

## INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN SECTION MAY 2020 NEWSLETTER

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

#### Denver Annual Meeting and What's ahead!

Greeting from Livingston, Montana! I hope everyone finds themselves healthy and thriving during these trying times. As you may notice the newsletter looks a bit different. This year we may not have the fancy looking newsletter as we are transitioning from a vacant newsletter editor position and decisions as to whether or not a newsletter is still valuable as a means to disseminate information, or if our new website platform would suffice for just that. In the interim, this my attempt at our section newsletter until a decision is made. If filling the newsletter editor gap within our section strikes a chord with you (and you are semi tech savvy), let me know!



The annual meeting in Denver, Colorado was a huge success and great fun. There was a plethora of information and learning opportunities to stay current on new research. The advisory council brought forth several significant suggestions to the board of directors and this is where our voice at the section level is heard! As always membership recruitment was a focal point of discussion. Some key take aways of particular note are; finding ways to partner with producer organizations and present our

innovative research in meetings those already attend, thinking about what our “elevator speech” would be and why we are a part of SRM (what it provides us with that we deem valuable), focusing on section level activities to provide the best benefits possible, while actively involving our YPC members within the section to allow them to feel confident to integrate into society committees. We have a YPC delegate, Josh Hanson. Please utilize Josh as a liaison regarding your inputs to promote youth activities, involvement, social media presence etc. (his email is on the website). Lots to think about! A Diversity and Inclusion committee is well underway along with strategic plans to increase diversity within and across sections. SRM is a part of an interagency collaborative to complete ESD’s in prioritized regions and will be looking for section input. As always, many interesting talks (“ignite”) and research presentations/symposiums engaged the audience in Denver. Just a few topics ranged from social-ecological resilience in the northern great plains; connections and feedbacks of dominant drivers, what are animals eating; a new method to estimate diet compositions on rangelands, transforming public rangeland management through collaborative multi- stakeholder partnerships, invasive annuals and grasses, pollinators and the one that hits home the most for IMS ; Yellowstone National park symposium, a welcomed initial engagement with Dr.

### YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK- SYMPOSIUM, DENVER

“One thing that all agree on is that Yellowstone National Park, and its surrounding ecosystems, are a treasure to be preserved for future generations to enjoy. How to best accomplish that is still up for debate.”

Chris Geremia, Yellowstone wildlife/bison biologist. This presentation is a great foundation for further communication and deliberation regarding bison stocking rates on the northern range to be taken to Boise 2021. The hard part of initial engagement with NPS representation is done, it is imperative to keep the momentum! The Idaho annual meeting (Feb 7-11<sup>th</sup> 2021) that IMS is co-hosting is deep into the planning and we will need volunteers at this event. Please think about volunteering in Boise and getting involved if you are not in some fashion already! There's a country song that says, "all gave some, and some gave all". We as a united section and "community" need to strive to "all give some"

in an effort to make our range world the best it can be 😊. Everyone counts and can make a difference! Our section committed to co-hosting and when we can all donate a little time, the trickledown effect is incredible in a way for our section to support youth range camps, young professionals and many other pertinent events that keep the ball rolling with force in the range field. What I'm trying to say is our section has the potential to make significant money, and with that money, we can make a DIFFERENCE out there. We need your contribution though, and a willing hand. 🦋 – Allison



Montana State University URME Range Team won 3<sup>rd</sup> place on the URME. Back L-R: Synergy Resource Solutions Inc. Founder, President & Senior Resource Specialist Jack Alexander, Kyrsten Wolterstorff, Justin Dahl, Nick Hurtz, James Kramer, and Keegan Lancaster.

Front L-R: Kara Novakovich, Haylee Barkley, Madison Gates, and SRM President Dr. Clayton Marlow. Photo by Andee Leininger.

## IMS UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS -UPDATE FROM DENVER, COLORADO

### Undergraduate Range Management Exam and Plant ID

Every year many Montana State University and University of Alberta undergraduate students join our International Mountain Section as they participate in the Society for Range Management annual meeting. While many students on both campuses were enjoying time off for Presidents Day in the US or Family Day and 'Reading Week' in Alberta, our range students were studying and writing exams. This year the meeting was held in Denver, Colorado on February 16-20, 2020. A total of 25 university teams participated: 106 students wrote the Plant Identification exam where students are required to correctly identify 100 challenging plant samples from a total of 200 important rangeland grass, forb and shrub species found across North America (An exam now annually created by former long-time U of A Range Team coach and SRM IMS member, Dr. Barry Irving); 189 students wrote the Undergraduate Range Management

Exam (URME) which consists of a 1 hour exam testing their knowledge about Range Ecology, Grazing Management, Range Improvement, NA Range Regions, and other broad topics. Congratulations to our students, who won many team and individual awards! Proud coaches include Dr. Craig Carr, Merrita Fraker-Marble (MSU), and Lisa Raatz (UofA).





University of Alberta Range Team won 2<sup>nd</sup> place on Plant Identification and 5<sup>th</sup> place on URME. L-R: Mary Villeneuve, Anabel Dombro, Brea Burton, Connor Lainchbury, Hayley Webster, Kaitlin Holden, Rosheen Tetzlaff, SRM President Dr. Clayton Marlow. Photo by Andee Leiningering.



Montana State University Plant Identification Range Team won 4<sup>th</sup> place on Plant ID. L-R: Kyrsten Wolterstorff, Nicholas Hurtz, Lara Macon, James Kramer, Ben Roeder and SRM President Dr. Clayton Marlow. Photo by Andee Leiningering.

🐾 Thanks for the submission Lisa Raatz, Craig Carr, Carly Moore and Darin Sherritt!!

## PLANT PROFILE

### Clustered Broomrape (*Orobanche fasciculata*)

A parasitic plant of *Eriogonum*, *Eriodictyon* and *Asteraceae* species (particularly *Artemisia*), clustered broomrape is found in dry prairie grasslands. It is an increaser although not typically found in high densities throughout IMS rangelands (S3 rank in Alberta, S4 in Montana). This discrete little beauty grows 3-15 cm tall and tolerates heavy traffic thanks to its thick, woody root.

🐾 Thanks for the submission, Jillian Kaufmann!



## NEW DIRECTOR FOR MONTANA

Stacey Barta

I am a Montana native; I grew up in the Madison and Paradise Valleys of southwest Montana. I have a Bachelor of Science in Range Science from Montana State University. I have had a broad career that has varied from working on invasive species programs, to rangeland specialist. I am currently the Rangelands Resource Program Coordinator for Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. I work with Stakeholders, NGO's, Agencies and others on events, tours and seminars to promote cooperation and coordination of range management activities between persons and organizations charged with or having the management of rangeland in Montana and to advocate for Montana Rangelands. I am the mom of 2 wonderful young men and married for over 25 years. In my spare time I like to hit the water and mountains for some fresh air and sunshine.



Thanks for the submission, Stacey!

## MONITORING PHOTOS

Rick Caquelin

The number in the file name denotes the year; all 3 sets are permanent monitoring points looking at the same exact point after 10, 12 and 16 years of grazing management change. All sites are in central MT at about 4000' feet elevation and 16" inches of precip. The basic change in the Deichmann (Deich) photos is a change from 4-6 weeks of use every year in May-June to use in May and June at no more than 2 weeks during those two months with the remaining use coming in late summer or fall. Total AUM's of use for the year was not changed, just the timing of the use. The Porter (Port) set of photos shows an overwhelming invasion of Japanese brome and a little fringed sagewort in the 2007 photo that was the result of annual use for 3 weeks in May and a week to 10 days in June. The management change included the first 4 years to graze in short bursts of 7 -10 days, remove

livestock until the Japanese brome regrew to at least a 2-inch height and return livestock for grazing. This grazing pattern typically started May 1-ish and went through the time that the regrowth of Japanese brome was not accessible at a graze-able height, generally about May 25<sup>th</sup>. After the fourth year when the Japanese brome was largely removed from the stand, the pasture was rotated so that it was deferred until after June 15<sup>th</sup> one year and used no more than 25 days in May and June the next. The Caquelin (Cag) photos show a "step across" perennial stream that had all the willow component removed along the stretch of creek in that pasture due to heavy late winter use from March thru mid-May. The first photo is after the first year of management change where use was made for 10 days to 2 weeks in early May then livestock were removed until the following early May. This use



pattern was repeated for about 10 years and now, while there is still some use in May each year (about 1 week), the remaining use occurs later in the summer (about a week or less). I do not know how much AUM's may have changed because I was not the grazer previous to 2003. I can say that use now is approx. 1 AUM/acre taken each year in those 10-14 days.



Deich '19



Port '07



Deich '09

DO YOU HAVE A GREAT MONITORING  
STORY TO SHARE??!



Port '19





Caq 2003



Caq 2019



Thanks for the submission, Rick!

## PICTURES FROM DENVER 2020 Annual Meeting



Tracy Kupchenko (past president IMS) and Brian Thrift (Idaho section) “manning” our Boise 2021 booth!







Barry and Judy Irving, Craig Carr (MSU), Darin Sherritt and Tracy discussing important matters...



Great turn out at our IMS/Idaho section social hour.



Dr. Karen Launchbaugh with the University of Idaho, professor of rangeland ecology, Plenary session.



Hands-on range practicum/land and livestock training. US Forest Service Horse and Mule pack demonstration.





Trade show booths.



Erin Anderson, Tracy K and Nicole Wiensman. Students at part of U of A range team. Erin WON Plant ID competition in Denver!



Courtney Taylor (represented IMS in 2018 HSYF in Reno and WON!!) and Tracy Kupchenko.



Tracy (past president) and Allison (president) at Boise 2021 tradeshow booth that IMS is co-hosting!



And of course, a Mule for good measure! Happy Spring, IMS members! Please feel welcome to reach out to me!



What's better than seeing the first spring blooms on the prairie??!






"A land ethic changes the role of *Homo sapiens* from conqueror of the land community to plain member and citizen of it. It implies respect for his fellow-members, and also respect for the community as such."

-Aldo Leopold

*Sometimes I feel the need to pinch myself into a reality check that we are so lucky to be able to live and/or work on these beautiful rangelands. This is one of my favorite places in Montana, Big Hole valley, working on a ranch near Wisdom, MT.*

IMPORTANT NOTICE:  JULY 2020 SUMMER TOUR NEAR EDMONTON HAS BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO AN ABUNDANCE OF CAUTION TO KEEP OUR MEMBERS SAFE AND HEALTHY DURING THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES. WE ARE IN THE WORKS OF PLANNING SOMETHING IN REPLACEMENT OF THE SUMMER TOUR TO HELP KEEP US CONNECTED WHILE OUR PHYSICAL ABSENCE KEEPS US APART. STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION!

Society for Range Management



February 7-11, 2021 | Boise, Idaho

**SAVE THE DATE AND PLAN TO COME TO BOISE!**