



# International Mountain Section Newsletter

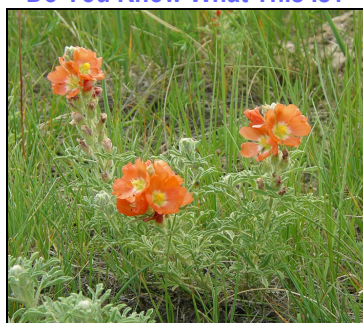
Volume 5 Issue 3

November 2011

## Inside this Issue

The Shoulders We Stand On...	1
Legacy: A Celebration at Fall Meeting	1
President's Message	2
Editor's Note	2
Congratulations!	2
Mark the Dates	3
Ranching Dawn on a New Frontier	3
Southern Alberta Grazing School for Women	6
Summer Tour: IMS Visits Sites in Montana's Centennial Valley	7
The Worst Reason to get a Range Science Degree	9
Past President's Message: Pacific SRM Summer Tour	10
SRM-IMS Awards	11
Wealthy Rancher Calculator: Pasture/Yearling Returns	16
Techniques to Improve the Quality of Cheatgrass Dominated Range	16
Minutes of the SRM-IMS Fall Meeting	18
New Web-site on "Grasslands of the World"	19
2011 – 2012 IMS Executive Committee	20
Range Reading	20
Announcement!	21

### Do You Know What This Is?



Answer to previous quiz: Clustered Broom Rape.

**The Shoulders We Stand On ...** Some of our mentors and long-time range managers were honoured by this award at the Fall Meeting on October 28, 2011. For more information see the Awards article on page 11.



*The Shoulders We Stand On (l-r):* Jack Vandervalk, Harvey Buckley, Bob Wroe, Bud Klumph, Fred Randle, Sherm Ewing, Dan McKinnon, and Ed Nelson. Absent: Art Bailey.

## Legacy: A Celebration at Fall Meeting

Jody Best

When Jack contacted me to ask if I had any ideas for the SRM-IMS Fall Meeting, I initially denied any thoughts. I was busy trying to get my fieldwork done and didn't think I had time to help organize the fall meeting. Then, I had a brainwave, so I called Jack and we put it together.

The SRM-IMS Fall Meeting this year was held in Lethbridge on October 28<sup>th</sup>. The theme was "Legacy: A Celebration of Where We Come From, Where We Are, & Where We Can Go." The idea for this theme came from several discussions I've had with ranchers in my area about ranch succession and estate planning, and also from my own personal experience of losing the family home. I spent a lot of time this summer thinking about legacy, in terms of what is my legacy, my parent's legacy, what does legacy even mean?

We decided to format the fall meeting to celebrate the history of the

landscape and the ranching community, ranching in the present, and then tie it all together with a look at what could be useful in the future. After a few moments of meditation where we were able to think about what legacy might mean to use, Barney Reeves started us out with a presentation called "Creating the West." Barney used photographs and his extensive knowledge of the area and geology to show us how our landscape formed, and the factors that have influenced the development of this landscape over time, including the last ice age and First Nations populations.

Barry Irving followed Barney with a presentation on the history of ranching in Canada. Barry has generously written his presentation up as an article for this newsletter so I won't steal his thunder. I encourage you to read it, as I certainly learned a lot! Barry's presentation is also on the SRM-IMS website for your viewing pleasure.

After Barry's presentation, we had a session entitled "The Shoulders We Stand On", organized by Barry Adams, Mike Alexander, Donna Lawrence, and Barry Irving. This session was created to honour some of the old timers. Really, it was created to pay homage to the forefathers of range management for their creativity, insight, and all of the work they have done to further the field of range management and the conservation of the ranching landscape. It is quite a legacy they created for us. More information on this award is included in this newsletter in the Awards Section, and will also follow in the February 2012 newsletter.

Immediately after lunch, Lorne Fitch treated us to a slide show of "Alberta's Other Treasures". This was a great photo show celebrating the Albertan landscape from the dry mixed grass prairie to the alpine sub-regions. Lorne had photos of the landscape, and the creatures on it, and talked a bit about the characteristics of each area. It was really well done and interesting; a true celebration of what we have here in Alberta.

Hugh Lynch-Staunton then gave a presentation about his ranch: Antelope Butte. Hugh's ranch was started in 1885, and is still in the family. In fact, Hugh's family has just completed a planning process in order to ensure the ranch is retained in the family for the

next generation. One of my favourite photos in the presentation was of Hugh's son and grandson out walking in the pasture, the grandson looking down as he walked. I do a lot of walking like that during the summer when I'm trying to see what is growing, and I think it's neat to see kids out there on the landscape too. Hugh's presentation is available on the SRM-IMS website if you would like to see it.

To combat the inevitable sleepy time after a good lunch, the next session got everyone out of their chairs and moving around for 40 minutes. Around the room display tables were chalk full of good information about organizations that work with the public and with landowners to provide information and to conserve the landscape and the legacy. These organizations included: Alberta Parks, the Foothills Restoration Forum, Cows & Fish, Youth Range Days, Alberta Conservation Association, Nature Conservancy Canada, Alberta Fish & Game Association, MultiSAR, and the Old Man Watershed Committee. In addition, there was a poster display about the new U of A Rangeland Research Institute on the Matteis Research Ranch located near Duchess, Alberta.

After everyone's circulatory system was working well again, we sat down for Arnold Mattson's presentation entitled "The Wealthy Rancher." This presentation was about looking at the ranching operation through slightly different eyes; namely through the "Wealthy Rancher" calculator that Arnold has developed. More information about the "Wealthy Rancher" is available later in the newsletter, and from Arnold himself (contact info included later in the newsletter). Arnold's presentation was a very tidy ending to a day saturated with great information.

Jack and I made a few closing comments, and then adjourned the workshop. Those that were interested attended the business meeting at about 5:00 p.m. Minutes are included in this newsletter for your perusal. Others went for drinks in anticipation of the banquet and evening entertainment; Charles Ewing donated a few songs from his repertoire, and sang them for us following the banquet and the awards presentations. The awards are featured later in this newsletter also.

For me, I was really pleased that folks seemed to have such a good time, and I was really touched that Charles would donate some of his music to end such a fantastic day. Thank you to all who came out to celebrate our landscape and ranching legacy!

## President's Message Brian Thrift

Greetings from Southwest Montana! It appears that winter has arrived with single-digit temperatures and double-digit wind speeds. This time of year, one thinks of getting together with family and friends, and it was great to see and visit with so many of you at the Fall Meeting in Lethbridge, Alberta. Jack and Jody did an outstanding job of organizing the program and making sure that everything ran smoothly. I appreciated the overall theme, the presentations, and the incorporation of informational booths from other organizations. I'm hopeful that I can organize as good a meeting next year.

Congratulations to our newest officers; Tanya Thrift (2<sup>nd</sup> vice president), Merrita Fraker-Marble (Montana director), and Lynn Fitzpatrick (Alberta director)! I'm really optimistic about this upcoming year. We have an excellent Executive Committee and I think we can accomplish some great things within our Section. One item of particular interest is updating the Section Handbook, to address some questions that have arisen, and to more accurately reflect the way we have actually been performing some functions. If you have suggestions, or are interested in helping with the Handbook, please let us know.

I'm also looking forward to returning to Alberta next summer, to see what Kevin France arranges for our summer tour and meeting. If you're heading to Spokane, Washington, for the SRM Annual Meeting, please check the Daily Trailboss, as I will arrange for an off-site location for us to get together. Until then, I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and hope to see you in Spokane!

## Editor's Note Jody Best

Well, another year is almost over and another field season has gone by. From the interesting articles and all of the activities that have happened this year, it seems that our fieldwork and being outdoors all

summer has inspired many of us. I hope that you find this issue of the newsletter to be a good reflection of that inspiration. I look forward to your submissions for the February newsletter. A Very Merry Christmas to you all!

## Congratulations!

To Barry Irving for being elected 2012 Board Director for SRM!

To Tanya, Merrita and Lynn for being elected to SRM-IMS Executive!

## Mark These Dates!

- Jan. 29-Feb.3 65<sup>th</sup> Annual SRM Meeting, Spokane, Washington
- Feb. 13, 2012 Deadline for submissions for February Newsletter
- May 25, 2012 Deadline for submissions for June Newsletter
- July 2012 IMS Summer Tour
- Oct. 5, 2012 Deadline for submissions for Oct. Newsletter

*I come from a land that is harsh and unforgiving  
Winter snows can kill you, and the summer burn you dry  
When a change in the weather makes a difference to your living  
You keep one eye on the banker and another on the sky*

*But oh, I get caught by those wide open spaces  
Caught by the sight of that straight horizon line  
Caught by the sight of those lined open faces  
Weathered over trouble and time*

Harsh & Unforgiving  
Connie Kaldor

## Ranching Dawn on a New Frontier

Barry Irving

Presented in part at the Fall Meeting of the International Mountain Section, Society for Range Management.

Ranching in Alberta started in the late 1800's, but was the culmination of a series of events that started

much earlier. Ranching in western Canada had its origins in the fur trade, as did the advent of agriculture. The purpose of this short paper is to spur interest in western history and to explore the role of the fur trade in the development of agriculture in Canada.

The story starts in 1650 when Henry Hudson sailed into his namesake bay (Hudson's Bay) while exploring and looking for the fabled northwest passage. Mr. Hudson paid dearly for his historical feat; his crew mutinied, set him and a few of his officers adrift in the bay, and he was never heard from again.

The next pair of characters in the play were Radisson and Grosseillers; a pair of French traders who defied current law and wintered with the aboriginal people in the area west and north of Lake Superior. They made 2 important discoveries: the land was rich in furs and the best way to get trade goods in and furs out was through Hudson's Bay, not through the Great Lakes to Montreal. Upon reporting their findings to the French authorities, they were promptly thrown in jail. They subsequently escaped, made their way to England, and after a few years convinced the English of the lucrative potential of western Canada for exploitation for furs.

In 1670, based on the information provided by Radishes and Gooseberries, the English commissioned the Governor and Company of Adventurers of England Trading, better known as the Hudson Bay Company (The Bay), into Hudson's Bay. The Bay was given almost complete control over all land that drained into Hudson's Bay (Rupert's Land), roughly 1/3 the land area of current Canada. The Bay set up a string of forts ringing Hudson's Bay and did a lucrative business trading furs while ignoring its mandate to explore its interior land holdings and find the route to the Pacific.

The Bay's fur monopoly was contested by a group of free traders who moved furs through the Great Lakes from Manitoba to Montreal. The free traders established a rendezvous point near present day Winnipeg and from there spread out to the west and north where they intercepted furs that would have been eventually traded on the shores of Hudson's

Bay. The "discovery" of the Methy Portage (an 11 mile trail that connected the Churchill with the Athabasca River systems) and a deep fiord on Vancouver Island (wrongly thought to be a great river and the water that would link east to west) intensified the race for furs and led to the free traders banding together to become the Northwest Company. The competition between the 2 companies would push the exploration of the west, extirpate a good portion of the Canadian bison herd, and lead to the introduction of agriculture and ranching to western Canada.

The 2 companies operated in a similar environment with the same customer base, but with a different corporate philosophy that led to very different outcomes. The Hudson's Bay Company mandated its traders to live a European lifestyle, while the Northwest Company left its traders to live with and like the aboriginal people. The policy of the Bay led to the introduction of agriculture (European food was cheaper to grow than to transport) to western Canada (1811, Selkirk or Red River Settlement near present day Winnipeg), the first cattle (brought as calves in canoes), and the first overland cattle drives (the Dousman drives from St. Louis to Winnipeg in 1821). The philosophy of the Northwest Company led to the creation of the Metis (a magnificent culture that blended aboriginal and European lifestyles) and to the eventual demise of the Canadian bison (bison meat fuelled the fur trade). By 1874, the annual Red River bison hunt had extirpated the northern bison between Winnipeg and the Cypress Hills in southwestern Saskatchewan.

A few more events led to the final collapse of the Canadian bison herd. Trade of bison hides started in southern Alberta in 1870, with an outlet through Fort Benton in Montana. About 50,000 hides per year were moved and with poor preservation a lot more bison died in the field to supply this number. After defeating Custer at the Battle of the Little Bighorn in 1877, Sitting Bull fled to Canadian soil and took up new residence on the southern edge of the Cypress Hills. The U.S. Army did not pursue him and his 5,000 followers, but they did set up a bison blockade along the international boundary and hazed north headed bison herds back to the south (the Sioux reportedly needed 200 bison per day to sustain their

group greatly increasing the demand on a dwindling bison herd while the influx from the south was effectively cut off). A final factor that may have weakened the fecundity of the herd was the ability of mounted aboriginal hunters to concentrate their harvest on the bison age group that supplied the highest energy and protein, the young females. The combined effects of bison harvest to fuel the fur trade, hide hunting, selective aboriginal hunting, and the simultaneous increase in aboriginal demand (Sioux) and interruption of northward migrating bison herds resulted in the collapse of the Canadian bison herd in 1880.

Cattle were first introduced to Alberta by the McDougall family of missionaries. They brought the first cattle to northern Alberta (Victoria Mission east of Edmonton) and subsequently moved a small herd to their Morley Mission west of present day Cochrane. The cattle originated from remnant herds of the Red River Settlement at Winnipeg and were herded overland across 3 provinces to their new home in Alberta. A few years later (1874) the North West Mounted Police arrived in Alberta to stem a newly burgeoning trade in alcohol along the international boundary. Although they brought a travelling larder of livestock with them (soon consumed), their continuing presence established a new need for food, and with the herds of bison rapidly disappearing a local market for cattle on a grander scale was emerging. This market was further bolstered in 1877 by the signing of Treaty 7, which effectively converted the free roaming aboriginal people of the plains to new Canadian and British citizens. Canada chose to feed the new citizens rather than fight them.

The stage was set for the introduction of large scale ranching in southern Alberta. The bison were mostly gone, the aboriginal people needed to eat, a developing population of European origin further increased the local demand, and the first cattle introduced to south western Alberta had thrived in the northern environment, at least partially due to the Chinook winds that seemed to regularly clear snow from native grasses that conveniently cured on the stem. Tom Lynch and George Emerson answered the call and became unequalled as they drove several herds from the western U.S. to southern Alberta. The first herds were slaughter cattle, quickly

followed by herds of breeding stock. Under a Conservative government that appeared to lend a favourable eye towards ranching, Senator Mathew Cochrane was the first to take advantage of an 1881 Order in Council that established ranch leases of 100,000 acres for a penny per acre per year.

Although the Cochrane Ranch was the first, it was not the most successful as it suffered from a common problem; non-western directors could not react to western challenges. The Cochrane Ranch was followed by several other "Big" ranches; the Northwest Cattle Company, Oxley Ranch, Quorn, and Waldron to name a few. The big ranch era of western Canada was short lived. Speculative profits in ranching came to an end when the Chinook winds failed to blow, or blew just enough to crust the snow into ice. A change to a Liberal government in 1896 led to promotion of settlement and to the gradual breakup of the original big ranch leases. The winter of 1906/07 was a dreadful one that resulted in an average of 50% (up to 90% in some areas) loss of stock and was the final blow as the big ranch era came to an end.

Today ranching in Alberta is a vibrant industry yielding about 1/2 of all agricultural farm receipts in the province. Improved transportation and access to markets has led to growth in the industry from the simple beginnings of cattle brought to supply European tastes in the early fur trade. If this abbreviated tale has captured your interest in any way, you are encouraged to read the writings of real historians that this text is based on: Grant MacEwan (prolific writer of things western Canadian), Frank Gilbert Roe (bison historian), or Hugh Dempsey (Alberta settlement historian).

## **Southern Alberta Grazing School for Women** Jennifer Richman

What could be more fun than 50 women spending time west of the Porcupine Hills learning about rangelands?

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Southern Alberta Grazing School for Women was held in the Municipal District of Ranchlands from August 27-28, 2011. This was the perfect setting for a two day event for women from

southern Alberta to learn about rangelands and grazing. The event was organized through a collaboration of municipal and provincial government staff, Operation Grassland Community, MULTISAR and Cows & Fish.

Two days of beautiful weather and incredible scenery provided the backdrop for field sessions including range and riparian plant identification, electro-fishing, range health and riparian health. Other topics covered included stocking rates, herd sire selection, ranching and wildlife interactions, and local ranching women offering their stories and ranching advice.

The event was once again a huge success, and planning has begun for next year! For future Grazing School for Women events please check the Cows and Fish website:

<http://www.cowsandfish.org/whatsnew/events.html>

## Summer Tour: IMS Visits Sites in Montana's Centennial Valley

Brian Thrift

This year, we held our summer tour and meeting July 14-16, 2011 in Lima, Montana. On Thursday evening, Jason Strahl, an archaeologist from the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM), and Dillon Field Office (DFO), gave a presentation on the early history and settlement of the Centennial Valley. On Friday morning, about 35 people loaded on a school

bus and headed out for the Centennial Valley. The first stop on the tour took us up the Price Creek drainage, where Aly Piwowar (DFO forester) and Brad Bauer (The Nature Conservancy (TNC)) spoke about removing Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) competition from quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) stands by employing timber harvest and prescribed fire to restore habitat and increase biodiversity. Aly also spoke about the dramatic decline of whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*) throughout the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, due to white pine blister rust and mountain pine beetle, and how the pine nuts it produces are an extremely important food source for grizzly bears.

Next, we stopped at the J Bar L Ranch, where we ate lunch while Bryan Ullring, ranch manager, gave an overview of their operation, which includes providing

working ranch vacations with lodging for guests in historic buildings, producing grass-fed beef, and raising American Paint Horses. Bryan showed us some of their pastures where they're using a high-density, short-duration grazing system to better incorporate organic matter into the soil, alter the vegetative composition of their pastures, and increase biodiversity.

The final stop on the tour was the Sand Dunes grazing allotment, which is located within the Centennial Sand Dunes. These sand dunes provide habitat for pale evening-primrose (*Oenothera pallida* ssp. *pallida*), Fendler cat's-eye (*Cryptantha fendleri*), painted milk vetch (*Astragalus ceramicus* var. *apus*), and sand wildrye (*Elymus flavescens*), all of which require blowout areas or sparsely vegetated sand dunes and are listed as a Montana/Dakotas BLM sensitive species. Ryan Martin (DFO range

specialist), described the habitat restoration project that included a prescribed fire in August 2009 and has been followed, in successive years, with intensive grazing by J Bar L cattle to reduce the herbaceous ground cover. Because of the high level of utilization required by the grazing prescription, Bryan Ullring said that J Bar L had been asked to keep cattle in the allotment much longer than they would have normally, but they were pleased to help BLM and TNC improve habitat for these rare plants. The suggestion was made that grazing yearling cattle, which would better distribute themselves across the allotment and use areas that are not currently used by cow/calf pairs, might help better achieve the desired level of disturbance. Brad Bauer, then, presented data, collected by BLM and TNC, which show changes in the proportion of bare ground on the sand dunes before and after the prescribed fire and the spatial distribution of known sensitive plant occurrences throughout the area.

Lastly, Jim Roscoe, of the Centennial Valley Association and a former DFO wildlife biologist, spoke to the group about the formation of the sand dunes, their geographic uniqueness, and their biological importance. He also briefly discussed the importance of the adjacent Red Rocks Lakes National Wildlife Refuge for migratory birds, particularly trumpeter swans, as well as other wildlife

species that use the Centennial Valley as a migration corridor between the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and the Wilderness Areas of Central Idaho. From there, we boarded the bus for the long ride back to Lima, where we were treated to an excellent barbequed beef tri-tip supper.

*Side Note:* Below are two links to groups that are working specifically with aspen. In talking with our forester and fire ecologist, the loss of aspen in our area is believed to result from a myriad of factors, including increased browsing pressure by ungulates, long-term fire exclusion/alterd fire regimes, climate change (warmer/drier), and the accompanying side effects of increased competition from conifers and infestation by insects and pathogens. It seems that the driving factors shift slightly from one area to another. On last year's summer tour, near Chain Lakes, I remember locals commenting that the aspen were expanding and they were trying to control it. This year, we discussed the importance of aspen for maintaining biodiversity and some of the aspen restoration work undertaken by our office.

Western Aspen Alliance: <http://www.western-aspen-alliance.org/>

Aspen Delineation Project: <http://aspensite.org/>

Article on Colorado Aspen\*:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/rmrs/docs/aspen/Aspen-Change.pdf>

\* contributed by Grant McNabb.

## The Worst Reason to get a Range Science Degree

Jake Powell

Which subspecies of big sagebrush is that in front of me? What is the moose I saw sign of this morning eating up here at 7500 ft? Are livestock using these hills? These are the thoughts I have as I'm sitting in the Bangtail Range north of Bozeman waiting for an elk that is less clever than I. Shouldn't I be focused on my hunt?

As I wait in the snow and wind there are a record number of students enrolled in post-secondary programs in Canada and the US, almost 20 million just in the US alone. Recession is looming in both countries and US national polls about why a student seeks higher education consistently rank earning more money and getting a job as the reasons. It

makes me ponder why I completed a university degree in Range Science.

Range Science related careers have never made the top 100 best paid jobs list. There are opportunities for range science graduates, but there are only a few per area and the pay is low to moderate. Irregardless of those facts, I didn't enter Range Science with the idea that I would get a job or be paid well.

So why did I pursue a Range Science degree? I was motivated to learn more about the grasslands and mountains, and the industries that make their living off of them. I have been lucky enough to work professionally in my chosen vocation, but I won't ever be a millionaire and I probably won't retire early. Should I have thought it through more? I don't waste a thought on regret for my path because for every dollar I don't earn I gain a moment of recognition with my surroundings.

The knowledge I gain in Range Science has led me to a fuller enjoyment of the grasslands, mountains, and those that work in them than I could have without it. And on those days of hunting when I'm not successful, such as that day on the Bangtail Range, I can still be content with the experience due to the fuller enjoyment of my surroundings that is a result of my Range Science education.

## Past President's Message: Pacific SRM Summer Tour

Jack Vandervalk

I hope you have been enjoying the beautiful fall weather. My son and ranching partner decided to take his family to Thailand to visit his sister. So far he has been gone 2 weeks and we have, thankfully, enjoyed very nice weather.

Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> of October, thanks to Jody Best and all who helped, we had a very good Fall Meeting. Every one remarked how the whole program seemed to fit together. For those who were not there the topic was our Legacy: where we come from, past, present and future. We finished the day with an Award Banquet after which Charlie Ewing sang a few songs, that he had written, that fit the day perfectly. It is hard to know how many will make the meeting and will the

weather co-operate, but all in all it turned out very good.

Our fall has been very busy. With Gerald leaving for Thailand we had to get our fall work done early. Besides that Grandma felt that we needed to take our grandson to Redding California. Then on the September 21 we spent 3 days going to the Pacific Northwest Section Meeting. And on the weekend of Oct 16<sup>th</sup> we were at Fairmount with some flying farmer friends. I promised Jody I would do an article on the 2 day tour around Cranbrook that was part of the Pacific Section's Fall Tour. So here goes: At 8 am on September 22<sup>nd</sup> we filled a 46 passenger bus plus a few more vehicles and headed towards Canal Flats. The first stop was at the Milroy Highway Exclosure. There were 2 parts to the exclosure: the first one built in 1951 and an ungulate (cattle grazing only) exclosure in 1991. Inside the oldest exclosure with protection for 60 years the grasses had changed from Sandberg's Bluegrass, low pussytoes and June grass to, first Blue Bunch Wheatgrass and needle-and -thread and then to Rough Fescue and Idaho Fescue. In 1982 inside the exclosure the plant community was rated good and has remained that way since.

The Cattle only Exclosure started in 1991 had advanced from poor to fair. There is a lot of elk and deer, especially early in spring, and the site was well drained gravelly soil. It took a long time, but it was nice to see what was possible even on that poor site. There was concern of Douglass Fir starting to encroach in the exclosure.

Then we headed north to the Thunder Hill Ranch. Again we saw how they live with wildlife conflicts. Around their irrigated farmland and hay meadows they have high fences to keep elk out. Before the fence there was a lot of elk kills on the highway but after the elk could not get to the hay land there were very few kills. Thunder Hill Ranch also demonstrated some no till machinery to seed cereal and grass seed.

We enjoyed lunch in a beautiful lakeside setting. After lunch we headed south to the JP Ranch, which is owned and managed by Harlan Bradford. Harlan had a gravity fed irrigation pivot, under which he grew

corn. The purpose of the corn was to winter his 260 cow herd. This, combined with careful management, gives him cheap winter feed. With the use of electric fence the cows are given a small portion of the field each day. I was amazed to see corn that good up his valley.

After refreshments we headed back to Cranbrook for the evening banquet. The next morning we went with a few vehicles towards Kimberley. Our tour took us to the Pine Butte Ranch. They showed us how, with proper management, they had brought a lot of their grasslands back to rough fescue. They also used controlled burning to control Douglas Fir. We also saw how they were controlling logging and erosion under a new power line.

At noon we enjoyed lunch overlooking the beautiful St Mary's River Valley. This was a nice ending to a day and a half of touring perspective ranching.

## SRM – IMS Awards

### Excellence in Rangeland Management

John Carscallen, Rangeland Agrologist in southern Alberta, who was awarded the Outstanding Achievement in Range Management Award by the Society for Range Management Inter-Mountain Section on Friday Oct 28 in Lethbridge. The award recognizes John's long and dedicated service and achievements as a Rangeland Agrologist in the Calgary area. John has been a treasured employee of the department since the late 1970's. A tireless and dedicated professional, John has an intimate and detailed knowledge of foothill rangelands, was an early adaptor in applying new concepts in rangeland health and ecology and provides a very high standard of advice and service to clients, colleagues and the Alberta public. Sincere appreciation and congratulations John from all of your colleagues!

The Excellence in Rangeland Management Award was also given to Arnold Mattson at the Fall Meeting in 2011.

Arnold started working with PFRA in the early 1990's as a Rural Development Specialist. Prior to joining PFRA, Arnold had been working as a Farm Financial Advisor.

In his role as RD Specialist, Arnold established many contacts with farmers and ranchers that were engaged in and interested in establishing farm and rural community based enterprises, making linkages to PFRA programs and expertise, and to partner agencies in order to provide support where needed. He also researched a wide variety of approaches to rural development and liaised closely with organizations engaged in supporting rural entrepreneurial initiatives. He was particularly interested in Community Based approaches such as the Siroli Enterprise Facilitation model.

Arnold later joined the Range and Biodiversity Unit in PFRA, drawing upon his earlier experiences as a rancher and farmer to address concerns in the cattle sector at a time when the sector faced poor market returns, the BSE crisis and severe drought. He focused on grazing, developing the Wealthy Rancher tool to assist in evaluating the benefits of different business approaches, mastering rotational grazing techniques, and linking Holistic Management with Ranching For Profit in order to get the best from both approaches.

Arnold has worked closely and partnered with grazing organization in Alberta and elsewhere. He was instrumental in designing a mentoring program to support producers in planning and adopting rotational grazing systems and has supported and promoted a wide range of information and training events. Most recently he has been engaged in developing tools to support Community Pasture managers who are faced with the challenge of running several herds or enterprises within the pasture operation.

Congratulations to both John Carscallen and Arnold Mattson on receiving this award!

### **The Shoulders We Stand On**

The Shoulders We Stand On award was designed to recognize those folks who have contributed throughout their life to the betterment of the range, and shared their enthusiasm and knowledge with others throughout their lives. These folks were recognized at the SRM-IMS Fall Meeting in Lethbridge, Alberta in 2011 and are featured in the photograph below. This honour was awarded to nine

folks in 2011. All awardees are featured on the cover of this newsletter. Five of these folks will be featured in this issue of the newsletter, and the remaining four will be featured in the next issue of the newsletter.

### *Jack Vandervalk*

Everyone is welcome at the VXV Ranch west of Claresholm, and everyone should take the time to talk about stewardship with Jack and Merry. Jack has always been innovative and willing to try new things, but it is his ability to take the time to learn from the land that has been the foundation of his stewardship principles. The VXV Ranch is managed in an environmentally sustainable manner, with the goal "to leave the land in a more productive state than they found it".

Joining SRM was a natural fit for Jack as an organization that focuses on scientists, professionals and ranchers working together to promote stewardship. He joined SRM in the late 1960s and has been an ambassador for rangeland stewardship ever since. After Jack attended one of the first range management courses at the Waldron, he knew that other ranchers would benefit from the information. Jack encouraged the professional community to promote range management education and this gave rise to the Stockmen's Range Management Course which was initiated in southern Alberta. Over the next decade, the courses would be offered to livestock producers throughout Alberta, with more than 100 ranchers per year attending and learning about ecological grazing principles and practices. Jack served on the IMS executive in various capacities through the 1970's, 1990s and is our current IMS president.

Jack received the Outstanding Rangeman Award in 1990, the IMS Excellence in Grazing Award in 1997 and the SRM Excellence in Grazing Award in 2000. Jack also provides leadership in his ranching community by being involved with the Waldron Grazing Co-op, the Foothills Forage Association, the local agricultural society and fair board, the Western Stock Grower's, and the Canadian Food Bank.

### *Harvey Buckley*

Harvey Buckley has lived his life with a strong commitment to Agriculture and Range Management

in the Province of Alberta. Harvey's energy, knowledge and deep commitment to the rangeland resource is inspiring. At an age when most people begin to slow down Harvey's commitment and efforts towards conservation and sustainable agriculture continue to grow as is noted by the numerous recent achievements his resume contains. Harvey operates the Quarter Circle X Ranch in Jumping Pound Alberta with his wife Margaret, son John and daughter-in-law Tracy. Their cow/calf operation is on a 10,000 acre land-base and employs a Beef Booster breeding program for seed stock and commercial beef production.

Harvey's long-term involvement and interest in SRM comes from the opportunities this organization provides for him to learn, interact and develop long lasting relationships with like minded people who share his passion for rangelands and agriculture. Harvey has many great memories from SRM meetings and tours. There are two that stand out.

During the annual meeting in Hawaii one of the young range managers from one of the ranch visits intrigued Harvey and Harvey spent a lot of time with this young man. Harvey was so impressed with this young man and the depth that he thought about range issues that Harvey had to bring Art Bailey out on a special trip to meet this young man. They spent hours together discussing rangeland management.

A second story centres around the famous Calgary Annual meeting in the 1980's Harvey wanted to be involved and was quickly handed some of the jobs that Art McKinnon had been given because his health was failing. Harvey was given the job of Social Convener which Harvey quickly and skilfully handed off to his wife Margaret... whom I hear handled this significant job ably. Well Harvey still had to do the grace for the banquet. Art had written a selection of graces. They adapted one of these to be done with a slideshow. Unfortunately Harvey came down with Laryngitis. Fortunately with a team of supporters including Frank Jacobs, Margaret, Art, the Convention staff and lots of practice runs to get the right intonation and timing and a "special" concoction from Frank they got Harvey through the grace. This grace was remembered for years to come.

#### *Bob Wroe*

Bob Wroe started his career as a homestead inspector with Lands and Forests. Like Bud Klumph, he jumped at the opportunity to work with Scotty Campbell and Mac Forbes, transferring from Peace River to Lethbridge in 1961. Scotty and Mac were the range management trained professionals in the department and working with them provided a special opportunity to set your career path. Bob also collaborated with Alex Johnson and Sylver Smoliak at the Lethbridge Research Station. Bob made many valuable contributions during his years with Lands Division and then later as Alberta Agriculture's senior Range Management Specialist. His work covered the southern prairies, foothills and some important years in the Special Areas as well. Bob took up the torch on the Alberta Stocking Guide and also co-authored a number of key extension bulletins with Sylver Smoliak.

Bob had no choice when it came to SRM. Mac Forbes signed him up and Bob described SRM as his centre for professional development. He and Bessy traveled the annual circuit of meetings and tours between Alberta and Montana. Bob served as IMS council member from 1973 to 1975 and was section president in 1977. Bob also did yeoman's service as section Secretary-Treasurer from 1991 to 1994. For Bob, cherished memories of SRM are all the years of touring and learning with friends and associates.

#### *Bud Klumph*

Although Bud Klumph farmed for a time north west of Edmonton, he worked most of his adult life as a career public servant with Lands and Forests. He started out in the Forest Service in 1954 and then jumped ship to Lands when he had a chance to work with Scotty Campbell the senior grazing appraiser for the province. Bud's involvement progressively evolved from grazing appraiser to the provincial grazing reserve program and eventually Supervisor of Range Management in Lethbridge. Although Bud finished up his career as Regional Director, we particularly recognize his leadership in establishing the Range Management Advisory Service, which now provides range technology and science services through nine provincial range management specialists located throughout the province. Bud contributed to the development of rangeland weed

control strategies, to the development of rangeland remote sensing tools and was an advocate of progressive land use practices such as the “Use Respect” program. Bud continues to work with local ranchers in the Claresholm area sharing his knowledge and insights to support sound range management practices.

Bud joined SRM about 1958 and he stressed the value of his association with scientists, resource managers and most important of all, many progressive and knowledgeable ranchers. Bud served on council in 1968 and as section president in 1972.

He particularly remembers and values his past association with Jeff Green, Bob Ross and Dr. Mel Morris, his professor from his master’s studies at Bozeman.

Incidentally, Bud was in that famous Kinsella rain storm which reduced his new Stetson to a drooping rag.

*I belong to the Church of the Long Grass  
The Parish of the Porcupine Hills  
The grass can grow as tall as an old timer’s tale  
Some say taller still  
Yeah, I belong to the Church of the Long Grass  
The Parish of the Porcupine Hills  
I’ve always seen this land as holy,  
I guess I always will.*

*Church of the Long Grass  
John Wort Hannam*

### **Fred Randle**

Fred Randle joined SRM in 1968 when Ed Nelson talked him into going to the annual meeting in Mexico City. As secretary of the Waldron Ranch, Fred was very interested in the educational opportunities that SRM afforded. An important early event for Fred was the “bankers” range management course held at the Waldron Ranch. The course was patterned after the Montana Banker’s Course, which taught range plant identification and the principles and practices of range management. These were early days on the Waldron and so SRM, with support from Bob Ross and Bob Wroe, provided much inspiration for

management of the ranching co-op. Along with Fred’s time as a council member in 1980 and 1981, he was also shared the load in planning the 1984 summer tour to the “Mighty Peace River” district that was such a great success.

Always enjoying both the local and international flavour of SRM, Fred and Pat Randle had the special distinction of being very regular and faithful participants of all SRM programs and activities. They were folks that could be counted upon to show up! Fred received the Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Service in 1994.

Some particular memories that Fred has of SRM was the Calgary Convention in 1981 and the big rainstorm on the first Kinsella tour when he had to dig a drainage ditch to save the groceries and then witness the soaked and frozen tour participants return on open wagons.

### **Alicia Hargrave Award**

The Alicia Hargrave Memorial Award is sponsored by the Hargrave family and the International Mountain Section to honor the memory of an extraordinary young rancher and range management professional. The Alicia Hargrave Memorial Award is given to a young woman who has shown promise early in her career to further the art and science of rangeland management. Recipients should have demonstrated a passion for rangeland management through their work, especially in areas of leadership, extension and teaching.

This year’s recipient is Jennifer Richman, one whom aptly displays these qualities. With deep roots in prairie Alberta and Jennifer Richman was raised on her family’s ranch on the Oldman River near Hays Alberta. Jennifer has worked with Lands Division in the Range Resource Management Program since 2001 where she currently works as Area Range Management Specialist in Lethbridge a role in which she provides stewardship of an array of tools including the reference area network, prairie ecological tools and provides an integral resource to our field staff and clients.

A number of Jennifer’s colleagues enthusiastically contributed to this citation and let me share with you there thoughts about Jennifer with respect to the Alicia Hargrave Memorial Award:

Jennifer is well recognized for her extension skills and abilities through the Southern Alberta Grazing School for Women (past 8 yrs), Stockmen's Range Management Courses (eg. Aden, Acadia Valley), and training days for for Cows and Fish staff and Public Lands staff where she has provided a leadership role through her expertise on plant identification, plant communities, rangeland health and how management influences health and function of the range. In her role in these extension activities, Jennifer always shows a very keen commitment to the science, shares a deep-rooted passion and love of range science and ecology, and in sharing her passion with those she is working with, in a very non-technical, inviting and inclusive way that connects well with the ranching community. Jenn has been open to discussing the best approach to delivering the most effective extension events with other colleagues, always aiming to get across the best possible extension event and most effective, enjoyable opportunity for those attending. She contributes significantly to the planning and delivery, including in components she herself is not leading, providing thoughtful advice and guidance, including to those less experienced. Her ability to communicate science and make it understandable and palatable is proof she is passionate about rangelands.

Jenn has recognised the importance of not just doing it so it (extension) works, but doing it so it excels, and this is achieved by carefully at preparing, understanding field sites and her presentation material to effectively deliver content and ideas, to encourage those listening to take on the ideas and apply them at home.

The Multisar Program works proactively with the ranching community to support rangeland stewardship for species at risk. Involved in Multisar since day one, Jennifer is recognized as strong and competent partner in a collaborative management approach. Jennifer provides oversight of the range program within MULTISAR, including training of all staff, review and updates of management tools (BMPs), and implementation of MULTISAR Habitat Conservation Strategy plans. This requires not only an understanding of the science of range management but the art of applying these scientific principals. Jennifer is a patient teacher who takes the time to make sure each and every person participating in the training sessions fully understands the concepts. She also mentors junior staff, summer students and

landholders to ensure understanding of the complicated natural processes, survey methodology and appropriate implementation of range management tools. There is no one size fits all solution; each plan/project is unique. Jenn always comes to the table ready for the challenge and consistently develops appropriate, creative solutions to these challenges. Jennifer is an effective partner because her communication is refreshingly honest but tactful and gets her point across without offending others involved. As an effective partner Jennifer is willing to look outside her own interest and pursue a common goal.

Respect and appreciation for Jennifer's leadership and professional qualities is reflected in her recent appointment as Chair of the Suffield Grazing Advisory Committee, which is established by the base commander at Suffield to provide oversight and recommendations to sustain range and wildlife management within the Suffield.

Jennifer Richman exemplifies the primary qualities that this award was designed to recognize and we would invite you to join us in extending sincere congratulations to this years recipient.

### Trail Boss Award

The Trail Boss Award is the highest award bestowed by the Inter-Mountain Section. This year Merry Vandervalk was honoured by the Trail Boss Award.

Merry has served the members of SRM-IMS in every facet of Section events. Merry is the ultimate volunteer: if you are helping stuff bags at an SRM Annual Meeting, Merry will be there as well; if you are served hot soup when you arrive at an Alberta summer tour, Merry will be the one who is hosting you; if you are eating lunch in some one's front yard, Merry will be preparing it for you.

Merry's contributions to range management are also technical, she is ½ of the management team of the Vandervalk Ranch that has been recognized numerous times for rangeland stewardship.

Merry always brings a viewpoint that is tempered by social awareness to our sometimes technical programs. She grounds our summer tours and fall meetings with a sense of community and society that is critical to range management today.

Merry was nominated and chosen for the 2011 Trailboss Award for her tireless service to SRM-IMS, her contributions in the art of range management at the Vandervalk ranch, and her quiet social presence.

## Wealthy Rancher Calculator: Pasture/Yearling Returns

Arnold Mattson

The Wealthy Rancher Calculator@ will assist you, using profit centres as the foundation, in gaining financial control of your pasture/yearling/cow-calf business. It is designed to help graziers tell their money where to go rather than trying to figure out where it went. Each operation is unique, as each grazer is unique. However the questions are the same; what is rangeland worth? What is my cost/lb. gain on pasture? What should I pay to rent or buy pasture? The Wealthy Rancher Calculator@ will divide your farm into profit centres, treat each one as a separate business, and let you know where you are making money.

All you have to do is click on which enterprise (yearling or cow-calf) you want to work on and then enter your production figures in the yellow area and the calculator will do the rest. The calculator divides your ranch into profit centres and gives you an estimated return for each. It will show what return you can expect from each enterprise. Whether you are a landowner, a custom grazer, or a livestock producer, allocating your own figures (expenses as well as revenues) in this manner, can help you assess the financial situation of any segment of your business.

This is a great tool for looking at “what if” scenarios.

Contact:  
Arnold Mattson  
Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada - AESB  
#945 9700 - Jasper Ave.  
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4C3  
Business: (780)495-4593  
Facsimile: (780)495-4504  
e-mail: [arnold.mattson@agr.gc.ca](mailto:arnold.mattson@agr.gc.ca)

## Techniques to Improve the Quality of Cheatgrass Dominated Range

Matthew J. Ricketts, Area Rangeland Management Specialist, USDA-NRCS, Bozeman, Montana  
James S. Jacobs, Plant Materials Specialist, USDA-NRCS, Bozeman, Montana  
Mike and Becky Bales, Ranchers, Park City, Montana

Millions of acres of rangeland throughout North America are dominated by invasive non-native annual grasses, such as cheatgrass (*bromus tectorum*), which provide very poor forage quality as they cure. Due to the rough, rocky, arid nature of rangeland, restoration of the native vegetation has proven extremely difficult and often cost prohibitive.

We evaluated several techniques to establish Forage kochia (*Bassia prostrata*) and winterfat (*Krascheninnkovia lanata*), on degraded rangeland dominated by cheatgrass. The study was conducted in northern Stillwater county Montana. This location is in the Northern Great Plains and receives on average 13 inches of annual rainfall, with about 35% of this coming during May and June. Winters are cold (-25 degrees F) and summers can be hot (95 degrees F).

Forage kochia, also named ‘burningbush or Mexican-fireweed’, is an introduced perennial half-shrub and winterfat is a native perennial shrub that sprouts from the root crown. Both species are highly nutritious to livestock and wildlife and germinate quickly.

Our objective is to compare the establishment of forage kochia and winterfat under four seedbed preparation treatments. We used a randomized split-plot design with seedbed treatments (disc, harrow, disc seed and then roll, and no prep) as the whole-plot treatments and the species seeded as the sub-plot treatments, replicated three times. Seeds were broadcast April 13, 2011. Densities and frequencies of forage kochia and winterfat were measured in September of 2011 using ten 4.8 square foot circular frames, placed three paces apart running down the center of each 17’X117’ plot. Data were analyzed using a split-plot ANOVA model.

The frequency ( $p=.0333$ , Figure1) and density ( $p=0.0197$ , Figure 2) ANOVA resulted in a similar species by seedbed treatment interaction. As with

frequency, density was greatest in the disc and roll treatment but it was not statistically different than the disc only treatment. **But, considering the species established at twice the frequency, the rolling was worth the effort.** In addition, the disc only treatment was not different than harrowing or no seedbed treatment.

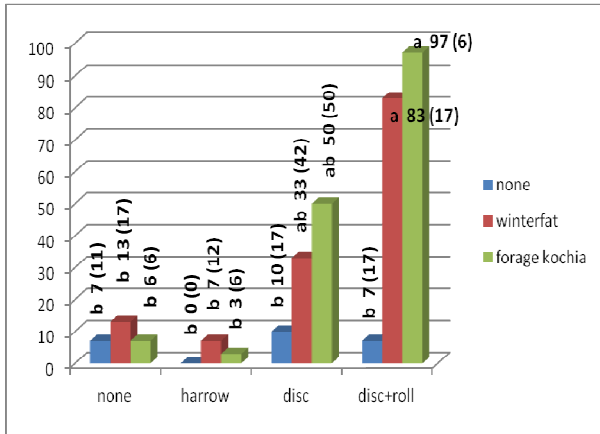


Figure 1. The interaction effect of species seeded and seedbed treatment on the frequency of occurrence of winterfat or forage kochia in the sample plots. The a's and b's show the significant differences among the means which are the bars and the numbers after the a's and b's. Numbers in parentheses are the standard deviation and are an indication of the variability in the data, the bigger the number the more variable the data.

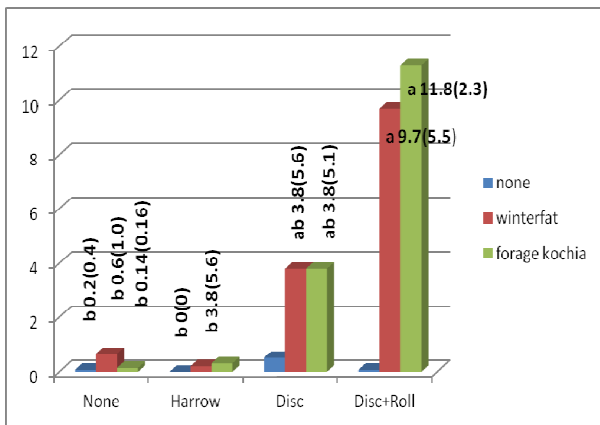


Figure 2. The interaction effect of species seeded and seedbed treatment on the density (plants per 4.8 square feet) of winterfat or forage kochia in the sample plots. The a's and b's show the significant differences among the means which are the bars and the numbers after the a's and b's. Numbers in parentheses are the standard deviation and are an indication of the variability in the data, the bigger the number the more variable the data.

**These results support a hypothesis that we need a disturbance greater than harrowing to expose soil for seeding, and we need an application like rolling to improve seed to soil contact of the seed.**

## Minutes of the SRM-IMS Fall Meeting

October 28, 2011 5:00 p.m.

Submitted by Jill Burkhardt

- Minutes were read, Merry moved to approve; Donna 2<sup>nd</sup>; minutes passed.
- The fall meeting date was moved up a week. Two people from Montana showed up.
- Jill mentioned that she never received the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of membership dues rebate nor have we received the money from Billings meeting that will have to be looked into.
- We received a draft letter stating that 1/3 of our membership had never been renewed. Members never received their notices. We need to try to keep personal contact with lost members. Barry Irving said that every time the database is changed we lose members. That is based upon the lack of a person in Denver handling it. Parent Society needs to be taken to task on this. We need to write a letter as a section letting Denver know of our problems.

### Awards

Barry wants clean up on the Hargrave Memorial Award wording that recipient has a year to make the claim upon attending a fall meeting or summer tour. Jody moved the motion, Darrin 2<sup>nd</sup>, passed.

**Redd Fund** A ranching Family from Utah created this fund to increase producer interest within society. Write up needs to be sent to Denver for BOD approval. 75/25 cost share. A formal acknowledgement to the Redd Family is necessary. The recipient receives a membership & meeting registration. It's a chance to get producers there since its close. If you know of any producers contact Brian.

**Election results** (these have been corrected by the Editor with most current election information)

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President is Tanya Thrift
- Merrita Fraker-Marble MT 1<sup>st</sup> Year Director
- Lynn Fitzpatrick AB 1<sup>st</sup> Year Director

- Introduced Officers—Brian President; Kevin 1<sup>st</sup> VP; Tanya 2<sup>nd</sup> VP; Jake (MT) & Darin (AB) 2<sup>nd</sup> yr directors; Lynn (AB) 1<sup>st</sup> Year director.

### General

- Tracy suggested we create an opportunity for carpooling to Spokane.
  - Newsletter articles need to be submitted by next Wed. (Nov 2). Jack commented on how nice a job Jody does with the newsletter
  - Summer tour date is the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in July.
  - The question of potentially holding parent society meeting in Calgary was brought up. Last time was in 1981. Last year at the Advisory Council there was 2 outstanding bids from Corpus Christi and Sacramento in 2015 & 2016 respectively. Calgary is on the list for 2017 potentially.
  - SRM & AIA was brought up. It's something we can do but not sure if we want to do a satellite branch. Maybe we could advertise SRM through AIA. Same with P. Bio. AIA website is free to post as long as it's in Alberta.
  - Jake wants ideas to get members to sign up for our section. We could do something similar to Wildlife Society and have section level membership but not Parent society level (Bylaw issues here—but maybe cheaper and more local option). We don't charge different for members v. non-members. We need to get back to our roots to get producer members. Barry thinks we should just go for it. Get the info out to people who come to our meetings. Make meeting presentation available on the web. We could also have a YouTube channel as a section.
  - Section Facebook page has not have a lot of activity. Should we continue? Idaho section has a lot of activity on Facebook. Merrita continues to do a good job on the website. Post some pictures on the section website. Grant McNabb recorded today's sessions on his iPhone he will send the info to Jake.
- No additions or corrections to Treasury. Barry 1<sup>st</sup>, Kevin 2<sup>nd</sup> ; passed. The report will be audited by Donna L & Brian T.
  - Jill would like to resign from Treasury/Secretary. We discussed splitting it up between Montana & Alberta.

Tracy moved to adjourn; Jack thanked everyone for showing up.

### New Web-site on “Grasslands of the World” contributed by Duane McCartney

There is a new web site on the internet that will be of great interest to anyone interested in learning more about the grasslands of the world. It is an initiative of the Grassland and Pasture Crops Group of the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) of the United Nations based in Rome. This Country Pasture/Forage Resource Profile is being developed to make available on the Internet, basic information about the pasture and forage resources of 100 countries around the world including a newly developed profile on Canada.

Each profile provides a broad overview of relevant information on the country, as well as topographical, climatic and agro-ecological information with focus on livestock production systems and the pasture/forage resource and information concerning key institutions and personnel and their current research interests and selected references. Each profile has a custodian responsible for updating.

For a listing and a link to all the pasture/forage resource profiles go to:

[http://www.fao.org/ag/AGP/AGPC/doc/Counprof/regions/index\\_all.htm](http://www.fao.org/ag/AGP/AGPC/doc/Counprof/regions/index_all.htm)

To go directly to Canada's pasture/ forage profile go to:

<http://www.fao.org/ag/AGP/AGPC/doc/Counprof/Canada/Canada.html>

For up to date extension publications and research summaries on the Canadian forage and beef industry go to:

### Treasurer's Report

[www.foragebeef.ca](http://www.foragebeef.ca)

All of these sites provide up to date information that will be useful to university and college students, as well as extension personnel and forage and beef producers.

## 2011-2012 IMS Executive Committee

President	Brian Thrift
1st Vice President	Kevin France
2nd Vice President	Tanya Thrift
Past President	Jack Vandervalk
2nd Year Director- Montana	Jake Powell
2nd Year Director - Alberta	Darin Sherritt
1st Year Director - Montana	Merrita Fraker-Marble
1st Year Director - Alberta	Lynn Fitzpatrick
Secretary-Treasurer	Jill Burkhardt
Youth Program Chair - AB	Tracy (Kupchenko) Powell
Youth Program Chair - MT	Vacant
Young Professionals - MT	Vacant
Young Professionals - AB	Tracy (Kupchenko) Powell
Newsletter Editor	Jody Best
History Chairperson	Donna Lawrence
Section Webmaster	Merrita Fraker-Marble
Membership Comm Chair	Dr. Clayton Marlow
Nomination Comm Chair	George Hirschenberger
Awards Comm Chair – AB	Dr. Barry Irving
Awards Comm Chair – MT	John Siddoway
Info & Ed Comm Chair	Vacant
Public Affairs Comm Chair	Vacant

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

## Range Reading

### 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 Natural West* by Dan Flores  
*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 Ranch* by Sherm Ewing  
*The Range* by Sherm Ewing  
*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

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

### Announcement!

Jake Powell and Tracy Kupchenko met through SRM at an annual meeting. Turns out they went and got hitched on August 13/11. The Powell's plan to continue being actively involved in IMS and SRM. THANKS SRM for making this happen!