



Arizona Section Newsletter

JUNE 2015



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President's Message:

Happy June! Tucson has been treated to some beautiful sunsets lately – hopefully great summer rains will follow.



There are a few updates to mention - We continue patiently to wait for a determination on the status of the AZSRM Section request for tax exempt status as a 501(c)(3) organization. All of the necessary paper work has been submitted, and we hope to hear soon. Tierra Seca (U of A's SRM student chapter) recently held elections and a new president and vice president were selected. Congratulations to President Leland Sutter and Vice President Rachel Turner.



The next AZSRM Board of Director's meeting will be held June 26, 2015. If there are new ideas or issues that you would like to address please bring them to the attention of any of the section officers.

By now many of you have heard that the 52nd Annual Natural Resource Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth will not be held this year. The decision to cancel NRCWAY this year was based on the low number of students that would be attending (17, including counselors). I appeal to all to think of new ways to recruit students to attend the camp and sponsors to support the camp. Sending flyers to schools just is not an effective mechanism for recruiting students. In the past, personal contacts and outreach from NRCs were very effective in generating student interest and participation. Please give this problem some thought, and let's plan to discuss this serious issue at the upcoming

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AZSRM SUMMER MEETING: "Many Uses of Public Lands"

Eagle Ridge Campground, Lynx Lake, Prescott National Forest Service

August 5 – 7, 2015

Agenda: *(tentative)*

Grazing Systems (short-duration, dormant season, yearlong) Field Tour on Thursday

Wildlife Habitat Management: Pronghorn

Management Implications Surrounding the Verde River

Cultural Resources: Why Surveys are Required on Public Lands

Grazing and Recreation: Can They Coexist?

Board of Directors*President**Mary Nichols**Mary.nichols@ars.usda.gov**President-Elect**Christine Thiel**cathiel@fs.fed.us**Past President**Willie Sommers**wsommers@azland.gov**Vice President**James Heitholt**jheitholt@fs.fed.us**Secretary/Treasurer**Ashley Shepherd**AshleyS3@email.arizona.edu**Director North**Joelle Acton**jwalker6@email.arizona.edu**Director North**Chris Bernau**cbernaa@email.arizona.edu**Director South**John Hall**jahall@blm.gov**Director South**Kelsey Hawkes**khawkes@email.arizona.edu**U of A Student President**Emily Pecilunas**epecilunas@email.arizona.edu**ASU Student President**Matt Kilford**mkilford@asu.edu***President's Message...continued**

summer meeting August 5-7 in Prescott.

On a more positive note, our President-Elect Chris Thiel is busy planning the 2015 Arizona Section SRM summer meeting that will be held from Wednesday, Aug. 5th through Friday, Aug. 7th in beautiful Prescott, AZ. Please save the dates and plan to attend. The meeting will be preceded by an August 5 afternoon workshop focusing on drought and weather conducted by Arizona Cooperative Extension. Thank you Chris Bernau and Joelle Walker for putting together the 2015 Director North Spring Field Tour of the Cane Springs Ranch near Kingman. Be sure to keep reading for more details on these AZSRM events.

Lastly – please give some thought to volunteering to serve as an AZSRM Section officer. The past couple of years have seen vacancies that were filled outside of the traditional leadership progression that is designed to maintain continuity across years. If you are interested in volunteering, I encourage you to contact any of the past or current officers for details on duties and rewards (by the way, the rewards far outweigh the duties). As an all-volunteer organization, AZSRM relies on volunteers!

Mary Nichols

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**January 2015**

Gerald Berthelette - Tucson, AZ
 John Bradford - Flagstaff, AZ
 Benjamin Crew - Albany, OR
 Dan D. Crowley - Peach Springs, AZ
 Amber Dalke - Tucson, AZ
 James Heitholt - Hereford, AZ
 Mariano Hernandez - Tucson, AZ
 Christopher Higginbotham - Higley, AZ
 Terry Hunt Crowley - Peach Springs, AZ
 Mary Miller - Tucson, AZ
 Chandler Mundy - Phoenix, AZ
 Sarah Noelle - Tucson, AZ
 Lisa Page - Camp Verde, AZ
 Christina Pearson - Tucson, AZ
 Guillermo Ponce-Campos - Tucson, AZ

February 2015

Mary D'Aversa - Scottsdale, AZ
 Thomas Thode - Yuma, AZ

April 2015

Glenn A Seaberg - Salmon, Id

May 2015

Charles Bigando - Safford, AZ



Director North Report

Hi Everyone. I'm Christopher Bernau, the Director North with Joelle Acton. First I'd like to take a moment to thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to be Director North. It has been fun, with lots to do and much to plan. We've already had our Director North Spring Field tour and are now working towards our summer meeting in Prescott. That 2015 Director North Spring Tour was on Friday May 8th and was a great success. We had it at Anita Waite's Cane Springs Ranch; located along state highway 93, south of I-40 a few good miles. The day was windy and slightly overcast; so a beautiful day for a field tour. The vegetation was mostly desert grassland with encroaching junipers at the higher elevations.



Chris Lowman of the Arizona State Land Department talked about the history of management before Anita bought it. Like a lot of Arizona, much of the land was heavily and continuously grazed until the 1934 Taylor Grazing act. After that the landscape saw management changes that included an increasing number of fences, segmenting large pastures into several smaller pastures, and various rangeland improvements. The general grazing strategy changed over time, but seemed to include some rotation, with the mountainous pastures mostly continuously grazed due to the difficulty of moving animals in and out of that terrain.

Anita talked about her management of the ranch and the changes she has made over the years. Much of that was more water, putting in deeper wells, and maintaining a rotational grazing system. One interesting management technique is that the cows are herded by helicopter in those difficult mountainous areas. It seems a helicopter can get over 90% of the cows out of the pasture in a single day when it takes several cowboys over a week to do it manually; so it is cost effective.



We visited three key areas where Mike Blanton of the Kingman BLM office described the monitoring program and the changes in vegetation on the ranch under different management techniques. Since Anita there has been a steady upward trend in vegetation, with both an increase in density of grasses and forbs as well as an increase in plant diversity. This improvement has been recognized and Anita has been the recipient of several rangeland management awards including the 2008 Range Manager of the Year award from the AZSRM.

That's the gist of the field tour. We had 18 people show up representing a wide variety of backgrounds such as the BLM, BIA, UofA, AZGFD, Arizona State Land Department, Diablo Trust, Ranchers, and others; including the national Society for Range Management's very own Vice President, Dr. Larry Howery! We even had all the AZSRM Directors present for a great group photo. We were all very excited about this field tour, but John Hall was especially drawn to it.



Director Photo: (Left to right) Christopher Bernau, Joelle Acton, John Hall, and Kelsey Hawkes.

Award Nominees



SECTION AWARDS TIME!



It is time to start considering and penciling down all those people who give *Outstanding Service*, who are exceptionally *Young and Professional*, and provide *Outstanding Professional and Technical Guidance*. Also, who could leave out an opportunity to nominate a commendable Range Manager for our 2015 *Range Manager of the Year*. Remember, just because this award is presented at our 2015/16 meeting, their outstanding actions can span recent years. Just think, it is always nice to receive compliments for a good job well done. Don't fret; not all nominees have to be Society members! For **Outstanding Service**, that person must make significant advances and contributions to the art and science of range management in Arizona. This person should be pretty outstanding!

A **Young Professional** award nominee must be *under 40 years of age*, who *contribute to betterment of range management* throughout Arizona. Someone who works with 4H, or helps coordinate weed pulling events, or are asked to speak at a meeting. Any number of contributions would make a great nominee. Do you know a new young rancher or farmer who is ecologically minded, or a local 4H'er who has gone to Nationals, or a student who is a president of a local college chapter? Let's promote our young professionals. Someone who is nominated for a **Professional and Technical** award can't be a rancher, or manager (save those people for our Range Manager award) but other individuals that are actively engaged in a professional field dealing with range management such as teaching, research, advice and counseling, technical assistance, or providing information via print or electronic media. These people are often behind the scenes, and need encouragement like everyone else.

A **Range Manager of the Year** is a rancher or manager of a livestock operation that contributes to the art and science of range management (sense a theme). Do you know someone that is testing new or unusual methods, provides leadership, and worthy of special merit? If so, nominate these individuals. Over the last year, drought has become a talking point among Arizonians. Do you know anyone who is planning for the drought or taking charge of a group to discuss this issue?

Just take one day, and think about those you enjoy interacting with, someone who you feel confident in, or enjoying having a cup of coffee with. What about those individuals make you feel good, I bet those are the types of people who should nominate. Arizona is a big state and there are endless opportunities. Send them my way!

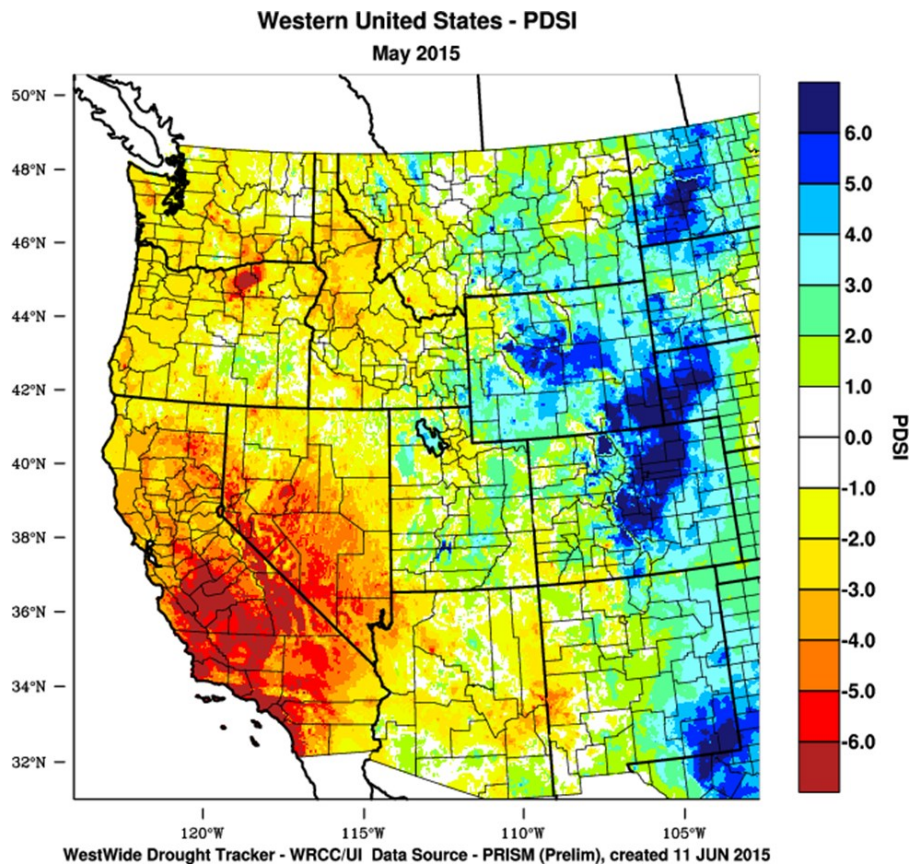
Of course there are more to these short descriptions, so contact me and start the nomination process for a worthy individual. Once you have nomination forms, fill them out in entirety, sleep on it (literally) and add to it later. These nomination forms are the life blood of our committee.

Send your nominations to Jamie Wages at ajwages@fs.fed.us or call 928-402-6222. **Deadline is August 30th 2015.**

Pre AZSRM Summer Meeting workshop announcement:

What drought/weather related tools are available on the internet and how do I use them?

On Wednesday August 5, 2015, just prior to the AZSRM Summer Meeting in Prescott, an afternoon workshop will be conducted by Arizona Cooperative Extension personnel addressing drought and weather tools. Doug Tolleson and Extension Climatologist Mike Crimmins will demonstrate web-based tools and information sites such as Drought View and the Westwide Drought Tracker including information on how these tools can be applied in practical drought management situations. The workshop site is to be determined so stay tuned for more information.

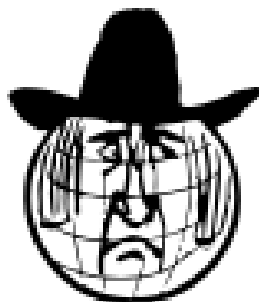


Prescott Happenings *In case you want to bring the family and stay the weekend!*

65th Annual Summer Festival of Fine Arts and Crafts Yavapai County Courthouse Aug 8-9

28th Annual Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering Aug 6-8

Other recreation opportunities in the Prescott National Forest.



Calendar of Events

- July 23 - 25 Arizona Cattlemen’s Association 111th Annual Meeting, Tucson
- August 5 Pre AZSRM Summer Meeting workshop - What drought/weather related tools are available on the internet and how do I use them?
- August 5-7 AZSRM Summer Meeting - Lynx Lake, Prescott
- August 22-23 Greenlee County Cattle Growers' Summer Meeting, Double Circle Lodge
- September 19 Gila County Cattle Growers’ Annual Meeting, Elks Youth Camp
- September 26 82nd Annual Yavapai Cattle Grower’s Association Calf Sale & BBQ Peeples Valley
- October 17 12th RISE Symposium (Research Insights in Semiarid Ecosystems) Marley Building, Room 230, University of Arizona. The annual RISE symposium features recent research at the USDA-ARS Walnut Gulch Experimental Watershed (WGEW) and the University of Arizona Santa Rita Experimental Range (SRER) and the Region. Registration and more information is available at <http://www.tucson.ars.ag.gov/rise/>
- December 27 - Jan 1 Arizona National Livestock Show, Phoenix



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