

THE PLAINSMAN

SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT
NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS SECTION
November 2012



Greetings from your Section President

I am Mark Petersen and serve as the research leader at the USDA-ARS Fort Keogh Livestock & Range Research Laboratory, Miles City, MT. My background is range livestock nutrition, and I have worked in that capacity in Wyoming, New Mexico and Montana. It has been my pleasure to serve as your president and to have planned a meeting in December that will be worth your time and travel costs to attend.

In addition we also hope everyone has survived the dry summer and received some relief with timely fall moisture. The last 16 months have been quite dry in eastern Montana. The lack of moisture led to a severe fire season. Over 400,000 acres burned in our area, and ranchers were severely impacted. These fires have resulted in loss of range forage, hay stack yards, fences, cattle, and buildings, as well as, the disruption of lives and businesses.

With the wildfires in mind, we decided to change the planned focus of the educational portion of this meeting. Last February in Spokane the group decided to sponsor an educational event concerning management of rangeland disturbed by energy development. Due to the enormity of the fires we thought a fire recovery symposium could be useful for the people impacted and also help create a venue to facilitate communication among various groups dealing with fire aftermath.

To attend, there is a block of rooms reserved at the Sleep Inn in Miles City where the Symposium will be held. Make your reservations early, call 406 232 3000. On pages 6 and 7 of this newsletter, you can see the meeting schedule. We hope you can all attend. Our program will be very interesting with a mix of speakers including ranchers currently affected by the fires, ranchers who experienced fire in the last 10 years, agency personnel to discuss the decision process used to implement policy, and academia to discuss results of original research. We hope you will attend to participate in this unique conference.

Our Section meeting will be held in the evening of December 5.

What's Inside?

Message from the president
Who's Who?
North Dakota Chapter Activities
Technology News - Mike Brand
Election of officers
Section Meeting - Miles City
Calendar of events

Who's Who?

Northern Great Plains Executive Committee

President - Mark Petersen

243 Fort Keogh Road
Miles City, MT 59301
mark.petersen@ars.usda.gov

Past President - Lee Voigt

USDA - NRCS
1301 Business Loop East, Suite 1
Jamestown, ND 58401
lee.voigt@nd.usda.gov

President Elect - Darcy Henderson

Canadian Wildlife Service
Environment Canada
115 Perimeter Road
Saskatoon, SK S7N 0X4
darcy.henderson@ec.gc.ca

Director (2011-2012) - Mae Elsinger

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
Agri-Environment Services
Box 1000B, R.R. 3
Brandon, MB R7A 5Y3
mae.elsinger@agr.gc.ca

Director (2011-2012) - Jack Norland

NDSU DEPT 7650
PO Box 6050
Fargo, ND 58108-6050
jack.norland@ndsu.edu

Director (2012-2013) - Jen Obrigewitch

315 3rd Ave Sw
Dickinson, ND 58601
jen.obrigewitch@dickinsonstate.edu

Director (2012-2013) - Rebecca Wolenetz

1052 Old Baker Hwy.
Baker, MT 59313-9702
Rebecca.wolenetz@mt.usda.gov

North Dakota Chapter President - Jonathan Fettig

USDA-NRCS
111 2nd Ave. NW, Box 920
Bowman, ND 58623-0920
Jonathon.fettig@nd.usda.gov

Prairie Parkland Chapter President - Renny Grilz

Box 382
Aberdeen, Saskatchewan
S0K 0A0
Renny.Grilz@natureconservancy.ca

Secretary/Treasurer - Jen Muscha

243 Fort Keogh Road
Miles City, MT 59301
Jennifer.Muscha@ars.usda.gov

Committee Chairs

News Letter Editor - Marshall Haferkamp

136 Sam Leo Road
Miles City, MT 59301
gwenmrh@midrivers.com

Historian - Currently Vacant

Membership - Niki Dahl

4651 107th Ave SW
Dickinson, ND 58601-9523
buckdahl@ndsupernet.com

Nominations - Three past presidents

Lee Voigt-Past President

Mike Schellenberg
AAFC-SPARC
P.O. Box 1030
Swift Current, SK S9H 3X2
Mike.schellenberg@agr.gc.ca

Sandra Brown

Prairie County Cooperative State Grazing District
P.O. Box 622
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Sandra.brown@mt.nacdnet.net

Awards - Kim Haile

Miles Community College
Miles City, MT 59301
HaileK@milescc.edu

Student Activities - Jody Mason

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Kinsey, MT 59338
jody_mason@blm.gov

North Dakota Chapter Activities

North Dakota Chapter
Northern Great Plains Section
Society for Range Management

Annual Business Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2012

Mandan, ND

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by President Ben Geaumont at the Seven Seas in Mandan.

Secretary/Treasurer Report: Jen Obrigewitch read the 2011 minutes. Toby Stroh moved that the minutes were approved as read. Bob Patten seconded the motion and it passed. The 2012 financial statements for the chapter accounts are as follows.

Chapter Accounts

Checking Account Balance (Oct. 6, 2011) \$1746.36

Checking Account Balance (Oct 25, 2012) \$1230.26

Certificate of Deposit (Oct. 6, 2011) \$2395.66

Certificate of Deposit (Oct 25, 2012) \$2411.43

Range Youth Account (Oct. 6, 2011) \$1791.18

Range Youth Account (Oct. 25, 2012) \$1261.99

Bob Patten moved and Sarah Flath seconded to approve treasurer's report. Passed.

Membership Committee: There was no report. We think Nikki Dahl is chair, but are not sure and need to check.

History Committee: No report. We are not sure who took this over after Kirby left. Possibly Keith Bartholomay was the replacement. There was a short discussion on the need for a history committee.

Environmental Impact Committee: Mike Brand said there was nothing to report as we had not been asked to comment on anything in the past year.

Youth Committee: Kevin Sedivec reported that in this 37th year of youth range camp, they had 17 campers (all-time low), but it was a good quality camp and next year it will be moved further from the FFA convention dates which may have affected attendance this year. They didn't lose money for the first time in a while, mostly due to sponsors.

State Range judging was in September in Gackle with 68 contestants.

Next year the high school Envirothon Contest will focus on Range.

Kevin also took an FFA team to plant ID contest in OKC this year.

Awards: Once again, we didn't nominate anyone for a chapter award. Jon Fettig would like to nominate Rob Brooks this year. Jack Dahl had mentioned two possible producer candidates last year and Corie Lund mentioned Kelly Krabbenhoft as a consultant candidate. We can contact Kim Haile for how to proceed with nominees through the section.

Jeff Printz said he could send an electronic copy of the nomination form to Jon.

Jen said she would check with Jack Dahl and see if he was still interested in nominating a rancher and with Corie to see if she still wanted to nominate Kelly.

Section Report: No Report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Adult Range Camp: The adult range camp committee consists of Jen Obrigewitch, Kevin Sedivec, Jeff Printz, and Cheryl Doll. Jeff will check and see if Josh Dukart will be the liaison with GLCI and if they might want to partner with us. Original plans were to have DSU host the camp in late August (start of school). It could be offered for college credit if students desire. Motel room availability is much less of a concern in Dickinson now, than it was a year ago. Shelly Doyle in Mandan may have info from camps of years past. Jen will check. Jen moved that Jon Fettig check with SCD's at their upcoming convention to see if they would want to sponsor adult range camp. Miranda seconded. Committee will proceed with planning through emails.

NEW BUSINESS:

Suggestion of putting together something to honor Paul and Ann Nyren for their years with SRM and contribution to range was discussed. Toby moved and Jeff seconded to buy a framed plant mount from Janet Patten as a gift. Jeff can get a small engraving to mount on the frame. The Chapter will pay and it can be presented at the Central Grasslands Field Day in June.

ND Chapter website. We don't maintain one and don't feel it's necessary because we can post and link information to the NGP section website.

Jon and Ben indicated they would like to see members/chapter be more active during the year. Kevin suggested sponsoring more educational workshops and if we had the money, possibly host our own. More educational meetings are desired by the entire group.

Reasons for declining membership were identified as NRCS losing money to send employees and most of the USFS employees have lost interest, not sure why. We would like to try and pull range forum members into SRM. Mike doesn't want to give out email list but will gladly share information with the list if you send info to him.

Ideas for next year's Chapter meeting include having a day or afternoon of speakers, then an evening business meeting, then a half or whole day field tour the next day. Having the meeting in a facility that allows alcohol was favored by several. A possible tour of the ranch of the recipient of Range Manager of the Year award and presentation of the award at the tour would be a possible field option. If we need to we could charge a fee for attending the tour/speakers.

Jen thinks the meeting needs to be planned and advertised much earlier for better attendance.

A Workshop on Indicators of Range Health is in the early planning stages for mid-late August 2013. Jeff and Toby are working on this project geared toward students and ranchers. Aug 11-16 is likely the week. We could possibly have an SRM meeting in conjunction with this project.

Kevin is doing paperwork for nominating Chris Schauer for young professional's award.

It was mentioned that Miles City will have a Section Meeting Dec. 5th with fire as an educational topic.

Grass Fed Exchange will also meet Aug 20-22, 2013 in Bismarck.

Election of 2012 Officers:

Kevin nominated Miranda Meehan for President Elect. Sarah Flath seconded and Jeff moved that a unanimous ballot be cast for Miranda. Motion passed.

Bernadette nominated Jennifer Obrigewitch for Secretary/Treasurer. Kevin seconded and moved to cast a unanimous ballot for Jennifer, Motion passed.

Bob moved to adjourn and Kevin seconded.

We had a crazy auction which was enjoyed by all and netted \$132.

Technology News - Mike Brand

The landscape has changed in the world of digital cameras used during rangeland management activities. Digital cameras were a major advance in our ability to capture information during projects and inspection work but they did not get rid of the tedious chore of recording the location of each photograph on forms or perhaps on the almost universal pocket note book. Who hasn't decided to take a short cut at the end of the day hoping to remember where the last few pictures were taken only to forget. All pictures of grass look pretty much the same a week after they are taken. Now there is a better alternative. Most camera manufacturers offer ruggedized digital cameras with built in GPS, compass and date/time downloaded automatically from satellites. Ruggedized cameras have dropped in price during the past 12 months and provide high quality images. The digital images also contain the GPS location, the direction you are facing, the time taken and the date taken.

These pocket sized cameras are also water proof, dust proof and can be cropped out of a pickup without damage. All of these features are easy to use and view on Picasa by Google (available as a free download). This merging of GPS, with digital cameras in a rugged case at a reasonable price is great advancement in a range management tool that nearly everyone uses.

Election of Officers

At the bottom of this paragraph is a link to introduce the candidates to you and allow you to vote for candidates for offices in the Northern Great Plains Section - Society for Range Management. Please exercise your right to vote. You will need to vote for one for ND president elect and vote for two for PP directors.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NMKR95V>

Northern Great Plains Section Meeting and Symposium

Recovery after Wildfire Symposium

December 5th and 6th,

Sleep Inn, Miles City, MT

December 5th, 2012

9:30 History of fire in the Northern Great Plains

Speaker – Morgan Russell, PhD candidate, North Dakota State University

10:05 Statistics of the fire season this year in eastern Montana

Speaker – Eric Lepisto- Fire Management Officer – Bureau of Land Management

10:40-12:00 Producer concerns after wildfire

Speakers – Brad Sauer, Miles City, MT
Doug McRae, Rosebud, MT
Curt Terrett, Ashland, MT

12:00 Lunch – catered Rib and Chop House

1:15 – Burned Area Emergency Response Report (BAER) - Description of Federal agency assessment of fire impacts and the multiple dimensions and management indicators involved

Speaker - Kim Reid – Range Program Leader US Forest Service

1:45 – 2:05 - NRCS Wildfire Recovery Assistance on Private Land

Speaker - Robert Kilian– Area Rangeland Management Specialist, Miles City NRCS

2:05-3:00 - Agency panel Question/Answer session – BLM, Forest Service, NRCS

3:00 Break

3:15-3:45 Canadian policy on post fire management

Speaker – Kevin France – Provincial Grassland Specialist, Lethbridge, Alberta

3:45 Producer experience with fire that happened 6-10 years ago

Speakers - Jeff Okerman, Miles City, MT
George Hammond, Busby, MT

5:00 Social hour

6:30 Northern Great Plains Section Meeting – Town and Country Club

December 6th, 2012

7:30 coffee

8:00 Fire research on Fort Keogh - Lance Vermeire USDA-ARS

8:45 Erosion and Water Yield – Clayton Marlow – Montana State University

9:30 Forest Management in Southeast Montana – Chris Pileski – DNRC

10:05 Break

10:15 Revegetation options after wildfire and prevention of weed invasions – Joe Scianna, USDA-NRCS
Bridger Plant Materials Center

11:00 Prescribed burning in cooperation with landowners to improve rangeland health and reduce
wildfire risk

Speaker – Scott McAvoy – Miles City Bureau of Land Management

11:30 Producer experience with prescribed burning - Curt Terrett, Ashland, MT

12:00 Closing – Mark Petersen



The logo for the Society for Range Management (SRM) consists of the letters 'SRM' in a bold, green, sans-serif font, enclosed within a thin green rectangular border.

SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT

NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS SECTION

Recovery After Wildfire Symposium

December 5th starting at 9 a.m. through noon on December 6th
Sleep Inn Hotel, Miles City, MT

Representatives from the Miles City BLM and NRCS offices and U.S. Forest Service will discuss the 2012 fire season, including fire behavior and suppression tactics as well as agency recommendations associated with post-wildfire grazing on federal land. Ranchers affected by the 2012 wildfires will share concerns regarding wildfire impacts from a producer's standpoint. Invited ranchers from eastern Montana will also talk about previous wildfire experience and grazing management implementation following wildfire. The BLM will also discuss their prescribed burning program to reduce wildfire risk and improve rangeland health. Other topics will include current fire science research conducted at Fort Keogh Livestock and Range Research Laboratory, water and soil erosion impacts following fire presented by Montana State University, revegetation options and weed prevention following wildfire by the USDA-NRCS Bridger Plant Materials Center and Forest Management in eastern Montana presented by the DNRC.

Cost to attend is \$10.00 per person which will include a catered lunch from the Rib & Chop House on December 5th.

The Sleep Inn Hotel will have rooms blocked for December 4 & 5, and will hold them until November 19th for \$77.00/night/room.

Rooms may still be available after November 19, but are subject to differing room rates.

Call 406-232-3000 to reserve your room.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO RSVP:

Jennifer Muscha

Secretary Northern Great Plains Section

Society for Range Management

Phone: 406-874-8223

Email: Jennifer.Muscha@ars.usda.gov



Calendar of Events

5-6 December 2012 - Northern Great Plains Section Meeting and Symposium on Recovery after Wildfire, will be held in Miles City, MT. See agenda and brochure in this news letter.

3-7 February 2013 - 66th Annual Meeting and Trade Show - SRM, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma - Native America Native Rangelands