

THE PLAINSMAN

SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT
NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS SECTION

SEPTEMBER 2006



President's Message

Lance Vermeire, NGP-SRM President

We are half way through the year, at least on the SRM meeting calendar, and it is a good time to review the state of the Section. In the March newsletter, I commented that we needed to focus on the quality of our services as a section rather than the number of members we could tally. The idea being that we must ensure current members are pleased with what section membership offers. Following the familiar, 'build it and they will come,' if the membership is happy, it is much easier to retain active members and justify recruitment of newcomers. Suggestions offered were to focus on three avenues of information exchange and interaction; the newsletter, website, and annual meeting. So, how are we progressing?

The quality of the newsletter and your steady submission of articles and items for publication are much appreciated. Keep them coming. I also want to thank Ann and Paul Nyren for updating the Section website. One of the web pages I think is very helpful is that listing the awards received by our members. I think we can all feel proud of our deserving awardees and the long list is a testament to the active efforts of Chuck McGlothlin and those nominating the award recipients. I know some of our members have received awards recently that are not posted on the website. Please help Ann and Paul by notifying them of these awards and sending them other timely information. We have what I believe is a very informative and useful symposium scheduled to coincide with our fall meeting. Five CEUs will be given for the symposium and tour.

Following are a preliminary **agenda for the business meeting, symposium schedule, and registration form**. Please contact me with any items you may have for the business agenda and register early to take advantage of the savings and help us plan for food and travel on the tour. The size and international borders of our section can complicate things, but if we are to function well as a section, I believe it is important that we see each other more than once each year. I think the symposium is not only a good "excuse" for us to interact and discuss our rangelands, but the topic should be of interest to a considerable audience. I encourage you to join us and bring someone with you. I hope to see you all in October.

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NGP Section Meeting Agenda Page 3

PLEASE VOTE!

Ballot on page 9

Who's Who?

Northern Great Plains Executive Committee

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Committee Chairs

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Membership – Bernadette Braun
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hendricj@mandan.ars.usda.gov

Awards – Chuck McGlothlin
16 Aspen Way
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(406) 633-2455
crmcg@tgrsolution.net

Student Activities – Bret Olson
Montana State University
Animal and Range Sciences Department
Bozeman, MT 59717
(406) 994-5571 fax: (406) 994-5589
bolson@montana.edu

Mark your calendars! Upcoming events:

ND Chapter Meeting, Oct 4-6, 2006, Aberdeen SD

NGP Section Meeting, Oct 11-12, 2006, Miles City, MT

Do you know of an upcoming event? Want to report on a past event? Do you have new information to share? Send information for **The Plainsman** to Elaine Grings at elaine@larl.ars.usda.gov.

The Plainsman is published 4 times per year. The deadline for the next issue is **November 27, 2006**. We welcome information on events, current projects, research results, extension activities, and items of general interest to the membership.

Northern Plains Section Fall Meeting
October 11-12, 2006
Miles City, MT



Wednesday, October 11 **Airport Inn**

- 6:30 Section business meeting
- Followed by no-host dinner and a talk,
- "How, why when and where? It Depends" - *Elaine Grings*

Thursday, October 12 **Fort Keogh Conference Room**

- 7:30 Registration
- 8:00 Proactive management in a drought, fire, and weed driven system – *Lance Vermeire*
- 8:15 Summer fire and grazing management effects in northern mixed prairie – *Lance Vermeire*
- 8:45 Variable effects of summer fire and post-fire grazing on grasshopper populations in a northern mixed-grass prairie – *David Branson*
- 9:15 Impact of burning, chemicals, and litter removal on Kentucky bluegrass invaded rangelands – *John Hendrickson*
- 9:45 Break
- 10:00 Fire effects on germination of four invasive species – *Matt Rinella*
- 10:30 The role of native plants in preventing weed invasions – *Matt Rinella*
- 11:00 Effects of leafy spurge on rumen bacterial ecology of cattle and sheep – *Richard Waterman*
- 11:30 Proactive drought management and risk reduction – *Rod Heitschmidt*
- 12:00 Lunch (Provided, burgers and chips)
- 1:00 Field Tour
- Rainout Shelter/fall irrigation study – *Rod Heitschmidt*
- Patch Burning – *Lance Vermeire*
- Seasonal Fire and Grazing of Brome – *Jen Muscha*
- 3:00 Return to Fort Keogh and adjourn

5 CEUs are available for attending the symposium and tour

Directions and Lodging

Airport Inn – 0.4 mi. north of the Yellowstone River on MT 59 / 7th Street
Fort Keogh – 1 mi. north of I-94 Exit 135, or 1 mi. west of town from Main Street

A number of hotels can be found on I-94 Exit 138.

REGISTRATION FORM
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Super 8 Motel
 US Highway 59
 406-234-5261

Budget Inn
 1006 S Haynes Ave
 406-874-3550

Best Western Inn
 1015 S Haynes Ave
 406-234-4560

Econo Lodge
 1209 S Haynes Ave
 406-232-8880

Motel 6
 1314 S Haynes Ave
 406-232-7040

Comfort Inn
 1615 Haynes Ave
 406-234-3661

Guesthouse Inn
 3111 Steele
 406-232-3661

Holiday Inn Express
 1720 Haynes Ave
 406-234-1000

Saskatchewan Environmental Farm Plan. What's in it for you?

By Shelanne Wiles Longley, EFP Program Coordinator, PCAB

Saskatchewan agriculture producers have long been stewards of the land. Now, the Canada-Saskatchewan Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) provides the opportunity to add to that. Through a series of two workshops (delivered by the Provincial Council of ADD Boards) and Peer Review process, producers identify potential environmental risks on their agriculture operations and then develop a management plan to reduce these risks. With over 850 workshops having been delivered and over 7000 producers participating, it is clearly being demonstrated that addressing environmental risk provides many benefits.

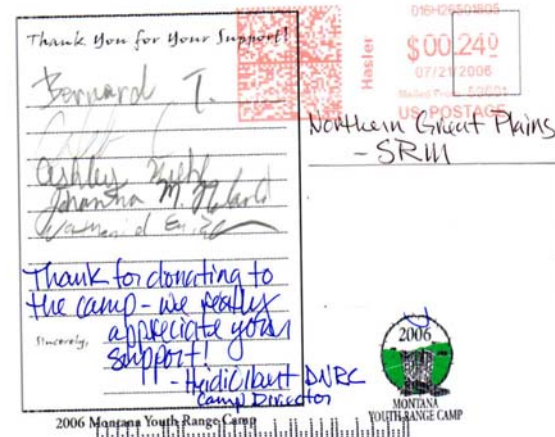
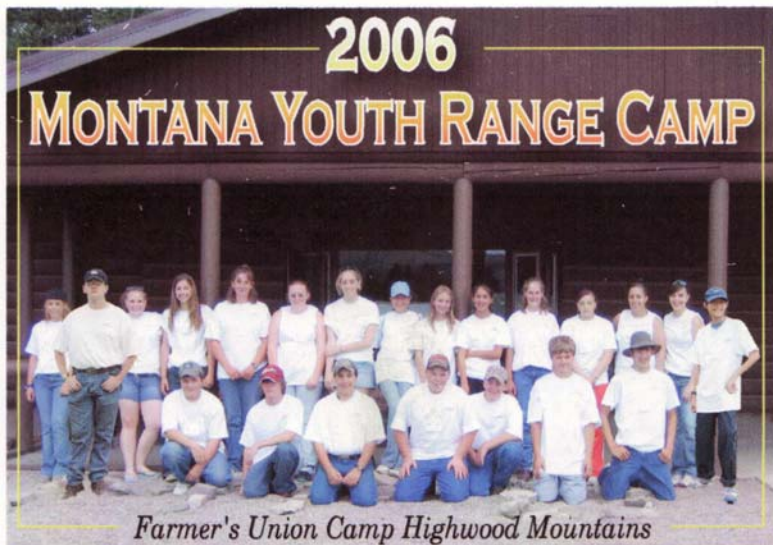
Upon the successful development and completion of an EFP, producers become eligible to apply for cost shared funding to implement what is referred to as "Beneficial Management Practices". Over thirty categories of eligible practices are accessible and approximately 20 million dollars is available for Saskatchewan until March 31, 2008.

But the funding is not all that entices Saskatchewan's producers to participate in a program of this sort. Farming and the environment go hand-in-hand. What one does always impacts the other. Agriculture is an industry that relies heavily on its surrounding environment, the slightest change in that environment can have large impacts on production. Therefore producers who manage for the environment are ultimately managing for success.

Environment is quickly making its way through the media stream, creating with it a perception of agriculture in the general public. Consumers are growing ever more concerned with the food that they eat, how it's being produced and its impact on the environment. With so many people moving to urban centres and becoming further removed from current agriculture practices, the general public is starting to look at agriculture as being "bad". Through the voluntary development of an EFP, producers are creating a level of reassurance that what they produce is being done in an environmentally conscious manner. This not only adds to the marketing value of what is being produced but will also start the process of generating a more positive image of agriculture – an appropriate image of agriculture being sustainable for the environment.

With so many environmental issues starting to come forth, the topic of environment is not something that is going to go away. Being aware of potential environmental risks and addressing them now, can only save producers time and money in the long-term.

For further information on the delivery of the Environmental Farm Plan in Saskatchewan, please visit our website at www.saskpcab.com or call the EFP Program Coordinator at (306) 955-5477.



**Chapter News:
North Dakota Chapter**

**Joint Annual Meeting of the SD and ND Chapters of
the Soil and Water Conservation Society and the Society for Range Management
and the Professional Soil Scientists Assn. of SD
Oct. 4-6, 2006, Aberdeen, SD
Ramada Inn, 2727 6th Ave. SE, 605-225-3600**

Integrated Land Uses of the Dakotas

Wed. Oct. 4 6:45 pm	For those arriving Wed. evening, meet in hotel lobby by southeast door; carpool to Dacotah Prairie Museum, 21 South Main, for tour from 7 – 8 pm. Social gathering at Historic Ward Hotel after tour.	4:30	Business Meetings of each organization
			SD SWCS Room A SD SRM Room B ND SWCS Room E ND SRM Room F PSSASD Poolside
Thurs. Oct. 5 9:00 – 9:30 am	Registration – Room C/G Coffee sponsored by The Nature Conservancy	6:30 pm	Cash bar Bring auction items into banquet room and fill out bidding slips
9:30	Welcome and Introductions Moderator: Arlene Brandt-Jenson Presidents of each chapter		
10:00 – 10:45	Composting for Erosion Control – Russell Persyn, Asst. Professor, SDSU	7:00 pm	Awards banquet – Room C/G Moderator: Lena Bohm Recognize Scholarship Winners and Award Winners SD SRM Range Managers of the Year ND SRM Range Managers of the Year Draw winning raffle tickets for Jon Crane print “Beyond the Canyon” and Beef Certificates – SD SWCS Scholarship Fundraiser Auction Auctioneer: Mike Bergh, Bergh Auctions, Florence, SD
10:45 – 11:30	Integration of Prescribed Fire, Patch-burn Grazing, and Grassbanking into Traditional Grazing Systems – Pete Bauman, Director of Community-Based Conservation, The Nature Conservancy, Clear Lake, SD		
11:30 – 11:50	Highlights of Activities of your organization: ND SRM and SD SRM		
11:50 – 12:40	Lunch on your own – use coupons for reduced prices at hotel restaurant Moderator: Beaver Bartelson	Fri. Oct. 6 8:00 am	Use coupons for free breakfast in hotel restaurant Moderator: Doug Farrand Meet in hotel lobby to carpool to Ordway Memorial Preserve – Tour led by Mary Miller, The Nature Conservancy Soils presentation by PSSASD
12:40 – 1:00	Highlights of Activities of your organization: ND SWCS and SD SWCS		
1:00 – 2:30	Carbon Sequestration/ Soil Carbon/ Soil Quality Dr. Don Reicosky, Soil Scientist, ARS, Morris, MN, Susan Samson-Liebig, Soil Quality Specialist, NRCS, Bismarck, ND, and Jim Millar, Soil Quality Specialist, NRCS, Huron, SD	12:00	Box Lunch Picnic in Wylie Park on NW edge of Aberdeen
2:30 – 3:00	Break	1:00 – 2:30	Tour Heartland Grain Fuels Ethanol Plant west of Aberdeen
3:00 – 3:45	Switchgrass as a Renewable Energy Source – Dr. Arvid Boe, Professor, SDSU	2:30	Drive safely home!
3:45 – 4:10	Capture More Raindrops Where They Fall – Gene Goven, Rancher, Turtle Lake, ND		
4:10 – 4:30	Resource Mgmt. on the Vollmer Angus Ranch – Troy Vollmer, Rancher, Wing, ND		

Please note: This form is for the ND Chapter meeting and SD Section meeting. Please use form on page 10 to register for the Northern Great Plains Section meeting.



**Joint Annual Meeting of the SD and ND Chapters of
the Soil and Water Conservation Society and the Society for Range Management
and the Professional Soil Scientists Assn. of SD
Oct. 4-6, 2006, Aberdeen, SD
Ramada Inn, 2727 6th Ave. SE, 605-225-3600**

REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s):				Phone Number(s):			
Address:				E-mail:			
Please indicate which organization(s) you are a member of*:				SDSRM:		SDSWCS:	
NDSRM:		NDSWCS:		PSSASD:		Other:	

Certified Crop Advisors Continuing Education Units (CEUs) have been requested for this conference.

Number Attending		Cost Per Person	Cost
	Early Registration – by Sept. 1 (Members)	\$40.00	
	Early Registration – by Sept. 1 (Non-members)	\$45.00	
	Late Registration – after Sept. 1 (Members)	\$45.00	
	Late Registration – after Sept. 1 (Non-members)	\$50.00	
	Student Registration	\$25.00	
Total Payment Enclosed			_____

*Members - include membership in SDSRM, SDSWCS, NDSRM, NDSWCS, and PSSASD.

I am planning on attending Ordway Prairie Tour Fri. am: Yes _____ No _____ (for box lunch count)

ACCOMMODATIONS: The Ramada Inn (605-225-3600) has reserved a block of rooms for our conference under the names “SRM” or “SWCS” at a rate of \$55.00 per night. This block will be held until Wed. Sept. 13. Registration includes refreshments during breaks, banquet on Thursday evening, lunch on Friday, and other conference expenses.

If you have questions, please contact one of the following planning committee members:

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Arlene Brandt-Jenson, SDSWCS, 605-886-0289 | Lena Bohm, NDSWCS, 701-228-3611 |
| Doug Farrand, SDSWCS, 605-229-5430 | Lee Voigt, NDSRM, 701-252-1460 |
| Beaver Bartelson, SDSRM, 701-388-4146 | Roger Assmus, PSSASD, 605-224-0087 |

Please make checks payable to SDSWCS and send all registrations to:

Yvonne Haefner
P.O. Box 481
Murdo, SD 57559



Prairie Winds:

(Section members may submit to this column, publication of materials is subject to review for grammar, length, appropriateness, etc.)

Unlearning – By Elaine Grings, Newsletter Editor

A difficult part of teaching new concepts to adults is what I have come to call the process of “unlearning”. I define this as the need to adjust some fact from being the truth to being untrue or, more often, only true part of the time. As we continue to further our understanding of biological systems, we learn more about when concepts apply and when they don’t. When they don’t, we may have to unlearn what we thought to be true.

Unlearning is not always a part of adopting new technologies. Sometimes we may only have to learn some new process, to build onto the foundation we already have. These technologies seem much more successful in their adaptation than those that require unlearning. For example, I’m old enough to have prepared most of my college papers on a typewriter. I’m now fairly good at using a computer. This was not a difficult process to learn. I had to learn some new things about how to format a disk and a few tricks about saving files, but did not have to ‘unlearn’ anything to adapt to this new technology. The keyboard remained the same QWERTY arrangement found on my old typewriter. What if they had rearranged the keyboard so that every typist had to unlearn what they already knew and start over? Would everyone be as willing to try?

We’ve all spent years in school being taught and tested on facts and figures. This results in a foundation of knowledge that we carry through life. During our years in school we crammed for tests and agonized over grades. Usually test questions had only one answer and were graded either right or wrong. We were chastised when we were wrong. This makes the idea of unlearning hard to except. We don’t want to be ridiculed for being wrong.

Once in awhile someone comes along and questions accepted facts. They rattle them up a bit to see how well they hold together. They shake the foundation of knowledge to see how firm it is. Sometimes it crumbles to the ground like an old building caught in an earthquake. New information is rarely so earth-shattering that the whole foundation crumbles, but it’s not unusual to find a few new cracks in the walls, creating a need to unlearn some facts. Unlearning can be especially difficult because we may not only have to unlearn what we knew and then learn a new task or theory, but it can also affect our value system.

We may conduct business or an agricultural practice in a certain way because we were taught it was the correct way. It was part of our foundation of understanding. We worry that if we change the practice, it will shake that foundation and make cracks in our walls of knowledge. We worry about the fact that we were taught the ‘truth’ and if we don’t follow what we’ve learned we will get a failing grade. We worry that we will be wrong.

At one time, the complete removal of sagebrush from an area was looked upon by many as a good practice. Removal of sagebrush allowed for increased forage production for livestock. We now have a better understanding of the biology of rangeland systems and know that sagebrush has positive impacts on birds and wildlife species. We have unlearned some facts about the value of sagebrush removal, including the idea that all removal was good. Our change in attitude toward sagebrush may be, in part, due to a change in value systems, but the change in values may have come about from an increased understanding of the whole system. Another example may be found in theories about ecological states. The concept of state and transition models may have caused us to unlearn some of our ideas about plant succession. Vegetation that has moved to another state may not be able to return to its previous state simply by altering management intended to improve “condition”.

How do we successfully teach others when the process involves changing our base of knowledge, our foundation? We need to help people know that unlearning is a natural process of knowledge evolution and to overcome their fear of being wrong. We need to be sensitive to the fact that new information may create a crack in a wall that takes some time to patch. We perhaps need to help individuals understand that we are not trying to tell them they are wrong, but they that they need to travel a little further with us down the path of learning. It may be time to say ‘What you did was right for the time. You were using sound judgment based on facts available at the time. But, we’ve come a long way, baby. Our knowledge base has grown and its time to shift our practices and base them on facts as we know them now.’”

NGP-SRM Section Candidate Bios

Candidates for President –Elect:

Keith Bartholomay

Keith Bartholomay holds a BS in Ag-production (Range Science) from Montana State University (1976) and an AS in forestry from NDSU Bottineau Branch (1973). He presently farms and ranches with his brother at Sheldon, ND. The operation runs cow calf pairs on mostly private pasture with one small National Grassland permit. Calves are backgrounded and are usually finished through retained ownership. Crops raised include alfalfa, corn, wheat, and sunflowers. He worked for the BLM in Dillon, MT as a range conservationist (1978-1982) and as a wild horse specialist in Elko, NV(1976-1978). Keith has been a member of SRM since 1978 and is currently a

sustaining life member. He presently serves as SRM's representative on the National Steering Committee on Grazinglands Conservation Initiative(GLCI). He has been Co-Chairman of the SRM GLCI task Force, President of the North Dakota Chapter, Director of the Northern Great Plains, Chapter historian and has served various section and chapter committees including CRP, Public Affairs, and annual tour. Other related activities include being Supervisor for Ransom County Soil Conservation District (1978 to Present); Past Chairman, State Soil Conservation Committee; Past director, North Dakota Stockmen; Served on the advisory board for the Central Grasslands Range Experiment Station at Streeter

Edward “Shawn” DeKeyser, PhD

I am originally from southwestern Kansas. I moved to Jamestown, ND in 1989 on a basketball scholarship. After graduating from Jamestown College I moved to Fargo, ND where I started attending North Dakota State University. I received a M.S. degree from NDSU's Department of Animal and Range Sciences in 1995 after completing a floristic inventory as well as plant community descriptions as part of an EIS for the North Dakota National Guard. I worked for a couple of years within the ecological research field, most notably for the USGS's Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center as the head botanist for a wetland assessment project. Subsequently I came back to NDSU and received a PhD in the Department of Animal and Range Sciences after developing a vegetative Prairie Pothole wetland assessment technique for the North Dakota Department of Health, Division of Water Quality.

I continue developing wetland assessment techniques for the Northern Great Plains, which include the incorporation of landscape assessment with the utilization of remotely sensed imagery and rapid assessment techniques. Also, a probabilistic sample design to apply the techniques developed to get an accurate estimation of current wetland condition within the state of North Dakota. I am also working on a grassland management plan for the National Park Service. Other research efforts I have participated with include: mined land reclamation, effects of drought, and invasive species management.

I currently teach three range courses at North Dakota State University: Introduction to Range Management, Grazing Ecology, and Range Habitat Management. I also am the coach for NDSU's Range Club, who participates on the Undergraduated Range Management Exam (URME) every year at the Society of Range Management's International conference. I can proudly say the team placed 5th overall last year, with two students placing in the top 10.

Candidates for Director from Prairie Parkland (2 positions):

Janice Bruynooghe

Janice Bruynooghe was raised on her family's ranching operation in central Saskatchewan and followed her informal training in "cows and grass" with time at the University of Saskatchewan earning Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and Master of Science degrees focusing on animal science, grazing management and forage production systems. Her past employment includes the Western Beef Development Centre in the position of Forage & Beef Specialist and working as an instructor within the College of Agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan. Currently, Janice is employed as Executive Director for the Saskatchewan Forage Council while also working on independent projects involving grazing management and forage extension activities. She has been a member of the Society for Range Management since 1995. Janice, her husband, and three year old son live on the ranch near Outlook, Saskatchewan where they juggle a custom grazing operation, career goals, and most importantly, the finer things in life like green grass, a kid trying to rope the cat and dog on a daily basis, and the challenges that life will inevitably throw your way!

(continued on page 9)

Candidates for Director from Prairie Parkland (2 positions):
(continued from page 8)

Bill Houston

Bill Houston is currently the Manager of the Range and Biodiversity Division for the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Bill started working for PFRA in 1991 as summer student, then as a Rangeland Conservationist in 1993, before taking on the Manager's role in 2002. He holds a B.Sc. in Agriculture from the University of Saskatchewan (1993) and a M.Sc. in Plant Sciences from the University of Saskatchewan (2000). Bill has been a member of SRM since the early 1990's. He has been active in the Prairie Parkland Chapter executive and served as Newsletter Editor and Director of Youth Activities. Bill helped initiate and develop the U of S Range Team and coached the team in 1996 and 1997.

Statement:

I believe that SRM has a strong history and continues to have an important role to play in the management of rangelands. I support all of SRM's objectives and I am especially interested in improving communication amongst SRM members across political boundaries, whether that is provincial, state or international boundaries. I think there are large benefits to getting "range people" together to share information. The Northern Great Plains Section fosters communication across political boundaries and if I was elected as a Director I would strive to support and strengthen that communication.

Michael P. Schellenberg, PhD PAg CPRM

I am honored to have been asked to let my name stand for nomination for the position of director of the Northern Great Plains Section of the Society for Range Management representing the Prairie Parkland Chapter. The changes being implemented by the Society for the future of the organization will mean challenges for the sections. I believe I can make a valuable contribution to the process if elected. I have been an active member of the Society for Range Management since 1988. I have had the pleasurable experience of being on the Prairie Parkland Chapter executive as a secretary/treasurer from 1992 - 1993. I have served as a director for the Northern Great Plains section 1997-1998, and 2000. I also was an active member of the International Affairs Committee (1999-2000) and co-chair of the Professional Issues Symposium at the AGM in Kona, Hawaii during my term on the committee. I have received training from the University of Waterloo (BSc), the University of Alberta (MSc) and the University of Saskatchewan (PhD). I have been employed with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada since 1984 and presently conduct range and plant ecology research at the Semiarid Prairie Agricultural Research Centre located in Swift Current, Saskatchewan. I am a licensed professional agrologist and certified professional in rangeland management. I thank you for your consideration.

Ballot for NGP-SRM

Prairie Parkland Director (2 positions, vote for 2)

_____ Janice Bruynooghe

_____ Bill Houston

_____ Mike Schellenberg

President-Elect (vote for 1)

_____ Keith Bartholomay

_____ Edward DeKeyser

Please return by email, fax, or regular mail by **October 1, 2006** to

Jennifer Muscha
 1108 S. Moorehead Ave.
 Miles City, MT 59301
 FAX: (406)874-8289

Northern Great Plains – Society for Range Management Fall Meeting and Proactive Management of Fire, Weeds, and Drought Symposium

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Affiliation/Occupation _____

City _____

State/Prov _____

Number Attending _____

Registration By October 2 \$25.00

After October 2 \$35.00

Total Enclosed _____

Please make checks payable to SRM-NGP Section

Mail registration to: Lance Vermeire
2120 Wilson
Miles City, MT 59301

