



## Wyoming Section Society for Range Management



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### *Fall and Election Issue 2015*

## Message from the President

Greetings, and happy fall!

I trust this finds you all well. In this newsletter I will focus on the annual meeting, which is less than a month away! I know you all have it on your calendar, but I don't know that you've all registered and secured your hotel rooms. If not, don't delay! Pre-registration must be received by Wednesday, October 28, and hotel rooms are filling-up fast!

The registration and hotel information can be found at <http://rangelands.org/wyoming>. You can view the latest agenda on the website as well, which includes a description of the X Bar Ranch tour, and speakers for the WY SRM organized breakout session.

As I've noted before, **WY SRM is what we, as members make it.** This includes participating and supporting WY SRM events, nominating deserving peers for awards, and supporting the young professionals of SRM. It also includes getting more involved in the 'workings' of the section.

How can you get more involved? There are a number of ways. To get started consider attending the Council meeting Tuesday morning. This will give you a better idea of the 'business' of the section, and what's happening behind the scenes. Anyone is welcome, so we hope to see you there!

Another way to learn more, and get more involved with WY SRM is to attend a committee meeting, and let the chair(s) know your interest. Committee meetings will follow the Council meeting at 10:45 AM on Tuesday. What are the committees, and who are the committee chairs? Visit <http://rangelands.org/wyoming/membership/committees/> to view the list of committees, and the chairs. By learning more about WY SRM and getting involved you can **better ensure you're getting the most from your membership, and enjoy other benefits, such as expanding your professional network!** *Continued on next page*



## Wyoming Section Society for Range Management



Talking about expanding your professional network. Tuesday evening will be a time to socialize and catch up with old friends, and just as important to make new friends during the student professional 'mixer.' Students, you might meet your next boss or mentor, and professionals, you might meet your next employee, so come prepared to interact!

**Students**, good luck in the events you participate in this year! Seize the opportunity to test and refine your knowledge, and remember to have fun! **Professionals**, we hope you too will test and refine your knowledge by participating in the Professional challenge (see page 3 for details)!

I want to thank the many sponsors of this year's meeting! We appreciate your continued support. I also want to thank our partners. The Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts, and the Wyoming Weed and Pest Council have been outstanding to work with! They have gone the extra mile all around to ensure the three associations have an excellent joint meeting! Please thank the event sponsors, and partnering associations for their support! They all play a key part in the success of the meeting!

I look forward to seeing and talking with many of you at this year's meeting! Please feel free to contact me if you have questions, etc. [wkelly1@uwyo.edu](mailto:wkelly1@uwyo.edu)

See you in a few weeks!

- **Windy K.**



## Wyoming Section Society for Range Management



### *Attention!*

#### **Certified Professionals in Rangeland Management.**

This year's meeting has been recommended for 4 CEUs. Please sign the form at registration to ensure you receive your credits.

### **Wyoming SRM Pro-Am Challenge**

What is it?

This competition format pairs one professional with one student in two challenging activities: the Plant Identification Competition and the Undergraduate Range Management Exam. The professional and the student member of each team will compete in each event independently and their scores will be combined for a team score. Awards will be given for teams with the highest combined scores in each contest. For

contestants who are worried about what their peers might think about their scores, rankings will be made based only on team scores for both competitions – individual scores can be kept confidential.

This year, participants can opt to participate in either the Plant Identification Competition or the Undergraduate Range Management Exam, or both! View the agenda for event dates and times.

If you would like to sign up for the Pro-Am Challenge, please contact:

**BJ Bender (bbender@uwyo.edu) or Brian Mealor (bamealor@uwyo.edu).**

### **Seeds of Time**

“Seeds of Time” showcases the urgency and challenges associated with seed banking our agricultural resources in a time of biodiversity loss and climate change. This award-winning, inspirational film will take you all over the world to explore what is being done to preserve and save seeds of crops that are important to both native and mainstream cultures, now and in the future.

Film screening, followed by a panel discussion: **Monday, November 2, 5:00 pm, UW Berry Center 138**  
**2nd film showing: Sunday, November 8, 2:00 pm, UW Berry Center 138**

Co-sponsored by UW Biodiversity Institute, UW Extension, Wyoming Reclamation and Restoration Center and UW Libraries

Join Us! for our **ANNUAL CONVENTION**

**NOVEMBER 2-5, 2015**

Hilton Garden Inn, Laramie, WY

Plus:  
**Live Auction!**

Tours:  
Breakout Session:

**Tuesday, November 3**

Wyoming Department of Agriculture Lab  
Innovation Center  
UW Geological Museum  
X Bar Ranch Tour

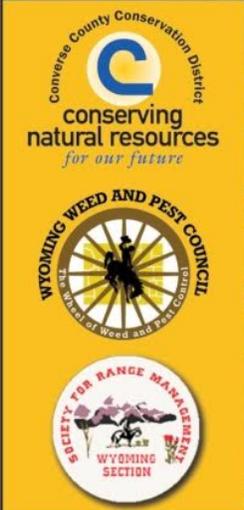
**Wednesday, November 4**

**Keynote Address: The Ecology of Wyoming: Twenty Years of Change:** Dennis Knight, Author, Ecology of Wyoming

**Thursday, November 5**

Renewable Energy/Energy Conservation  
Archaeology Reviews  
Social Media & Marketing  
Herbicide Resistance  
Small Acreage  
Holistic Ranching  
And more...

Partners in  
*Resource Excellence*





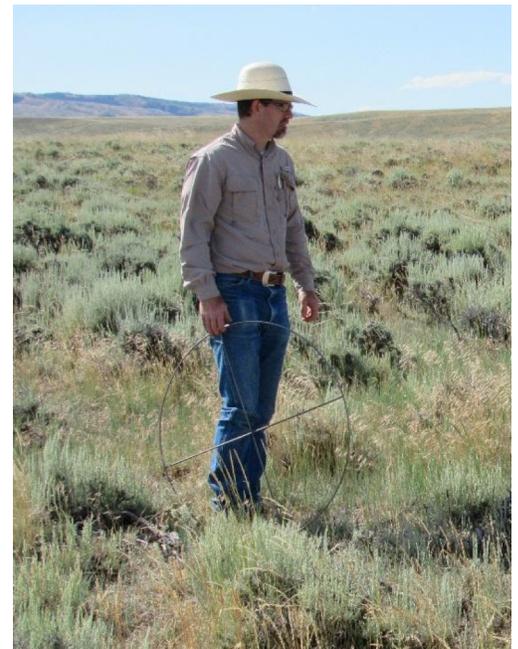
## Wyoming Section Society for Range Management



### Southeast Council Candidates

#### Bio - Dr. Derek Scasta

I have been working as an Assistant Professor and Extension Rangeland Specialist at the University of Wyoming since the summer of 2014. Before coming to Wyoming, I worked as a county Extension agent with the Texas A&M University system for seven years before going to Oklahoma State University to get a Ph.D. studying patch-burn grazing. I have conducted Extension and Research work in the area of rangeland management and conservation since 2004 in Texas, Oklahoma, Iowa, and Wyoming. My job in Wyoming is to focus on plant-herbivore interaction ecology and extend research to the ranchers and agency folks across the state. I have a number of projects underway, ranging from toxic plants, livestock-wildlife interactions, fire and wildfire effects, to grazing management and livestock performance. I have been involved with SRM since 2007 and have been active in the Texas and Oklahoma sections in various capacities. Subsequently, I am looking forward to increasing my involvement with the Wyoming section. I have also been a Certified Professional in Rangeland Management (CPRM) since 2011. My interest in rangeland livestock and wildlife issues has been strongly influenced by my grandad who ran his ranch and managed another ranch, and my parents who also have a small operation in Texas. I know that SRM has a lot to offer the many users of rangelands and can bridge the divide between agriculture and natural resource conservation in a way that no other professional organization can. I would be honored to serve on the SRM Council if chosen and appreciate the consideration.





## Wyoming Section Society for Range Management



### Southeast Council Candidates

Sarah Kauer – Griffith

I grew up in Durango, Colorado with a passion for FFA and anything Ag related. I completed my first two years of College at Fort Lewis College in Durango before transferring to the University of Wyoming where I completed my Bachelors in Ag Business. During my time at the University, I was active in the Food Science Club, served as the UW Range Club Secretary and Vice President, and competed yearly in the URME competition at State and National levels.

After graduation I worked for the Northern Wyoming Community College District in Sheridan, WY. A year later, I was recruited to come back to the University of Wyoming to work in the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management. It has been a very fun and fulfilling year working with our Range students and seeing their great successes, as well as the success of the Department.

My participation in the SRM has been largely associated with student activities. Currently, I am continuing this by serving on the Rangeland Cup Subcommittee under the Student Activities Committee. Being a student member was one of the best things that I could have done as an undergraduate. The experiences I had, the knowledge gained, and the connections made are all irreplaceable. I am looking forward to the possibility of giving back to the Wyoming Section by representing the Southeast area, and hope to work closely with members, students, and youth throughout the term. I feel that it is extremely important to keep working on our student involvement as the connections they make and experience they have at the Collegiate level (and earlier) are great stepping stones to a successful career path, as well as potential future involvement within the SRM.

I appreciate the opportunity that members of the Wyoming Section have laid before me, and I sincerely hope that you will consider selecting me as the Southeast Council Representative.



# Candidates for President

BIO: Mae Smith

Mae grew up in Pinedale and became immersed in natural resources at a young age. Having parents with natural resource careers made camping, hunting and road trips interesting as challenges of plant identification were common activities. Her family also leased a ranch in their “spare time” so it was all-hands-on-deck at all times. Before graduating from high school, she knew that she was going to major in range management. Her studies brought her to UW for a bachelor’s in range immediately followed by a master’s in range at CSU. She was involved in SRM and the UW and CSU range clubs during this time.

A passion for teaching coupled with a love for range management led her to a career working for University of Wyoming Extension. She began as an educator specializing in sustainable management of rangeland resources in Southeast Wyoming in 2011. In 2014, she and her husband made the move to the Big Horn Basin where she was able to continue her career with UW Extension in Northwest Wyoming. They are lucky to live on a ranch at the base of the Big Horns.

SRM Activities - Member since freshman year in college. Attended all but last year’s national meeting since 2005. President and active member of UW range club. Competed in Plant ID, URME, Rangeland Cup and Extemporaneous Speaking while at UW. Coached CSU plant identification team while in grad school. Active member in Wyoming SRM including serving on the Council for a 2-year term, WyRED committee member and current co-chair of URME.

Vision – As I ponder my vision for Wyoming SRM, I reflect on the ways that SRM has benefited me and how to continue these benefits into the future.

1. I became involved in SRM early and found a career in range.
  - SRM must continue to engage and inspire youth and encourage them to continue involvement as they start careers.
2. I have been able to network with professionals across the country. This network has been valuable for enhancing working relationships and building partnerships across entities.
  - We must encourage interaction and think about innovative ways to interact in the face of tight budgets.
3. Through meeting attendance, I have heard numerous range success stories and research presentations to keep my technical knowledge up-to-date.
  - SRM must continue to provide relevant and applicable information to natural resource professionals and producers.





## Wyoming Section Society for Range Management

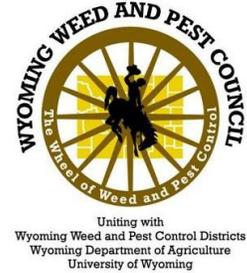


### Northwest Council Candidates

Bio: Curtis Bryan

My name is Curtis Bryan and I am the Supervisory Range Management Specialist for the BLM Lander Field Office. I began my career with the BLM Worland Field Office as a seasonal range technician while working towards my B.S. in Rangeland Ecology and Watershed Management from the University of Wyoming. Upon completion of my degree I went on to work as a Rangeland Management Specialist with the BLM Worland Field Office. My career path and development took me to the Little Snake Field Office in Craig, CO in 2004 continuing to work as a Range Management Specialist. In 2006 life took another turn and I moved to Lander to work as a Natural Resource Specialist with the BLM, primarily working with oil and gas operators on permitting and reclamation projects. I have served as the Supervisory Range Management Specialist in Lander since 2011, working cooperatively with local ranches. My work in that capacity is focused on maintaining and improving rangeland health, providing for sustainable grazing practices and multiple use management.





**Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation  
Society for Range Management – Wyoming Section  
Wyoming Weed & Pest Council  
Live Auction  
November 4, 2015**

Donor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization to receive proceeds: WNRF \_\_\_\_\_ SRM \_\_\_\_\_ W&P \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate if you have a preferred SRM fund you want monies generated from for your donated item to go:**

WyRED \_\_\_\_\_ HSYF \_\_\_\_\_ Awards \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE SUBMIT A PHOTO AS A SEPARATE JPEG/TIFF FILE AND A FULL DESCRIPTION OF THE ITEM.**  
**PLEASE ENSURE PHOTOS ARE OF HIGH QUALITY AND REPRESENT YOUR DONATION WELL AS THEY ARE USED ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITES.**

Item Description: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Value: This is important to provide the purchaser with the correct tax deductible portion: \_\_\_\_\_

**WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING YOUR INFORMATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO WE CAN PROMOTE THE AUCTION ITEMS IN ADVANCE. THANK YOU! PLEASE SUBMIT FORMS AND PHOTO TO [kelly.brown@conservevy.com](mailto:kelly.brown@conservevy.com)**

Leslie Roche (UC-Davis)  
with Ken Tate (UC-Davis) and Justin Derner

## On-ranch grazing strategies: context for the rotational grazing dilemma

As you may know, there is an ongoing grazing strategy dilemma in the range science and management community. Recent reviews of the scientific literature have found no agricultural or ecological benefits from rotational grazing strategies in comparison to continuous season-long grazing strategies. These syntheses are seemingly at odds with on-the-ground management experience and perceptions of successes of place-based, adaptively managed rotational grazing strategies.

### ***A research-management disconnect***

Research on grazing strategies has largely focused on comparisons of a few outcomes (e.g., livestock weight gain, forage production) between fixed grazing treatments implemented over small spatial and shorter-term temporal scales. However, ranchers make decisions and adapt their management for multiple outcomes across many scales in response to changing social, economic, and ecological drivers. In the adaptive decision-making process, trial-and-error learning, place-based expertise passed on through generations, and local knowledge networks all contribute to strategy development and perceptions of successes and failures over time.

### ***Characterizing on-ranch grazing strategies***

To shed some light on this dilemma, we surveyed 292 Wyoming ranchers and 473 California ranchers. Our research team worked with the Wyoming Stock Growers Association and the California Cattlemen's Association to characterize actual on-ranch grazing management practices across two common rangeland systems—Wyoming, which represents a perennial, summer growing season, and California, which represents an annual, winter growing season.

### ***Results in a nutshell***

Across Wyoming and California, more than 65% of ranchers practice on-ranch rotational grazing strategies, which we largely classified as extensive within growing season rotation with moderate (few weeks to months) grazing period durations, moderate (5-20 acres/animal unit) livestock densities, and growing season rest periods. These results indicate that ranchers do experience benefits from *extensive* rotation and see this strategy as a key component in their operations, which have not been documented in experimental comparisons of grazing systems. We found limited on-ranch use of *intensive* rotational strategies—only 5% of respondents, who were all from Wyoming, classified into the intensive rotational grazing group. The limited on-ranch adoption of intensive rotational strategies also indicates that considerable agreement—not debate—exists between experiential and experimental perceptions about the success of this particular strategy for achieving primary livestock production goals.

### ***Moving forward***

We found ranchers do adopt and value rotational grazing strategies, in spite of limited scientific support. However, much of the grazing systems research has been focused on assessing *intensive* rotational grazing systems, when in actuality the vast majority of reported on-ranch rotational grazing is *extensive* in nature. A collaborative research focus on extensive rotational grazing would better align science with on-ranch management. Scientists must work with ranchers to identify and quantify the social, economic, and ecological benefits ranchers are deriving from their grazing strategies. Managers must become active participants in the design, implementation, and interpretation of grazing studies conducted at scales relevant to on-ranch conditions and decision-making. Novel, large-scale, participatory research approaches are required to advance our collective understanding of on-ranch adaptive grazing strategies, and the mechanisms by which these place-based strategies provide the goods and services managers expect.

**To read more:** Roche, L.M., J.D. Derner, B.B. Cutts, M.N. Lubell, K.W. Tate. 2015. On-ranch grazing strategies: context for the rotational grazing dilemma. *Rangeland Ecology and Management* 69:248-256.

**Wyoming Section Society for Range Management**

**2016 Election Ballot**

*Please choose one candidate for each section*

**Southeast Council Representative**

[ ].....Derek Scasta

[ ]..... Sarah Kauer – Griffith

**Northwest Council Representative**

[ ]..... Curtis Bryan

**Candidate for President**

[ ]..... Mae Smith