



# Wyoming Section



**Society for Range Management  
Winter Issue 2015**

## Message From the President

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Greetings and happy New Year range-land enthusiasts! First, I want to welcome and congratulate our new section council representatives – Jessica Crowder (President-elect), Bryan Christenson (Southwest Council Rep), and Kassie Bales (Northeast Council Rep).

I can't believe the 68th annual SRM meeting in Sacramento starts later this week (January 31 – February 6). Managing Diversity is this year's theme. The theme is at the core of the work we do whether we are a researcher, agency land manager, private land manager, or a consultant. We not only manage for diversity, but we must work with diverse groups of people, and across borders to be successful in the work we do. The meeting line-up looks great, and I hope to see many of you there.

The University of Wyoming Department of Ecosystem Science and Management is hosting the 2015 Wyoming Social at the annual meeting. The social will be Monday evening February 2 at the meeting convention center. Light appetizers will be available, and a cash bar in the foyer. We hope you're able to join us.

To recap ... The 2014 WY SRM section meeting, Innovation and Opportunity Across Borders, in Evanston was a success. We had a great line-up of speakers, including our keynote speaker, Dr. Jessica Clement who led us through a discussion about Collaboration for Communities and Landscapes. Ranch Manager Mike Meek of Deseret Ranch gave an excellent presentation about the ranch located in North-

east Utah and Southwest Wyoming. We also had the privilege of touring a part of the ranch, and learning about several of their management priorities, and strategies. We are excited several members seized the opportunity to join the meeting via webinar. The webinars will be posted on the WY SRM website, so stay tuned to <http://rangelands.org/wyoming/>

Thank you to the professionals who hosted a student(s) for students' night out. This evening event is a great opportunity for our next generation of professionals to interact and network with current professionals. We had college students from four institutions from three states participate in this year's student activities! We added a spin to the student competitions by introducing the Pro AM challenge. The Pro AM challenge partnered a professional with a student to participate in the plant identification, and the Undergraduate Range Management Exam. In brief, the top scoring students are recognized individually, and the top scoring Pro AM team are also recognized. Congratulations to everyone who participated in the student activities, including the High School Youth Forum.

Continued on next page



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I want to thank our 2014 annual meeting sponsors again. Their sponsorships helped offset meeting costs, which enable us to offer a reduced student registration fee. Thank you BKS Environmental Associates, Inc., Conservation Seeding and Restoration, Inc., the University of Wyoming Department of Ecosystem Science and Management, and the University of Wyoming Extension.

## **Looking forward ...**

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 28. The day will include the WY SRM council meeting in Laramie. All members are welcome to attend – meeting details will be posted on the WY SRM website, as the date approaches. Also, the University of Wyoming Range Club's annual fundraiser banquet will be on Saturday, March 28 in Laramie. This is a great opportunity to support our next generation of range enthusiasts. They do an excellent job

organizing a fun filled evening.

The Wyoming Resource Education Days (WyRED) will be June 22 – 26 in Uinta County, WY. Details will be posted as the camp dates approach.

Another ESD workshop is in the works for 2015. Stay tuned to the WY SRM website for workshop details.

Thank you for your continued support of the WY Section of the Society for Range Management. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or ideas about/for the section.

Thank you again.

-Windy K.

## **Do you want to be more engaged with WY SRM? We can use your help!**

The WY SRM is a member driven section, and we always need help to ensure we can continue to do the work we do, and to meet the needs of our members. The best way we can meet your needs is by having our members involved and engaged.

You can find a list of the WY SRM committees and committee chairs by visiting <http://rangelands.org/wyoming/membership/committees/>

Please take a few minutes to email the chair of the committee(s) you're interested in joining. If you're not sure which committee to join feel free to contact me at [wkelly1@uwyo.edu](mailto:wkelly1@uwyo.edu) and I am happy to help connect you with a committee chair who is seeking additional committee members.



# Wyoming Section



Society for Range Management

**JUNE 22—26th, 2015**  
**EVANSTON WY—UINTA COUNTY YOUTH CAMP**  
**WYOMING**  
**SAVE THE DATE!**







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## *Lost Resource*

### **Rick's Celebration**

Rick Dunne was an active member of WY SRM for many years and a former section President. Rick will be celebrated Saturday, February 7 2015 at the Washakie Museum in Worland, WY. The ceremony will begin at 5:30 pm; however, visitors are welcome and encouraged to arrive early to view the exhibits. Rick worked on the Ancient Basin and the story of the early people, or as he liked to say, how people made a living here 13,000 years ago.



### **5:00 pm Bar Opens**

**5:30 pm** Ceremony begins with the lighting of the Unitarian chalice, handmade from local clays and set on a disc of copper from Rick's days at Anaconda Mine. Sagebrush from the Wind River Seed Company farm will decorate the tables. Friends will be invited to speak.

**6:30 pm** Potluck dinner. Please bring a dish to share, and plan to stay and enjoy each others' company, and reminisce about the life of one fine man.



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## Wyoming Restoration Challenge 2015: Cheatgrass

Millions of acres of western rangelands are negatively impacted by invasive species, and cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) is one of the most widespread. Its ability to alter species composition and ecological functions negatively impacts habitat quality for livestock and wildlife alike. Hundreds of research papers have been published on its ecology and management, yet land managers in Wyoming and around the West are still uncertain of the most effective, cost-efficient methods to restore cheatgrass-dominated systems to a higher-functioning status.

**Do you have ideas for restoring a cheatgrass-dominated pasture into a more productive, diverse plant community? Consider entering a team into the Wyoming Restoration Challenge 2015!**

The University of Wyoming, along with partner organizations, is accepting entries for (up to) 4-person teams to compete in the first ever rangeland restoration challenge. Each team will be assigned a plot of land at the University of Wyoming James C. Hageman Sustainable Agriculture Research and Extension Center near Lingle, Wyoming. Pre-competition vegetation and soils data will be collected to establish a baseline of ecological condition of each plot. Each team will develop and implement a restoration plan to meet the land management goals clearly specified for the site.

The performance of all teams will be evaluated by a panel of non-biased agricultural and natural resources professionals.

**TO REGISTER GO TO:** <http://RestoreWY2015.eventbrite.com/>

Please register by March 6, 2015



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## Picture Highlights From Awards Night



First place team URME



First place Wyoming Range Cup



First place team PRO-AM Challenge





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## Picture Highlights From The Deseret Tour



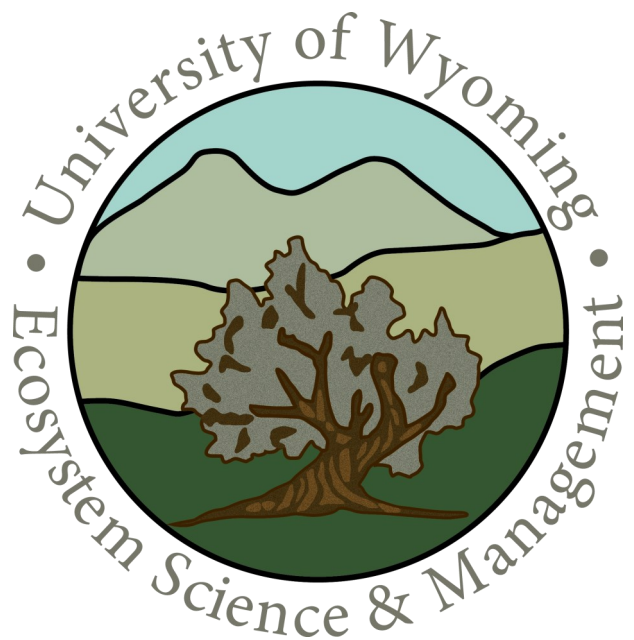


# Wyoming Section



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## Special Thanks To Our Annual Meeting Sponsors!



BKS Environmental  
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### ***Want to Contribute?***

Do you have news or information you would like to contribute to the Wyoming Section – SRM newsletter? Submit articles and ideas through your local representative or to the newsletter editor at [WySRMeditor@gmail.com](mailto:WySRMeditor@gmail.com). Article information must be sent in the exact wording you would like it to appear in the newsletter. Articles for each quarterly newsletter must be submitted by January 15th, April 15th, July 15th, and October 15th. If you have questions please contact Brian Sebade at [WySRMeditor@gmail.com](mailto:WySRMeditor@gmail.com).





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## **From Argentina to the Northern Great Plains (by Gonzalo Irisarri)**

When people hear about Argentina, they typically think of three things: 1) soccer, which we actually call football (two world cups and four finals in our history), 2) soybeans (3rd in world exports), and 3) good beef. I will assume that the Wyoming audience here will not be interested in soccer, so I will focus on the last two aspects. From the national perspective, soybean cropping and extensive livestock production are interlinked in Argentina. First, over the past two decades, 49 million acres have been converted to soybean production at the expense of livestock production areas (grasslands/rangelands) in the most productive regions of Argentina, but total livestock production at the national level has not been reduced. Production has been intensified on the remaining acres of rangeland/grassland. Second, with increasing global grain prices, rangeland/grassland forage production is a lower cost source of energy and gain for cattle in Argentina. This has resulted in increasing grazing pressure on rangeland/grassland, and to avoid overgrazing situations, ranchers need to know how many cattle their pastures can support across seasons. This demands having real time information for several pastures, and different grassland

types across the long South-North extension of Argentina (more than two thousand miles, SEE PICTURES). In order to come with a solution for this demand by ranchers, a national consortium of ranchers and Scholars from the School of Agronomy at the University of Buenos Aires (which hosts 262,000 students, the biggest university in the country) developed a monitoring system of pastures based on remote sensing. The system allows ranchers to determine biomass production at the level of every 12 acres with monthly seasonal resolution, since the year 2000. In the near future, this type of information could be easily accessible in the Northern-Great Plains. Starting October 2014, I was given the opportunity to help USDA-ARS researchers in the Rangeland Resources Research Unit and the University of Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station/ Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics to translate remote sensing information into biomass production. It is my desire that before I leave the United States in June 2015 that some advances on this project will be available for Wyoming ranchers.



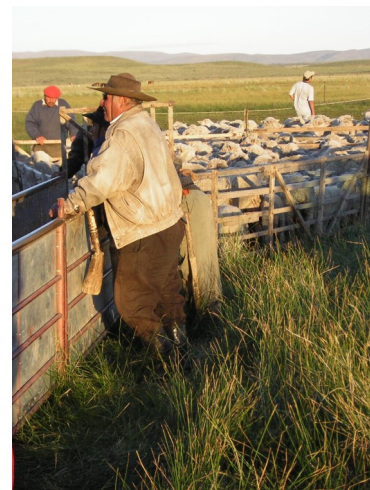
North-Central savannas of Argentina. In the picture one can see three layers of vegetation: 1) trees (most of them are legume species, which fix nitrogen), 2) shrubs (most of them have thorns which reduces access to forage for cattle) and 3) grasses (in this part of the country they are mostly warm season grasses).



North-Central savannas of Argentina. Ranchers use mechanical tools, such as this roller chopper, to eliminate shrubs and at the same time incorporate cultivated warm season grasses (*Cenchrus ciliaris* or *Panicum maximum*).



Arid and semi-arid steppes of Patagonia Argentina. People marking lambs during early summer (around 20th December)



Arid and semi-arid steppes of Patagonia Argentina. People marking lambs during early summer (around 20th December)



Early spring in the Flooding Pampas Argentina. Hereford herd (most of cattle in Argentina are British breeds – Angus and Hereford).

