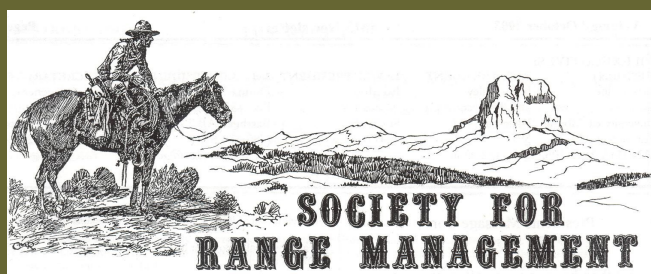


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Photo by
Jody Best



VOLUME 13 ISSUE 2

INTERMOUNTAIN
SECTION
NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2019

Summer Tour: Bears Paw Mountains, Havre, MT—July 19, 2019



Beaver Creek Park in the Bears Paw Mountains, Havre MT. The tour will showcase impacts from the 2017 East Fork fire and how grazing management decisions impacted the land. Photo by Kailee Calnan.

The International Mountain Section of SRM welcomes the public and SRM members to attend their 2019 Summer Tour. The tour will take place in Havre, MT where attendees will visit the Northern Agriculture Research Center, Thackery Ranch, Mooney Coulee, and Beaver Creek Park in the Bears Paw Mountains.

More information and registration is available on the IMS website at:

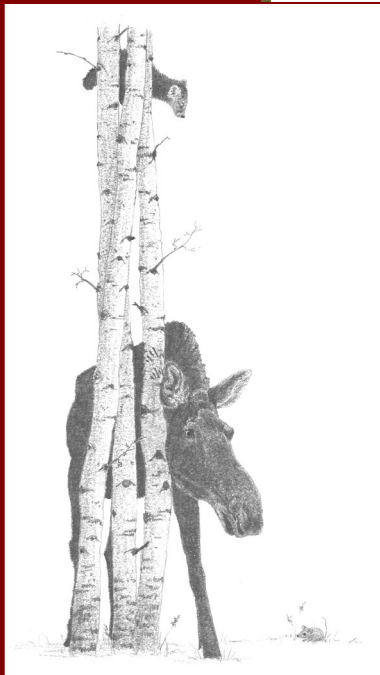
<http://ims.rangelands.org/summer-tour/>

*walk as if you are
kissing the earth with your feet.*

- Thich Nhat Hanh

Editor's Note

Jody Best



It's raining, it's pouring,
the old man is snoring.....

Some parts of southern Alberta are getting a lot of rain this spring. At our house we've had over 7 inches so far and it is raining again today.

I definitely choose this over the smoke of the past two summers, and the conditions that have occurred this year in northern Alberta.

When it's nice outside I work with my horses.

When it's raining, I do projects. So I've been getting a few things done.

In particular, I've started working on some children's picture books for kids up to 8 years old. There should be one available on Amazon within a couple of months. "Moose Tracks, Mouse Tracks, Marten Tracks, Too!" As the name indicates, it's a book about animal tracks. I initially created it for our daughter, and now it is turning into a venture.

I've found I would like to pursue more avenues of this nature, and I need to free up some time to do it. So... 2019 will be the last year that I do the SRM-IMS Newsletter.

I have really enjoyed working with your material, and the freedom to express my own creativity in the newsletter I've produced for IMS these past 9 years, but it is time to hand over the reins.

If anyone is interested, please let the executive know.

President's Report

Tracy Kupchenko



IMS President:
Tracy Kupchenko.

I wanted to share some thoughts that have been bouncing around in my head this past winter.

Part 1:

As many of you might relate to this, I find myself often wearing a variety of "hats" that are often interchangeable. We find ourselves spending our free time doing various things such as sitting on non-profit, Cattlemen's associations, volunteer for 4-H or FFA, time with conservation groups that have a common thread; a connection to the rangelands. The land that we work on and the land we live on. I've also noticed that often two things can happen when we wear numerous "hats":

- a) The groups seem to compete for the same resources (fiscal, volunteer, calendar space)

and audiences.

- b) The people within the groups seem to "preach to the choir".

As a result, the folks that are willing to put in the time and energy it takes to make each of these important groups succeed, often get drained of energy and desire to continue fighting the good fight. They fade away, never to be seen at future functions again. I once heard someone relate this to the tides or changing seasons.

Rather than compete for people and resources, I would encourage future IMS executive members to collaborate more with other groups. It would be good to find commonalities and win-win situations; to work together towards common goals.

By collaborating with

groups outside of SRM, there is an opportunity to not only share costs, but also to further rangeland education to a wider audience. In turn, there is also a chance to learn from these other groups.

Part 2:

Following numerous conversations with various colleagues over the winter months, I find myself pondering a question: "What does Range Management mean to me? What does it mean to the general Joe down the street?"

Often when people hear the term "rangeland management" or the Society for Range Management (SRM), they are quick to dismiss it stating that "I don't own cows, so it doesn't really matter to me."

"Rangeland management aka Ecosystem Management aka Sustainable Land Use

President's Report continued

Development aka Land Use aka Adaptive Range Management, etc." – it's really all the same.

Whether it is reclaiming gas wells, grazing cattle, maintaining hiking trails, or building interpretive centres, these are all vectors of human activity on the landscape, and as such, need to be managed by us.

Other comments that get me fired up are: "OMG....this land is soooo desolate! It's such a wasteland!!! Not arable, therefore its useless!"

How can each of us as members help to explain to those people that rangelands are a valuable part of our landscape with all the positive ecosystem functions they provide?? Such as rich biodiversity; Producing food; giant carbon sinks; water filtration; historical resources, etc.

Rangeland management is a multi-faceted and dynamic profession. The entire ecosystem must be taken into account, including humans, when making decisions. I feel that this is one of the beauties and opportunities we have as rangeland practitioners. We, as humans, are an integral part of the ecosystem.

Photo by Jody Best.

No two days are exactly alike! We work with the people *and* the critters *and* the vegetation *and* the soil! Our profession is unique in that we depend on and recognize that we must work *with* Mother Nature. Changing climatic conditions require us to be flexible and resilient; for example, too little or too much rain!

As range practitioners/ biologists/ranchers/ecologists/ rangeland agrologists/resource managers/environmental technicians, we have an excellent opportunity to share our knowledge and experiences with others. To alter perceptions and enhance appreciation of rangelands within the general public.

I challenge all IMS members to try to share and ignite a passion for the land in someone you know; or a stranger?! To explain the values and importance of rangelands to others.

We do a fantastic job sharing and encouraging the love of rangelands within our usual realm. Let's step a little, or a lot, outside our bubble and share the love of rangelands with the world!!

Thank You IMS!

Thank you to the International Mountain Section for the opportunity to represent Alberta on the international stage. This has been an amazing experience that I will never forget. Your support of youth in agriculture is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Courtney Taylor



Upcoming Events

July 19, 2018 SRM—IMS Summer Tour, Bears Paw Mountains, Havre, MT.

IMS Handbook Draft will be available for viewing at 2019 Summer Tour and afterwards online.

Fall meeting in the Edmonton, AB area – hope to see you there!

Planning for 2021 SRM meeting in Boise Idaho has begun and needs your attention and energy!

Where there is
love, there is life.
- Ghandi

At the
edge of the
mind awaits
the holy
wilderness of
the soul.
It beckons
you, like an
ancient forest,
filled with
vast myster-
ies and won-
ders.
- Denise Linn

New IMS Website Tracy Kupchenko

Have you checked out the newly renovated IMS website???

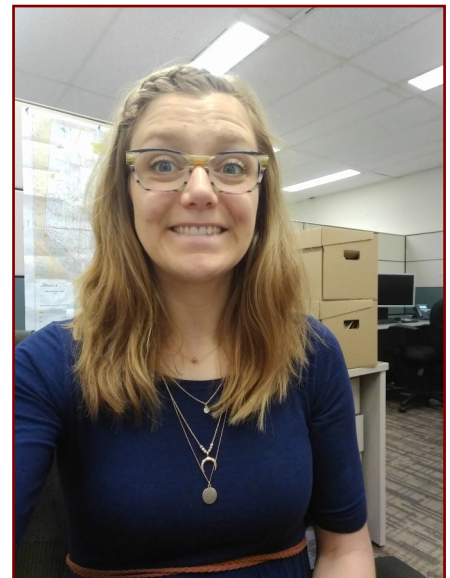
www.ims.rangelands.org

We were lucky enough to meet a talented and dedicated young lady at the 2018 Fall meeting in Great Falls. Her name is Casey Gallagher. When we discussed updating our website at the meeting, Casey

On behalf of the entire IM section, I would like to send out a gigabyte sized Thank you to Casey!

You've done an amazing job and we all appreciate your expertise and willingness to help us with the website! We wish you well in all your future endeavors and invite you to join us at any future SRM events.

form. Without Merrita at the cutting edge, we would have still been stuck in the stone ages, sending the newsletter and other updates to members by post, rather than by website and email. Your work has been very valuable, Merrita. Thank you!



Left: Casey Gallagher.
Right: Carly Moore.

stepped up to help. As she put it, the website is a tool that the section can use as much, or as little, as we want. To post updates, advertise activities, share information/photos, introduce executive members and pertinent information. Unfortunately, like all good things, Casey will be moving on to other big adventures and will not be able to assist us after July 15, 2019.

A few hundred emails, skype calls and meetings, we have the website up and running!

In this transition, an IMS member Carly Moore from Edmonton has agreed to take over the webmaster reins. Another huge shout out to Carly! Thank you!

Casey has agreed to help train Carly on the ins and outs of the website, to ensure a smooth transition as possible. Kudos to both of you ladies for your dedication to the IM section and SRM.

We would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Merrita Fraker-Marble for all of her hard work on the old website and plat-

Young Professionals Conclave IMS Representative

Josh Hanson

Hello! My name is Josh Hanson and I am a graduate student at Montana State getting a degree in Animal and Rangeland Sciences as well as your YPC (Young Professionals Conclave)-IMS rep.

As a graduate student, my thesis research is looking into the effect of grazed and protection from grazing on soil health the first year post-wildfire. Our study sites reside within the Lodgepole Complex Fire and our exclosures are north of Sand Springs, MT. I just finished my first semester and aim to get my thesis published in the win-

ter of 2020. I would love to learn and gain any knowledge I can from the IMS section along the way!

As the YPC-IMS rep, my role is to be a liaison between the YPC and IMS. This means that I am participating in the monthly YPC officer calls and trying to grow the relationships and memberships of young professionals who are within their first five years of professional work. The YPC is a steadily growing group and we are focused on making sure young professionals don't fall through the cracks. We are trying to achieve this by staying

active in the parent society as well as improving on our annual meeting events such as: Wild Rag sales, Fun Run, and my personal favorite, Bridging the Gap.

As the YPC-IMS rep, I am very open to hearing suggestions on how you think we can grow this group, as well as meeting other young professionals! Please feel free to email me at josh.hanson722@gmail.com

*Nature is
painting for us,
day after day,
pictures of
infinite beauty.
-John Ruskin*



What's New! Barry Irving



We in the International Mountain Section have a golden opportunity to enhance rangelands and range management on several fronts through partnering with the Idaho Section on the Boise, 2021 Meeting. The winter meeting of SRM will be held just across the divide from our section.

IMS section leadership have stepped up and made the commitment that we will partner on pulling together a great 2021 meeting. Discussions and developments are pretty premature, but there is a rough idea of where a theme for the meeting will head (Partnerships), and there is a draft management committee in place, with several key positions yet to be filled. Former IMS section president Brian Thrift (now residing in the

great state of Idaho) and myself (Barry Irving) will be the General Co-Chairs for the meeting.

The proximity of the 2021 meeting in Boise will be ideal for the IMS to invigorate and bolster our membership, promote symposia, workshops, and events that can highlight mutual rangeland challenges common to both sections, and the rest of the society, and a way to acquire some funds for future section programs.

So, the challenge goes out to all IMS members and former members. Everyone has something to contribute to this meeting, and everyone is welcome to do so. If you are interested in participating, now, later, or for the meeting itself, in a contributing, leading, or supporting role, all it takes is an email to one of your section officers (or myself at birving@ualberta.ca) and they/we will get you on a list and keep you informed.

Of particular interest can, and should, be providing service or information to rangeland practitioners (including ranchers, agency employees, national park staff, nature enthusiasts, and anyone else with an interest in rangelands). We can promote case studies of success, highlight new research, and draw attention to topics that perhaps have slipped through a crack.

We have the opportunity, let's grab the ball and run with it!



Photos by Jody Best.

Your IMS Executive 2019 Who's Who

President	Tracy Kupchenko
Past President	vacant
1st Vice President	Allison Martin
2nd Vice President	Jillian Kaufman
Director (MT)	Rick Caquelin
Director (AB)	Jennifer Caudron
Secretary/Treasurer	Lisa Raatz
Newsletter Editor	Jody Best
Youth Program Chair (MT)	Allison Martin
Youth Program Chair (AB)	Tracy Kupchenko
History Chairperson	Donna Lawrence
Membership Committee Chair	vacant
Awards Committee Chair (MT)	Jon Siddoway
Awards Committee Chair (AB)	Barry Adams
Nomination Committee Chair	vacant
Public Affairs Committee Chair	vacant
Social Media	vacant
Communications Chair	vacant
Youth Professionals Gp (MT)	vacant
Youth Professionals Gp (AB)	vacant

**Do you know
what this is?**



Answer to previous quiz:
Alberta Penstemon
(*Penstemon albertinus*)
Photo by Jody Best.

If you have a
garden
and a library,
you have
everything
you need.

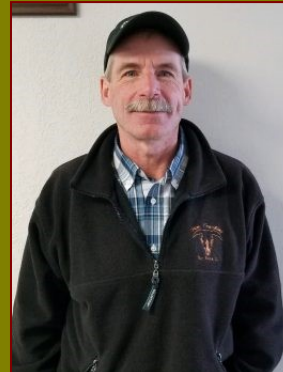
- Marcus Tullius Cicero



Allison



Tracy



Rick



Jillian



Lisa



Jennifer

Plant Bingo 2019

Common Name	Latin Name	Location	Date	Photo
beaked hazelnut (in flower)	<i>Corylus cornuta</i>			
blazing star	<i>Liatris punctata</i>			
Blue grama grass	<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>			
Blueberry (fruit)	<i>Vaccinium myrtilloides</i>			
Bog rosemary	<i>Andromeda polifolia</i>			
Buckbean	<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>			
buffalo berry (in flower)	<i>Shepherdia canadensis</i>			
Calypso	<i>Calypso bulbosa</i>			
Choke cherry (in fruit)	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>			
Colts foot	<i>Petasites sagittatum</i>			
Cotton grass	<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>			
Creeping juniper (in fruit)	<i>Juniperus horizontalis</i>			
dwarf birch	<i>Betula glandulosa</i>			
fireweed	<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>			
gumweed	<i>Grindelia squarrosa</i>			
Hooker's oatgrass	<i>Helictotrichon hookeri</i>			
Indian pipes	<i>Monotropa uniflora</i>			
Intermediate Oatgrass	<i>Danthonia intermedia</i>			
Kinnickinnick (in fruit)	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>			
Labrador tea	<i>Ledum groenlandicum</i>			
marsh reed grass	<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>			
narrow leaved sundew	<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>			
needle and thread	<i>Stipa comata</i>			
pine reed grass	<i>Calamagrostis rubescens</i>			
plains rough fescue	<i>Festuca hallii</i>			
Prairie sage	<i>Artemisia ludoviciana</i>			
prickly pear	<i>Opuntia polyacantha</i> * <i>Opuntia fragilis</i>			
purple prairie clover	<i>Dalea purpurea</i>			
Rice Grass	<i>Oryzopsis pungens</i>			
sand grass	<i>Calamovilfa longifolia</i>			
Scarlet mallow	<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>			
scurf pea	<i>Psoralea lanceolata</i>			
Shooting star	<i>Dodecatheon pulchellum</i>			
silverberry (in fruit)	<i>Eleagnus commutata</i>			
Slough grass	<i>Beckmannia syzigachne</i>			
Spotted Coralroot	<i>Corallorhiza maculata</i>			
tufted hair grass	<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>			
Twin flower	<i>Linnaea borealis</i>			
Wild sarsparilla in fruit	<i>Aralia nudicaulis</i>			
Winter fat	<i>Eurotia lanata</i>			
yellow beardtongue	<i>Penstemon confertus</i>			
yellow coneflower	<i>Ratibida columnifera</i>			

See below for an example of the rules for Plant Bingo within Alberta Environment & Parks, Rangeland Approvals. Feel free to borrow this game for your own organization, however, AEP staff will not coordinate it.

2019 Edition – Carly's favorite things

Submission & Judging

1. Submission will be done via photo form.
2. I reserve the right to ask for more identification proof if I am unable to ID the plant from your photo.
3. I will not reply to all the submissions!
4. Every MONDAY I will send out an updated list with who got which species, records will be stored here:
M:\POL-PLA\LPB\Rngld\Users\Hilary_Baker\PLANTBINGO

TEXT: 403-339-0409 – Please include your name, photo, location, species. (Preferred!)

EMAIL: hilary.baker@gov.ab.ca - Please include the photo, location and species. Subject: BINGO

RULES:

1. All photos must be taken this growing season (no hunting archives or your old photos - this would be considered cheating)
2. First person to submit a good quality photo with location that the photo was taken gets the point for that species. Doesn't have to be a GPS point, general location will suffice.
3. The plant MUST be in FULL FLOWER (current year for grasses), unless otherwise specified in the list.
4. Photo(s) submitted must be of good enough quality that the species can be confirmed. You all have smart phones, watch a youtube of how to take a photo in focus. I reserve the right to reject terrible photos.
5. Distracting a field partner while you sneak in and snap your photo and send it is fair game. Get creative!
6. Calling out your fellow game-players for poor photos, plants not yet in full flower, wrong plant, or other rule breaking is fair game (provided it's done in fun and we keep the energy positive). Any conflicts will be resolved through a democratic process. Collective social pressure should hopefully keep us all in line.
7. Plants must not be from gardens, or other cultivated areas - they need to be in their natural setting.
8. Photos taken during the work day are permitted, but it is encouraged to use your own time to go exploring and get your photos. If it becomes clearly problematic we may reassess this.
9. Rules are subject to change depending on how much cheating I hear about.

PRIZES: Awarded at the end of the season: It will mostly be for bragging rights (maybe you need to redeem yourself from the hockey pool..) but MAYBE a cool prize.

1. Most points
2. Most artistic photo of their plant(s)
3. Blackout (getting all species)
4. Worst photo series submitted/don't quit your day job
5. Most ruthless/dedicated. Nominations with associated stories accepted.

Most points award will get the pleasure of setting the species list for next year. Have fun!

BONUS AWARD: Most hilarious photo at a super-weird Alberta landmark (ie: Dunvaggen, Saamis Teepee, Donalds oil lamp, Beaverlodge's huge beaver, Paul Bunyan's Bowling Ball...)

