



Wyoming Section Society for Range Management



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Summer Issue 2016

Message from the President

Greetings!

I hope this message finds each of you well and enjoying a beautiful Wyoming summer. As I write this message Cheyenne Frontier Days is kicking off. Throughout the state, there are multiple fairs and festivals that showcase our cowboy culture and agricultural heritage. These events remind me of the reasons I pursued a career in range management – they are full of people who are stewards of the land and want to pass that tradition on to others. SRM members certainly contribute to the sense of pride and place that these events bring to mind.

An example of an event recently hosted by the Wyoming Section that supports rangeland education is Wyoming Range Education Days. This year, this annual event was held at the Timber Creek Range Station near Meeteetse and was again successful. The WYRED group is working hard to teach youth about Wyoming's rangelands. This effort is important to conserving and managing rangelands in the future and I am proud of the WYRED committee's commitment to respond to changing education needs and improve this event. Thanks to the committee and all rangeland managers that assisted this year!

Another way SRM members showcase their commitment to managing rangelands is through annual meetings. On that note, the Wyoming and Colorado Sections of the SRM have some big news! The advisory council has supported a co-hosted annual meeting (WY and CO) in Loveland, CO in 2020. Planning is already underway as we embark on this task. Thanks to all who have already volunteered for this effort. If you are interested in volunteering and have not made that desire known, please let me or Chuck Butterfield know. This is an exciting opportunity for the Wyoming Section to co-host an annual meeting close to home.

Finally, as a reminder, the Wyoming Section Annual meeting is fast approaching. This year's event will be co-hosted with The Wildlife Society of Wyoming on November 15-17 in Cody, WY. The program that our President-Elect, Mae Smith, is putting together with The Wildlife Society promises to be filled with good speakers, fun events, and our annual fall field trip. Please mark your calendars now so you do not miss it!

Make sure you get out there and enjoy the rest of summer!

My Best,
Jessica



Wyoming Section
Society for Range Management



Save the Date

The Wildlife Society of Wyoming and
Wyoming Society for Range Management
Annual Meeting and Workshops

Nov 15-17, 2016
Cody, WY

Watch for Call for Abstracts in Mid-June!

<http://rangelands.org/wyoming/>

<http://wildlife.org/wyoming-chapter/annual-meeting/>

What would you like to see at this year's meeting and training?

Agencies... do you have a training that many of your employees from across the state should attend? Would you like to hold it at this meeting?

Do you have a range or wildlife habitat project that you'd like to highlight through a talk or a poster?

Mae Smith is lining up the talks and trainings and would love to hear your ideas.

Please email Mae Smith at: maep@uwo.edu

Thanks!



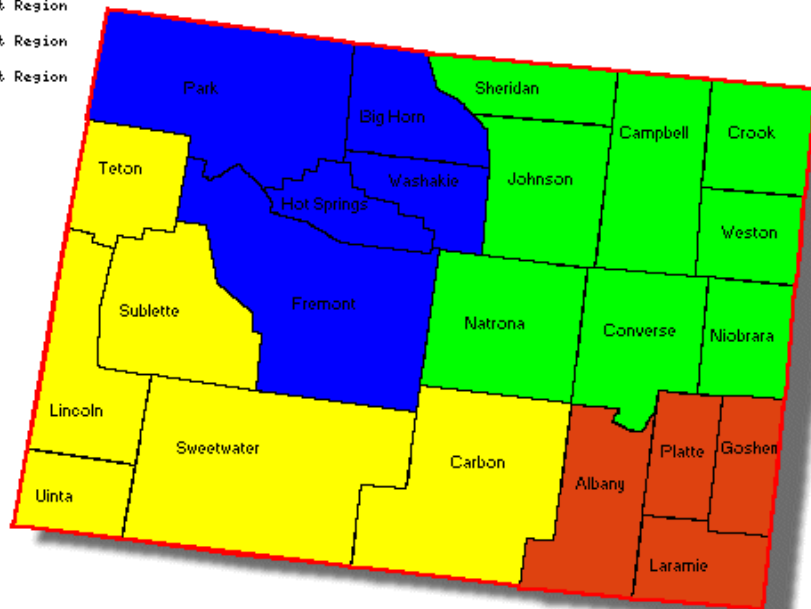
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Election Information

Looking ahead to next year, the Council positions for the Northeastern and Southwestern Regions will be coming open.

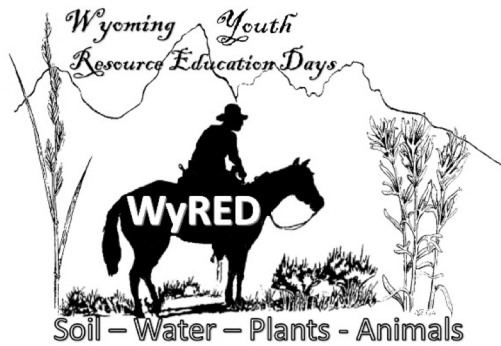
- - Northwest Region
- - Northeast Region
- - Southeast Region
- - Southwest Region



Source: diymaps.net (c)

If you live in either of these regions and would like to run or nominate a candidate, please contact Terry Booth (terry.booth@ars.usda.gov) and/or Chuck Butterfield (chuck@y2consultants.com). President Elect candidate nominations for next year are also being sought.

WYRED 2016 a SUCCESS!



Timber Creek Ranger Station, located west of Meeteetse nestled in the foothills of the Absaroka Range was a perfect setting for the 2016 WyRED (Wyoming Youth Resource Education Days). This year's camp opened on June 6th with a new approach, new team effort, and a great mix of new and return faces!



In 2015, WyRED officially developed a committee of members to address the planning and function of the camp. The committee held a retreat where the complete face of camp and contest was refreshed and clarified. The updated MISSION is: WyRED is an exciting trail of education for our future land stewards on the management and wise use of the natural resources on Wyoming's Rangelands.



This year was a great first step in the new face of a long standing program. Dan Rodgers is a founding member of WyRED, and participated in the camp before it was WyRED and continues to help provide the strength and technical soundness of the program. Marji Patz, Mae Smith, Windy Kelley, Rex Lockman, and Dan Mattke provided instruction and leadership throughout the week. Misty Hays helped wrap up the week, and this year we had hands-on assistance from Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, UW Extension, and The Nature Conservancy.



This year's focus was the interaction of livestock production and multiple uses of rangelands, with a focus on the wildlife issues that landowners face daily within the Big Horn Basin. The participants completed a wildlife conservation service project where they removed a migration barrier fence and replaced it with a wildlife friendly electric fence. Ranch tours were provided by LU Sheep Company, owner Mike Healy; Pitchfork Ranch, owner Mr. Lenox with manager Marty; and Heart Mountain Preserve, manager Brian Love. Jeremiah Vardiman provided an excellent wildlife activity during the Pitchfork tour. The close of the camp was marked with a tight competition during the Wyoming State Range Judging contest.



We give a Shout Out to the Shoshone Forest Service for their generosity of donating the location and for the assistance throughout the week! We thank the Meeteetse Conservation District, Powell-Clarks Fork Conservation District, Southern Big Horn Conservation District and the Upper Big Horn Conservation District for the contributions for the week! We were never hungry and the food was wonderful thanks to Destry Andrew who stepped in, donated his time and provided excellent meals throughout the week. And finally a large round of applause and thank you to Lenox and the Pitchfork Ranch for the donation of the beef as well as the talents of cooking an excellent BBQ!

The results for the Camp as well as the Contest are as follows:

Top First Time Camper:	Sierra Borovatz	Worland
Top Return Camper:	Carson Ellis	Mountain View
Top Old Fashioned Plant Press:	Siobhan Meyers	Worland
Top Electronic Plant Press:	Mackenzie Grubbs	Upton
Plant Press Special Recognition:	Sierra Borovatz	Worland
	Torri Walker	Lone Tree
Most Improved:	Matthew Willadeson	Casper
Hard Luck Award:	Ben Campbell	Casper

Picture are on the next page



Team Placing	Team	Members	Score
1st	Upton	Nolan Turner Mackenzie Grubbs Sara Rankin Maxx Cowger	1131
2nd	Worland	Cody Baumstarck Hunter Elliott Sierra Borovatz Siobhan Meyers	1081
3rd	Mountain View	Torri Walker Broderick Thomas Carson Ellis	930



Individual Placing	Individual		Team	Score
1st	Maxx	Cowger	Upton	427
2nd	Elizabeth	Martinez	Worland	394
3rd	Cody	Baumstarck	Worland	385



Range Rider Placings			
1st	Ella	Meyer	Douglas
2nd	Anna	Grant	Douglas
3rd	Zoey	Booth	Douglas



BrushPopper Placings			
1st	Cora	Grant	Douglas



Professional Placings

1st	Misty	Hays	Douglas
2nd	Morgan	Hays	Douglas
3rd	Shane	Buchholz	Newcastle
4th	Grace	Godfrey	Worland



Open Adult Placings

1st	James	Halverson	Sundance
2nd	Cari Sue	Covolo	Mountain View
3rd	Grant	Redden	Lyman (not pictured)





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The Scoop on Poop: It Can Tell Us More Than You Think!

Author: Tami Plechaty



Do you know what your cattle are eating? How many steps they take a day? How diverse their diet is? Or how your management practices influence their diet selection, diet quality, and time spent foraging? Well, the USDA –ARS Rangeland Resources Research Unit and the University of Wyoming have teamed up to discover exactly what cattle on the range are eating and how cattle diet quality is influenced by different grazing systems. This research is part of the ten year USDA-ARS-RRRU Adaptive Grazing Management study. In this project, two commonly used grazing systems: continuous, season-long grazing and adaptive rotational grazing are being applied. Our goal is to measure how these two grazing systems influence what plants cattle consume and the resulting nutritional performance of those animals in a ranch-level scenario.

In the shortgrass steppe and northern mixed-grass prairie, we applied a moderate stocking rate on an annual basis for both systems; however, we had a ten-fold higher stocking density with the adaptive, rotational grazing system. We also added light and heavy continuous season-long grazing systems in the northern-mixed grass prairie. Our project began in the summer of 2015, and we have seen some interesting separation of diet quality between grazing systems. Our preliminary results have shown that animals in a continuous, season-long grazing system tend to have higher crude protein levels and higher average daily gain (ADG) on a per head basis. To date, a moderate stocking rate in a continuous, season-long grazing system has shown to be the most optimum grazing system across our grazing treatments in both the northern-mixed grass prairie and the shortgrass steppe.

We've also been measuring the plant species yearling cattle are eating in both of our site ecosystems. By utilizing new technology, we are able to generate the proportion of individual plants consumed by the animals from a small fecal sample! We will be working on diet composition data this summer to see what species are most prevalent amongst the different grazing treatments and looking at the changes in diet composition over the grazing season. We also want to see if animals in an adaptive... *please move to the next page to continue reading*



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rotational grazing system are being less selective in their diet choices. In the shortgrass steppe, this data will be coupled with high resolution pedometer data to assess whether animals in the adaptive, rotational system are walking more than their counterparts in the continuous, season-long system. We are hoping to gain a better understanding of the differences in diet quality and ADG by coupling it with the diet composition and pedometer data. Our results should be in by the December Stock Grower's meeting! Some big questions we are asking are: 1) how does grazing management strategy influence diet selection and quality?, 2) does grazing management impact energy expenditure and time allocated to foraging?, and 3) what are the trade-offs associated with each grazing system on an animal basis?. By using these technological advances we can better answer the question of "what are cattle really eating?" and why does it matter.

2016 Award Nomination Information

The WY Society for Range Management is soliciting nominations for the 2016 Awards to be presented during the 2016 Meeting and Workshops in Cody, WY. We all know rangeland stewards who are very deserving of recognition for their wonderful work. Please take the time to nominate deserving mentors, clients, supporters, and/or comrades for one of the awards.

Nominations will be accepted for the following WY SRM specific awards:

- Outstanding Woman or Man of the Range
- Trail Boss
- Award of Merit

Additionally, WY SRM will accept nominations for awards that are also awarded by the Parent Society:

- Excellence in Rangeland Stewardship
- Outstanding Achievement Award
- Outstanding Young Range Professional Award
- Sustained Lifetime Achievement Award

To learn more about the WY SRM Awards visit: <http://rangelands.org/wyoming/>. Please submit your nominations to **Windy Kelley** at wkelly1@uwyo.edu or 1000 East University Ave., Dept. 3354, Laramie, WY 82070, by **August 31, 2016**. If submitting the nomination electronically please state the following in the Subject line: **WY SRM Award Nomination**.

The Awards Committee will review the award nominations, and notify nominating parties by October 15, 2016 of their decision. The committee will notify the award recipient by November 1, 2016.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and thoughtfulness in recognizing and celebrating deserving rangeland stewards!

Windy K. Kelley

Windy K. Kelley
Awards Committee Chair
Past-President, WY SRM