



Wyoming Section Society for Range Management



Winter Issue 2019

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Hello fellow range folks!

I hope that you have all had a good winter, it sounds like everyone has been experiencing bitter cold, lots of snow, or both as of late. Fortunately, nicer weather and field season will be here before we know it. There are a few updates that I would like to give from the last few months.

Our Wyoming Section meeting was held October 9th-11th in Sheridan last year. This was a very good meeting with good attendance and a busy agenda. We had students compete in Plant ID and URME from three of our Wyoming schools this year, including: University of Wyoming, Sheridan College, and Northwest College. It is always great to see the involvement of the students at these meetings, and we are excited that more Wyoming colleges are building their Range Management programs and participating at these competitions. The section meeting was concluded with a field tour highlighting Ventenata and Medusahead, two relatively new annual grasses in Wyoming. It was a cold day for a tour, but there was a lot of good questions and discussion about these species and their management.

The International Meeting in Minneapolis, MN was also a great meeting which was well attended by Wyoming members and students. Again we had student representation from the University of Wyoming, Sheridan College, and Northwest College. Congratulations to the University of Wyoming on their win of the Trail Boss Award, besting 26 other schools to win this award!

On March 1st the Wyoming Section Council met with a lot of items to discuss. First we got an update from Chuck Butterfield on the 2020 International Meeting in Denver. Planning is well underway and the program is coming together very well. Many of our Wyoming Section members are involved in the planning and organization of the upcoming meeting, there may be opportunities to help out with the planning or at the meeting when the time comes. If you are interested in helping please contact Chuck. Another item of discussion was the section handbooks, which the council has been in the process of getting updated over the past few years. With the changes that were made in the past year to our section committee structures we now need to bring all of the committee handbooks into line with this new structure. A work group was formed to work handbook updates over the coming months, if you are interested in helping with this effort please get in touch with me. Our last big item of business was to discuss the High School Youth Forum. This past year we did not have any participation at the section meeting and therefore did not have a delegate at the International Meeting. We would like to see that competition revitalized at the section level and the council will work to engage as many educators as we can prior to the section meeting.

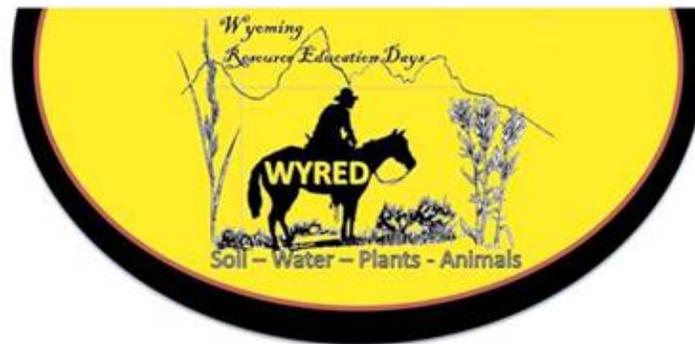
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Thad Berrett is actively working with the Colorado Section to plan this year's Section Meeting. With the International Meeting being a joint effort between sections, having a joint Section Meeting with Colorado will be a great way to connect with members of the Colorado Section prior to the International Meeting. In preparation for the Section Meeting please keep in mind the section awards, if you know of anyone that should be nominated for any of the section awards please send nominations to Bryan Christensen.

Finally, WyRED is quickly approaching and is scheduled for June 11th-14th, 2019 and will be held in Goshen County outside of Wheatland. The WyRED committee is busy working with the local cooperators in that area to put on another great camp this year.

I am excited about everything that the Wyoming Section has planned for the coming year and hope that we can continue to make good progress. If there is anything that the council can do for you please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the council members.

Stay warm,
Clay



JUNE 11th-14th

Where: Wheatland, WY

The WyRED Newsletter includes a Registration for the camp as well as UW Continuing Education Credits & PTSB Credits Registration. Watch for it mid April. If you have any questions please get a hold of Briar Harris 307-787-3070 or bharris@bvea.net



Why your work Matters: Communicating Management Implications

A few weeks ago, I settled in the office. Snow was blowing outside, and it was a perfect day for a webinar. I am always looking for clear science that I can apply at the ranch and there happened to be several presentations on sagebrush restoration that caught my attention. My name is John Coffman and I am the new NW Council representative. In graduate school in Southern New Mexico, I sat through a lot of scientific presentations. My curiosity was wide, and I listened in on everything from evolutionary biology to rangeland management.

There was a formula to them and if you tried something different, it often confused people. Typically, there was an introduction of the problem, probably some sort of hypothesis, the methods used to gain insight, results and the discussion of those results. The outline followed the general format of published papers as well. If it was a field of applied research, there would be management implications at the very end.

University researchers and I often got excited about ensuring the science was sound. We wanted a sleek study design that was repeatable with strong methods. It's the foundation of solid science and because we were excited about it, we spent a lot of time talking to each other about our methods and analysis. I often hoped my research would be useful to land managers. Usefulness was important to me but the way I talked about the results still fit rigidly in the language researchers and agency scientists used to pat each other on the back for a job well done. The pursuit still felt disconnected from everyday life.

I had made the transition from researcher to manager and ended up at The Nature Conservancy's Red Canyon Ranch. I watched tornados of snow whirl around on the slopes above headquarters, opened the laptop, and pulled up the sagebrush webinar. As I listened to the synthesis of a decade of research, it was clear that the researchers were deep in the intellectual pursuit of scientific knowledge. They are excellent scientists and I might be losing my sharp edge for techniques and analysis, but I struggled to find the management implications.

Then, a new presenter started with a quick statement of the problem and went right into the management implications of their findings. The recommendation rang loud and clear and now I was ready to follow the presenter and evaluate the science. The traditional format holds the rewards, the implications of the research, for the end. You sit through the methods and analysis to get to that "carrot."

I promise, managers won't get up in the middle of your talk and leave if you get to the point early unless they tanked up on the free coffee in the lobby. I realize that some presentation formats fit better for certain audiences but if you can clearly articulate the problem and how your research or helps address the problem, with an anecdote or two, I'm all ears for the rest.

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Northwest Council Representative



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PRESS RELEASE

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SCASTA RECEIVES OUTSTANDING YOUNG RANGE PROFESSIONAL AWARD FROM THE SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT (SRM)

Dr. John Derek Scasta of Laramie, Wyoming, received an *Outstanding Young Range Professional Award* at the Society for Range Management's (SRM) 72nd Annual Meeting, Technical Training, and Trade Show in Minneapolis, Minnesota, February 10-14, 2019. The *Outstanding Young Range Professional Award* recognizes SRM members who exhibit superior performance and leadership potential in any range-related area.

Dr. Scasta has been Assistant Professor and Extension Range Management Specialist at the University of Wyoming (UWYO) since 2014, after receiving his PhD in Rangeland Ecology and Management at Oklahoma State University. His research and outreach span the Great Plains and Rocky Mountain regions, and from tallgrass prairie to sagebrush steppe and mesquite dominated rangelands to high-elevation forests. He has assessed the effects of drought, fire, and grazing on rangeland vegetation, livestock production, and ungulate spatial distribution while engaging audiences on hot-button topics including predators, prairie dogs, wild horses, and fire. As a researcher, he has authored or co-authored more than 40 articles in refereed journals.

Dr. Scasta is also an accomplished educator and communicator with an uncommon aptitude for educating learners of all ages to further the application of recent advances in rangeland management, while addressing complex problems that have stymied managers and agencies for decades. An award-winning teacher and student advisor at the University of Wyoming, he developed two new courses, Applied Fire Ecology and Nutritional Ecology and Management of Rangeland Ungulates, and he instructs students in special projects and experiential learning. He also advises the UWYO Range Club and coaches the Undergraduate Range Management Exam (URME) Team.

In his brief career, Dr. Scasta has actively contributed to SRM at both the Section and parent Society levels while demonstrating devotion to developing future SRM members and range professionals as a university professor. Dr. Scasta has demonstrated extraordinary potential and promise as a range management professional and a future leader in the range profession.

For his accomplishments and dedication to range, the Society for Range Management is proud to recognize Dr. Derek Scasta with a 2019 *Outstanding Young Range Professional Award*.



SRM 2019 Outstanding Young Range Professional Award recipient Dr. Derek Scasta with (2018) SRM President Dr. Barry Irving



MISSION: Providing leadership for the Stewardship of Rangelands based on sound ecological principles.

VISION: A well-trained and highly motivated group of professionals and rangelands users working with productive, sustainable rangeland ecosystems.