chair	Dr Clayton Marlow
Nomination Comm Chair	George Hirschenberger

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

Do You Remember? A Glimps of IMS History

Response by Chuck Jarecki to previous article in Fall 2010 Newsletter

That was an interesting story on the meeting at One-Four. I flew my plane up from Polson, MT. With me was the IMS Secretary Paul Conrad. We landed on the road and parked in the car parking lot. By late Saturday afternoon it was evident that there was going to be a shortage of food for Sunday. Bob Wroe phoned in a

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grocery order to a store in Medicine Hat. We flew up and met the grocers at the airport and got back at dusk. We almost hit a deer when we landed as the road went through a patch of bush.

Our Favourite Places!

Submitted by Mike Alexander



The Whaleback area of Alberta is one of my favourite places. Located in the Bob Creek Wildland and Black Creek Heritage Rangeland, the Whaleback is one of the larger tracts of intact montane landscape remaining in Alberta. The biological and topographical diversity of this landscape make it a very special place.



Upcoming Events

June 1, 2011	Submission dead-line for June Newsletter.
June 17, 2011	June Newsletter completed.
July 14-16, 2011	Summer IMS tour Lima, MT.

Last Chance Cooks! Now Accepting Recipes, Stories & 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.

More information at:

http://rangelands.org/informationeducation/ie_trailbosscookbook.shtml.

Submit Recipes, Range Stories and Range Photos to:

srmcookbook@yahoo.com

Please Include Your Name, Ranch Name, SRM Section and City, State with each submission. In the subject line of your email please write SRM Cookbook.

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.)

Range Reading List

Ecology

Cadillac Desert by Mark Reisner

1491: New Revelations of the Americas before Columbus by Charles C. Mann

Grazing Management: An Ecological Perspective by Heitschmidt & Stuth

Home Place: Essays on Ecology by Stan Rowe

In a Dark Wood by Alston Chase

Landscapes of the Interior by Don Gayton

Management of Canadian Prairie Rangeland by Arthur Bailey, Duane McCartney & Michael Schellenberg.

Managing Changing Prairie Landscapes by Radenbaugh and Sutter

Playing God in Yellowstone by Alston Chase

Prairie: A Natural History by Candace Savage

The Skeptical Environmentalist by Bjorn Lomborg

The Wheatgrass Mechanism by Don Gayton

Experiences with Nature

A Sand County Almanac by Aldo Leopold

All the Pretty Horses by Cormac McCarthy

Beyond the Hundredth Meridian: John Welsy Powell by Wallace Stegner

Blackfoot Physics by F. David Peat

Dakota: A Spiritual Geography by Kathleen Norris

Hawks Rest: A Season in the Remote Heart of

Yellowstone by Gary Ferguson

Images of our Inheritance: A Journey Through Canada's

Fragile Landscape by James Sidney & Sarah Stewart

Leaving Cheyenne by Larry McMurtry

The Prairie Keepers: Secrets of the Grasslands by Marcy Houle

The Time It Never Rained by Elmer Kelton

The Wild Prairie by Tim Fitzharris

We Pointed Them North by Teddy Blue Abbott & Helen Hunington Smith

Wild Stone Heart by Sharon Butala

History

Cow Country by Edward Everett Dale

Love Song to the Plains by Mari Sandoz

North American Cattle Frontiers by Terry Jordan

The Big Burn by Timothy Egan

The Day of the Cowman by Earnest Staples Osgood

The Great Plains by Walter Prescott Webb

The Natural History of the Long Expedition to the Rocky Mountains (1819-1820). The first scientific expedition of the Louisiana Territory. Available at:

<http://www.oup.com/us/catalog/general/subject/LifeSciences/Ecology/NaturalHistory/?view=usa&ci=9780195111859>

The Worst Hard Time by Timothy Egan

Trails Plowed Under Charles Marion Russell.

Growing Native Plants

Ecological Gardening by Marjorie Harris

Grow Wild! By Lorraine Johnson

Medicinal Plants & Plant Identification

Edible and Medicinal Plants of the Rocky Mountains and Neighbouring Territories by Terry Willard Ph.D.

Plant ID

A Field Guide to Common Riparian Plants of Alberta by Hale et al. (Cows & Fish Program)

Common Plants of Western Rangelands Volumes 1-3 by Kathy Tannas

Flora of Alberta by E.H. Moss

Invasive Plants of the Crown of the Continent by Belt,
LaFleur and Sladek

Rare Vascular Plants of Alberta by Kershaw, Gould,
Johnson and Lancaster

Wildflowers of Alberta by Kathleen Wilkinson

Plants of the Rocky Mountains by Kershaw, MacKinnon
and Pojar

Plants of the Western Boreal Forest & Aspen Parkland by
Johnson, Kershaw, MacKinnon and Pojar

Wildflowers Across the Prairies by Vance, Jowsey,
McLean & Switzer

Poetry

Grasslands by Thelma Poirier