



# Wyoming Section Society for Range Management



## *Fall Issue 2017*

### Message from the President

#### Happy Holidays Wyoming SRM!

Thank you for opening and reading this newsletter as it has many very important items. **Please vote** on Council representatives, President-elect, proposed by-laws changes and 2018 budget. The ballot can be found at [tinyurl.com/WYSRMVote2017](http://tinyurl.com/WYSRMVote2017) and voting will close one month after this newsletter is sent.

The annual meeting was held in Green River in September. The weather was great and we had the opportunity for a ½ day field training as well as great presentations and a panel discussion. There were several fun events including professional extemporaneous speaking, auction and dance with a live band. Students attended and competed in SRM competitions. I know that all of you were not able to make it and I would welcome feedback for future meetings.

- Would you prefer a late summer/early fall meeting again or do you prefer the traditional November meeting?
- If you weren't able to make it this year, what factors prevented you from doing so?
- What would you like to see in the training portion of the meeting? – Topics, issues, format (field, panel, presentation, poster)
- What events would you like to see added?

I hope that you can attend the International meeting in Sparks, NV from January 28 – February 2. I will be there and will attend the Advisory Council meeting. If you have any feedback for the Parent Society, please let me know so I can pass it along at that meeting. Early registration ends December 31. Also remember to renew your membership as it will also expire December 31.

This will be my last message as President and you get to hear from Bryan Christiansen for the next year. **The entire WY SRM Council is here to serve you and would like to make your SRM experience better.**

Wishing you a fun and prosperous New Year!

Mae Smith  
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#### President

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#### President-Elect

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# **Elections!**

**Please take the time to vote on officers and bylaw changes. The ballot for all voting items can be found at: [tinyurl.com/WYSRMVote2017](http://tinyurl.com/WYSRMVote2017)**

**If you have questions or would like to submit an electronic ballot please contact the WY SRM Section Secretary, Marji Patz (Marji.patz@wy.usda.gov)**

## **Proposed Budget**

The proposed budget for 2018 can be found on page six. Please look it over and provide feedback.

## President Elect Candidate

**Clay Wood**



Hi, I'm Clay Wood and I am currently finishing a master's degree in rangeland weed science at the University of Wyoming. I grew up on the family ranch near Sundance Wyoming. Upon graduation from high school I attended the University of Wyoming and received a Bachelor's degree in Rangeland Ecology and Watershed Management with a minor in Reclamation and Restoration Ecology. After graduating from UW I began working as a Vegetation Ecologist with BKS Environmental Associates, Inc. of Gillette and worked on many projects across Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, and Utah. In 2015, I returned to the University of Wyoming to pursue a master's degree in Plant Sciences with emphasis in Weed Science. I have a desire to understand invasive species, their effects on rangelands, and to improve control measures. My research focuses cheatgrass invaded rangelands and applying ecological threshold concepts to aid in making landscape scale management decisions.

Currently I am the Northeast Council Rep and chairman of the Fundraising Committee for the Wyoming Section and have worked to enhance and improve our fundraising activities at the section level. I am also a Director at Large for the Wyoming Weed Management Association and member of the Northeast Wyoming Invasive Grass Working Group. I am an active participant in SRM events at both the section and national level and have had the opportunity attended the past five section meetings and international meetings of SRM. I would like to continue the momentum that the Wyoming Section has built as well as continue to improve the education and professional development opportunities that have been established by encouraging student involvement and providing valuable information to range managers through workshops and annual meetings. I believe the SRM is a great organization promoting the sustainable management of rangelands across the US and abroad and I am proud to be a member of this organization. I hope you will support me in becoming the President-Elect and look forward to serving you by continuing to provide educational and networking opportunities for all members of the Wyoming Section.

# **Southeast Council Representative**

## **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. Prior to this job I spent seven years as a county extension agent. I have been involved with SRM since 2007, have been active in 3 state sections through various capacities, and have been a Certified Professional in Rangeland Management (CPRM) since 2011. I currently work with private ranchers, state agencies, and federal agencies on rangeland monitoring, grazing, and fire issues across the state. I know that SRM has a lot to offer these many users of rangelands and that SRM can bridge the divide between agriculture and natural resource conservation through the lens of scientific reason. I would be honored to serve on the SRM Council if chosen and appreciate the consideration.

# Northwest Council Representative

## BJ Bender

My name is BJ Bender, I am a UW graduate in Rangeland Ecology and Watershed Management and the current Range Manager at the Lazy T Ranch in Ten Sleep. I have been a member of the Wyoming Section SRM and the Parent Society for four years. I am proud to be a part of this group and I am hoping to give back by serving on the council this term. As Wyoming SRM North West council Representative I would like to focus on two main goals I think are imperative to the growth and improvement of the organization. First I would like to continue and expand my support of the student activities at the annual meeting. I enjoy working with students and I believe strongly in making the students a top priority as they are the next generations of Range Professionals and the Society. Second, I would like to advertise, and cater, the Wyoming SRM Annual Meetings and membership to producers. I have heard the concern that SRM membership is made up of too few land stewards such as ranchers and farmers and I would like to help change this. I would also like to continue participating in the general planning of the WY SRM annual meetings as well as the Parent Society meeting in Denver in 2020. Thank you very much for the opportunity!

## Proposed bylaw change to split secretary and treasurer:

The proposed change of wording is:

- Article III. Section 3. "The Secretary and Treasurer positions will serve terms of five years."
- Article IV. Section 1. "The President-elect and Council shall be elected by letter or electronic mail ballot which shall be sent to all members by the Secretary. The President-elect shall succeed to the Presidency. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be appointed by the majority vote of the Council to serve five year calendar terms with no term limits. These two positions can be held by the same person."
- Article V. Section 5. " Secretary- The Secretary will be appointed by the Council and will serve as a non-voting officer of the Wyoming Section Council. Duties include taking minutes at business meetings and disseminating them to the officers. He/she will also maintain correspondence of the Section.
- Article V. Section 6. "Treasurer- The Treasurer will be appointed by the Council and will serve as a non-voting officer of the Wyoming Section Council. Duties include maintaining accurate financial records and completing financial transactions of the Section as directed by the President. He/she performs all duties necessary to fulfill requirements related to proper maintenance of corporate (State) and non-profit (Federal) status of the Section."
- Article V. Section 7. "The Secretary and Treasurer positions may be held by the same person."
- In the rest of the bylaws, "Secretary-Treasurer" would be changed to either Secretary or Treasurer. (Secretary for nominations, correspondence and minutes; Treasurer for financial)

# Wyoming Section Proposed Budget

Submitted by: Budget Committee Date: 7-Dec-17

	<b>Current Balance (End of 3rd Quarter)</b>
<b>Accounts</b>	
Checking Account	\$2,118.32
Savings Account	<u>\$16,176.11</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,294.43</b>
<b>Minus Line Accounts (see below)</b>	<u>-\$11,723.82</u>
<b>Total Activity Funds Available</b>	<b>\$6,570.61</b>

Committees operating under Section's General Funds	Current Balance 3rd Quarter	Budget Committee Recommendations (see comments below)			Balance Ending (2018)
		Expenses (2018)	Remaining Balance	Income (2018)	
Annual Meeting		\$8,000.00		\$8,000.00	\$0.00
Awards		\$2,000.00		\$0.00	(\$2,000.00)
Fund Raising		\$500.00		\$2,000.00	\$1,500.00
Handbook		\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
Historian/Archivists		\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
Information & Education (I&E)		\$700.00		\$0.00	(\$700.00)
Membership		\$0.00		\$740.00	\$740.00
Newsletter/website		\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
Nominations		\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
President/Council		\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Sub-Totals</b>	<b>\$6,570.61</b>	<b>\$11,200.00</b>	<b>(\$4,629.39)</b>	<b>\$10,740.00</b>	<b>\$6,110.61</b>
<b>Difference between 2017 3rd Quarter balance and potential 2018 end of year balance</b>					<b>(\$460.00)</b>

Committees with line accounts	Current Balance 3rd Quarter	Budget Committee Recommendations (see comments below)			Balance Ending (2018)
		Expenses (2018)	Remaining Balance	Income (2018)	
Ecological Site Description (ESD)	\$261.12	\$0.00	\$261.12	\$0.00	\$261.12
WY Rangeland Management School	\$5,502.91	\$0.00	\$5,502.91	\$0.00	\$5,502.91
High School Youth Forum (HSYF)	\$3,840.67	\$1,400.00	\$2,440.67	\$740.00	\$3,180.67
Student Affairs/Activities	(\$3.12)	\$0.00	(\$3.12)	\$0.00	(\$3.12)
WY Resource Education Days (WyRED)	\$1,655.99	\$7,225.00	(\$5,569.01)	\$7,500.00	\$1,930.99
WyRED Welcome Items	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
UW Range Club	\$466.25	\$0.00	\$466.25	\$0.00	\$466.25
<b>Sub-Totals</b>	<b>\$11,723.82</b>	<b>\$8,625.00</b>	<b>\$3,098.82</b>	<b>\$8,240.00</b>	<b>\$11,338.82</b>
<b>Difference between 2017 3rd Quarter balance and potential 2018 end of year balance</b>					<b>(\$385.00)</b>

<b>Totals: General Fund &amp; Line Items</b>	<b>\$18,294.43</b>	<b>\$19,825.00</b>	<b>(\$1,530.57)</b>	<b>\$18,980.00</b>	<b>\$17,449.43</b>
<b>Difference between 2017 3rd Quarter balance and potential 2018 end of year balance</b>					<b>(\$845.00)</b>

## Budget Committee Comments

Do not have a speaker for the annual meeting that would have costs (less \$1,500).  
 Increase meeting registration fee to \$100 and/or obtain more sponsors to increase total income by \$3,500 to \$4,000  
 Find other fund raising activities that would bring in at least another \$500 to \$1,000.  
 Need to find a sponsor for the WyRed Welcome items.

## Wyoming SRM Honor Awards 2017

### Trail Boss Award – John Likins

The Trail Boss Award is one of the highest recognitions within the Wyoming Section of the SRM. Recipients must be a member of SRM and have made noteworthy or outstanding contributions in the past five years in the art and science of range management. Recipients must demonstrate sound ecological principles and communicate those principles effectively with both colleagues and the public.



### Outstanding Woman or Man on the Range Award

This award is given to individuals that are actively engaged in ranching or range management and are a recognized leader in the profession. Candidates must be interested in the promotion and advancement of the art and science of range management and dedicated to looking ahead to the improvement of range management.

Ray Gullion



Bryan Christiansen



## Wyoming SRM Student Awards 2017

### Undergraduate Range Management Exam-URME (Scores out of 150)

<u>Student</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Placing</u>
Julian Mesick	SUU	126	84	1
Ryan Benjamin	UW	113	75.3	2
Jaycie Arndt	UW	108	72	3



#### School

- 1 University of Wyoming Average Top 3: 107
- 2 Southern Utah University Average Top 3: 90

### URME Pro-Am

Jake Powell (Pro) + Ruger Carter (SUU)	87	1
Karen Clause (Pro) +Averi Reynolds (UW)	86.5	2
Bree Lind (Pro) + Tyler Therkildsen (UW)	84	3



### Plant Identification (Score out of 500)

<u>Student</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Placing</u>
Jordan Skovgard	UW	463.6	1
Jaycie Arndt	UW	446	2
Tyler Therkildsen	UW	430.3	3



**Plant ID Pro-Am**

Karen Clause + Tyler Therkildsen	393.95	1
Jake Powell + Jaycie Arndt	386	2
Bree Lind + Averi Reynolds	347.25	3



**Undergraduate Extemporaneous Speaking Contest**

1. Averi Reynolds (UW): Will wind farm establishment influence large herbivore grazing on these ranges?
2. Jaycie Arndt (UW): Ecologically based invasive plant management
3. Chase Bruner (UW): Beetle killed timber



## High School Youth Forum

1. Hunter Elliot (Chief Washakie FFA 12<sup>th</sup> grade, Worland, WY): Issues in Management Practices Involving Downy Brome
2. Jade Hefenieder (Chief Washakie FFA 9<sup>th</sup> grade, Worland, WY): The Steps in how to make a Hamburger



## Turning over the Presidency

Passing of the gavel to outgoing President, Mae Smith, by incoming President, Bryan Christiansen.

