

WINTER TRAINING AND MEETING NEWS (continued)

In addition to the workshop led by Jeff, there were several speakers from various agencies and backgrounds to share their experiences and insights with the group.

Rob Alexander, with Boulder Open Space, closed Tuesday evening by sharing experiences he has had in communication working in a highly urbanized area.

Wednesday brought a series of outstanding speakers to address the attendees about communication skills necessary to be effective range professionals. Shane Green, NRCS State Rangeland Specialist from Utah, shared the importance of understanding the ranching culture. Titled “Building Credibility with Ranchers/Stock Farmers”, Shane shared advice and wisdom from NRCS masters of conservation salesmanship and psychology. Jim Cagney, Retired BLM Range Conservationist, presented “Negotiating Public Land Grazing Issues” with plenty of sage advice for all of us working the range field. Start every conversation to learn something you didn’t know – a perspective you weren’t aware of, said Jim.

Duke Phillips, CEO of Ranchlands, shared some of his experiences “Communicating with the Public”. Ranchlands is a ranch management company that manages the Chico Basin Ranch located between Pueblo and Colorado Springs. Floyd Reed, Retired USFS Range Conservationist and Co-founder the Range Management Schools shared experiences/pointers from Range Management Schools, USFS career and as private consultant. A key element, Floyd said, is to be able to explain the science behind the why.

Cory Off shared a ranchers’ perspective on communication, “What Motivates the Landowner”. Motivators depends on the type of person, said Cory. Our challenge is to figure out what type of person we are dealing with and to help them get out of their box. Bob Mountain, USFS Rangeland Management Specialist, led a discussion with the group “On Your Critical Importance as a Rangeland Manager”. No matter how busy we are, we must go to the field, Bob exhorted. Robbie LeValley, Previous CSU Extension Area Range and Livestock specialist, Co-founder Range Management Schools, gave an impassioned presentation about the importance of getting on the ground results. Taylor Payne, Utah Grazing Improvement Program, shared his experience with “Local Coordination through Utah’s Grazing Improvement Program”. The inroads this program has made was nothing short of amazing. It is a shining example of collaboration by opposing factions for a common cause.

June Open Committee (continued)

One Block of Time or One Instance in the Year:

Strategic Plan – Chaired by Rob Alexander (ralexander@bouldercounty.org). Could use a couple people for a very short time commitment - entails reviewing the strategic plan to see what actions are still applicable and relevant, participating in a couple phone calls and, if it works out, a face to face discussion at the field training in the San Luis Valley. Make a recommendation for an action item to Board of Directors.

Awards – Chaired by Tom Nadgwick (tom.nadgwick@co.usda.gov). Need two more members for the selection committee. Tom gathers nominations for the section awards and assembles the information for the award committee to review. Selection committee of 3 members with staggered terms review and select award winners.



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HSYF News—High School Youth Benefit from Rangeland Management Forum in Corpus Christi, TX

By Ben Berlinger, Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management, Youth Activities Chair

The Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management (SRM) was well represented at the 2016 High School Youth Forum (HSYF) held in Corpus Christi on February 1-4, 2016. The HSYF is an integral part of the SRM annual meeting. This year there were 23 delegates representing 11 of the SRM Sections. During the Forum, high school youth from all part of the western United States and Canada are invited to participate and interact among the various professionals and college students attending the meeting. Each of SRM's 21 Sections is allowed to send up to three youth delegates to this program that provides a high quality learning experience.



This year the Colorado Section SRM sponsored three delegates to Corpus Christi.

Sean Doherty of Branson, **Micah Crane** of Pritchett, and **McCrae Rider** of Burlington were selected to participate in the Forum. All three delegates were chosen based on their exceptional achievements in rangeland management programs. **Micah was the second place individual** for site judging & plant identification at the Eastern Colorado State FFA rangeland judging contest held in Akron on October 7, 2015; and **McCrae was the high scoring individual** in the plant identification section of the state FFA contest. Sean was the second place individual for site judging & plant identification at the Eastern Colorado State FFA rangeland judging contest held in Stratton in 2013.

The goals of the HSYF are to recognize youth for outstanding accomplishments in rangeland management activities and to provide young people the opportunity to discuss rangelands, career options, and meet with leaders in the field of range management. One requirement of the HSYF is that each delegate must write a paper and then present an illustrated talk on some aspect of rangeland conservation or management. Sean's presentation was titled ***History of Conservation on the Doherty Ranches***. In his paper **Sean** wrote the following abstract.

Mesa de Maya LLC. is three separate ranches located in Las Animas County, in Southeastern Colorado. These three ranches, the Little Place, Red Rocks, and the Mesa de Maya, have been owned by the Doherty family for five generations, and each generation has had a profound impact. The essay will focus on pioneer Lorean "Tiny" Doherty being one of the first individuals granted the Great Plains Contract, to her son John Doherty introducing Holistic Resource Management in the late eighties. The essay will conclude with Joe Doherty's management of drought and invasive species.

Micah presented a talk about the advantages and disadvantages of grass fed versus grain fed beef. His paper's abstract stated the following.

Grass fed cattle produce better meat than grain fed cattle because it has been shown to be healthier. Grass fed cattle on strategically managed rangeland can give you comparable quality and desirable carcass yields when compared with grain fed cattle. Range management plays a very important role to the success of grass fed cattle. Without proper management of the land, we will not be successful raising cattle for meat on rangeland. Grass fed beef production can provide some ranchers an increasing opportunity to enter a niche market to meet the changing demands for healthier beef that is produced with sustainable rangeland management practices.

Continued next page

HSYF News (continued)

McCrae's presentation was titled **Planned Rotational Grazing**. In his paper McCrae wrote the following abstract.

This paper gives a look on planned rotational grazing, what it is, and its benefits over continuous grazing. I have received information tips from local ranchers who use rotational grazing on how to be successful using rotational grazing. They told me about movement strategies of the cattle and the pasture layouts for rotational grazing. I learned two important concepts: move cattle fast when the grass is growing fast and slow when grass is growing slow and to put the most cattle on the smallest area for the shortest period possible. I interviewed two ranchers and showed how they gained success using planned rotational grazing on the Eastern Plains of Colorado. These ranchers use different types of rotational grazing but both are able to increase their pasture production and profit per acre.

All three of their papers and power point presentations can be accessed at the CO Section's website at www.cssrm.org/. The Colorado Section SRM congratulates Sean, Micah and McCrae for their outstanding achievements in rangeland management and wishes them the best of luck as they further pursue their ambitions in the field of natural resource management. Contact Ben Berlinger (719-384-5408), Youth Activities Chairman, for more information about the SRM High School Youth Forum.

"Why be a member of SRM?" you ask. Julie Elliott, our current President of CSSRM, and Roy Roath put together a comprehensive list of values tied to our membership in SRM. Hopefully this prompts our section members to plug into some of these areas they haven't approached before. It can also be good talking points for our members to discuss with non-members when that question is asked.

As a range professional:

- SRM sets the standards for the profession, both education and conduct, including the requirements for the 0454 series in the Federal system.
- It provides an opportunity to network with other professionals.
 - Who you know plays a critical role in a person's career path, whether you are laying ground work for upward mobility or to start new someplace else.
- It provides an opportunity to make a contribution to the range profession.
- SRM keeps range in front of legislatures and agency leads.
- Because you have a passion about range - you value rangelands, and SRM is the organization to tie folks with the same value sets together.
- SRM sets the standards for the science of rangelands.
- SRM provides training.
- **Membership gives you the opportunity to meet folks that you could not interact with otherwise.**

As a rancher:

- SRM is the go to organization for management information.
- SRM organizes annual tours/field days to highlight outstanding stewardship and to spend time with other ranchers.
 - **Gain applied, real life information you can take home and use.**



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Save the Date!

COLORADO SECTION SRM MIDDLE PARK TRAINING

TOPIC: Grazing and wildlife compatibility. Also the success of sagebrush habitat treatments along with natural fires to increase forage production and to enhance wildlife habitat. The value of Conservation easements for ranchers and wildlife.

WHERE: Kremmling Colorado. We will meet at the Grand County fairgrounds extension hall.

WHEN: September 9, 2016 at 8:00 AM

ACTIVITIES:

- ⇒ Visit a Sage grouse Initiative ranch that manages for hunting, wildlife, & cattle.
- ⇒ Visit a Sage grouse Initiative ranch where water improvements have been done.
- ⇒ Visit a site on BLM land that had a natural fire.
- ⇒ Visit a ranch that has a conservation easement on it.



Questions call **Donn Slusher** at: 970-430-9742 or Donn.Slusher@co.usda.gov

Save the Date:

November 1-3, 2016

Colorado State Fair Grounds – Pueblo, CO

Grass-Grazers-Family: Finding Common Ground

What does it take to develop a successful livestock enterprise, manage grasslands, stay financially sound, and keep the family involved and working toward a common goal?

The Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management and Colorado State University are pleased to announce an exciting training opportunity tying forage, livestock, and family aspects of ranching operations together.



Noted feature speakers include: Duke Phillips - Chico Basin Ranch; Kit Pharo – Pharo Cattle Company; Grady Grissom – Rancho Largo Cattle Company; and Steve Oswald – Oswald Grass Fed Beef, just to name a few!

These individuals are veterans in developing sustainable ranching systems and operations. Each has a unique story to share of how they operate their businesses; thinking outside of the box by applying grazing strategies and common sense solutions and building a livelihood with family involvement.



Other speakers include: Nick Trainor - Trainor Cattle Company; Jeff Tranel - CSU Extension Business Management Economist; Dean Anderson - retired Agriculture Research Service Scientist; and Dr. Frank Garry - CSU Extension Veterinarian.

The Colorado State Fair Grounds is a diverse venue that offers space to facilitate a variety of planned demonstrations such as: fencing, solar water, and mule packing.

Registration costs to include your choice of days and meals.

Come join the fun! Save the date! Learn from some of the best range/livestock owners and land managers Colorado has to offer in finding common ground with respect to grass...grazers...and family. Visit with the exhibitors and participate in the demonstrations!

For additional information contact:

Josh Saunders at 970.520.1936 or josh.saunders@co.usda.gov