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NRM Newsletter

Natural Resource Management

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South Dakota State University

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NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (NRM) NEWSLETTER



**Department of Natural Resource Management
South Dakota State University**

Volume 72, Number 4, November 2013

Newsletter Update—Dave Willis (Department Head)

In the last issue of the NRM newsletter, I reported on overall fall enrollment at SDSU. We now have the official fall census day counts for our undergraduate majors. Overall, our department was down 5 total students, which is very close to flat. The College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences increased from 2378 undergraduate students in fall 2012 enrolled in our majors to 2488 (increase of 4.6%) in fall of 2013. Big increases were posted for Animal Science and Agronomy majors.

Ecology and Environmental Science (EES) enrollment was 42 this fall (fall of 2013), compared with 39 for fall of 2012. However, as expected, the old Environmental Management (ENVM) degree major (which has nearly cycled out of existence now) was down from 6 last fall to 2 this fall. So, overall, the EES and ENVM majors total 44 this fall, compared to 45 last fall. To be honest, I was disappointed; I thought we would see an increase in this major.

Enrollment in the undergraduate Range Science major was 30 this fall, which is up from 24 last fall. I know that many of our faculty members in all three disciplines across NRM tried to help recruit into Range, and maybe the increase was a result.

Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences majors were down to 283 this fall of 2013, compared with 293 the fall of 2012. We actually hit 293 both the fall of 2011 and the fall of 2012, and 293 was our all-time peak. We have always been honest with potential new students about the job market, especially at the B.S. level, and now balancing that with the new decentralized budgeting (where tuition dollars are returned to the college and enrollment increases are thus financially rewarded) is a little difficult. However, we (i.e., many of us across

NRM) certainly tried to move some of the WFS undergrads who were hoping to find a job with only a BS into the RANG major, where the job market is strong, so perhaps that had some positive effect. A drop of 10 undergraduates is about a 3.4% decline, and we have had very substantial changes in enrollment during the past couple of decades. So, stability would be actually be unusual, and fluctuations should be expected. Sounds like the “real world” of animal (e.g., wildlife and fish) population dynamics, doesn't it? ☺

Graduate student numbers are a moving target and the last effort I made to get an absolutely correct head count was last May (2013) when we had 84 students in either MS or PhD program in in either Wildlife/Fisheries or in Biological Sciences. Our graduate enrollment is strong because of our hard-working faculty members, given that grants, and especially federal grants, are more and more difficult to obtain in these tough economic times.

As you read through this issue of the newsletter, please notice how much is happening. Great faculty, great students, and great energy! ☺

Acknowledgement: Our thanks to **Drs. Katie Bertrand** and **Brian Graeb** for the field trip image on the banner for this issue of the NRM newsletter. More on this field trip later in the newsletter....



NEWS FROM OUR ALUMNI

Nathan Satre

Shortly after the last newsletter, we received the following update from **Nathan Satre** (BS, Wildlife and Fisheries, 2011). “I am presently situated in Montreal, Quebec working toward my masters in biological science under the direction of Dr. Daniel Boisclair at the Université de Montréal (one of Canada’s French speaking institutions). I am presently in the writing phase of my program after recently completing two field seasons of fish, habitat and environmental data collection on a reservoir of the Winnipeg River in eastern Manitoba. This project has given me the opportunity to advance in the field of fisheries management, collaborate with government and industry partners, and become aware of fisheries policy and management techniques in Canada. My thesis, entitled *Comparative analysis of sampling methods to develop habitat-use models of fish productivity in the littoral-zone of reservoirs*, in addition to several publications, should be complete sometime toward the latter part of 2014.”



Nathan Satre in a photo from “the field.”

Marcus Gray

Marcus Gray (MS, Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences 2009, under **Dr. Jenks**) is now the Assistant Director of Admissions at Unity College in Maine! They have a well-known program in the wildlife discipline.

Bernard Hien

Bernard Hien (MS, Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences 2005, under **Dr. Jenks**) continues his successful career in Cameroon. In October, he moved up to the position of Cameroon’s Representative for the United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development

(IFAD). When he left SD in 2005, he was hired by the United Nations within about a month. His position was heading up the UN Poverty Program (part of IFAD) and he was stationed in Lome, Togo. While there he helped to reestablish a National Park in northern Togo. The UN moved him to Rome for about a year but he convinced the UN to relocate staff to field offices in Africa. They agreed and Bernard relocated to Congo about 1.5 years ago (summer before last—he visited SDSU at that time). So, this move to Cameroon is just north and a bit west of his previous position. We certainly miss his infectious laughter around the department!



Bernard Hien (center) presented his credentials to the Government of Cameroon in a formal ceremony on October 18, 2013.

Shannon Fisher

Dr. Shannon Fisher (MS, Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences 1996; PhD, Biological Sciences 1999) is Director of the [Water Resources Center](#) at Minnesota State University-Mankato and the Executive Director of the [Minnesota River Board](#).

More on blue catfish

We heard from North Dakota Game and Fish Department Fisheries Management Section Leader **Scott Gangl** (BS, Wildlife and Fisheries, 1997; MS University of Minnesota) after the last newsletter. “The photo of the blue catfish on the first page made me chuckle. For some reason, odd fish sightings come in waves, and this year was the year of the blue catfish. I had a number of calls this summer from anglers who caught relatively large (~10 lb) channel catfish, reporting they caught blue catfish because of their gray/bluish color when they get that large. One of the anglers caught one here near Bismarck, and when I told him that we only had channel cats (and a few flatheads) in North Dakota and not blue cats, he got angry, saying ‘I’ve been fishing the river all my life and caught lots of catfish. I don’t know what a channel cat looks like, but I know what the river catfish look like, and this one was definitely a blue catfish!’ Anyway, despite never catching a blue catfish either, I’ve become well acquainted with their distinguishing characteristics!”

Final 2013 stats for Caleb Thielbar

Credit again to Terry Vandrovec (*Argus Leader* beat writer for SDSU sports): “Ex-SDSU standout **Caleb Thielbar** completed his rookie season in the bigs as a reliever for the Minnesota Twins. The Minnesota native wound up going 3-2 with a 1.76 ERA in 46.0 innings. His WHIP of 0.83 was tops on the team among pitchers with more than one appearance.” Not that we have done anything remotely connected to his athletic prowess, but Caleb did earn his B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences in 2009. Honestly, I am amazed that SDSU athletes can get through our science curriculum with so many lab courses that could interfere with their athletic schedules. Hats off to all of our students in all sports!

And one more: Caleb was awarded the Bill Boni Diamond award for being the Twins most outstanding rookie.

http://minnesota.twins.mlb.com/news/article.jsp?ymd=20131017&content_id=63065186&vkey=pr_min&c_id=min

Dr. Robert Eng

We recently received sad news that **Dr. Robert L. Eng** (BS, Wildlife and Fisheries, 1950) passed away on October 20, 2013. Dr. Eng was a professor at Montana State University and touched the lives of many biologists with the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, as well as those within many other agencies. Bob received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from South Dakota State University in 1992, and initiated the Robert and Martha Eng Scholarship for undergraduate students in Wildlife and Fisheries Science in 2007. Our condolences to his family.

SDSU Student Subunit American Fisheries Society

The AFS Subunit was pleased to welcome **Andy Jansen** (MS, Wildlife and Fisheries, 2008, under Willis) and **Tom Bacula** (MS, Wildlife and Fisheries, 2009, under **Dr. Brian Blackwell**) for a late October presentation. Both speakers primarily discussed urban fisheries management, but discussion ranged far more broadly than that. Andy works for the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, while Tom works for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. We very much appreciated their willingness to spend time with the Subunit! Yes, we also admit that Andy and Tom did have nonresident waterfowl licenses and yes, their final day of hunting was apparently one of those memorable days in the field.

Jenks receives honor through book award

Dr. Jon Jenks, Distinguished Professor of Wildlife Sciences, is an internationally recognized expert in large mammal ecology and management. Jon and coauthor David (Chip) Leslie collaborated on a book chapter entitled “Interactions with Other Large Herbivores” in the book “Biology and Management of White-tailed Deer” that was published by CRC Press in 2011. We just learned that the book received the Award for Outstanding Edited Book from The Wildlife Society at their annual meeting in Milwaukee on Oct. 6, 2013. Jon continues to uphold our departmental reputation within the profession.

Update from Dr. Les Flake

Distinguished Professor Emeritus Les Flake gave us a brief update. “I am working on a upland hunting memories book from South Dakota and have most of it done. Probably will put it on Kindle with option to print on Amazon.com but not sure yet. Can always just give it to family.

Still doing some chukar hunting here in Utah. The dog gets some nice points on them but others jump early and glide off the mountains. I only hunt the more moderate slopes and the tops of ridges anymore. Getting too old to chance the steep canyons if I have to climb back to the top.”

Malia Volke wins award

We just received news that PhD student **Malia Volke** earned first prize at the student poster competition at the 2013 Eastern South Dakota Water Conference on October 30. Her poster, entitled “Formation of the White River-Missouri River Delta in South Dakota: Opportunities for Cottonwood Forest Regeneration,” was one of 10 student posters in the competition. **Dr. Carter Johnson** serves as Malia’s major advisor.

Agriculture Technology Center for Rural Enterprise

Groundbreaking for the 30,000 square foot Agriculture Technology Center for Rural Enterprise (ATCRE) in eastern Brookings (southeast of Daktronics) was held on October 24, 2013. The ATCRE is a center to foster the entrepreneurial ideas in the agriculture and technology arenas within South Dakota, and is owned by the Brookings Economic Development Corporation.

Prairie AquaTech, a private business formed from SDSU research, will lease the ATCRE at the completion of construction in June of 2014. Prairie AquaTech specializes in new approaches to aquaculture feeds and health supplements. They currently are conducting feeding trials to produce fish meal replacers that are a

lower cost alternative from soybean and corn products, and also have immune enhancing characteristics. **Drs. Mike Brown** (NRM) and **Bill Gibbons** (Biology and Microbiology) are at the core of Prairie AquaTech developments.



*Groundbreaking for ATCRE: Al Heuton far right, Bob Otterson second from right, **Dr. Mike Brown** third from right, **Dr. Bill Gibbons** fourth from right, SDSU President **Dr. David Chicoine** on the far left, and Van Fishback second from the left.*

Perimeter fence at Wildlife Farm!

We extend our very sincere thanks to **Dr. Daniel Scholl**, Director of the SD Agricultural Experiment Station. Dr. Scholl provided us with fiscal year 2014 funding to place a perimeter fence around the entire Wildlife Farm! For those of you alumni who have not been here for a while, that facility starts with **Dr. Bertrand's** experimental stream facility and **Dr. Graeb and Chipps'** sturgeon research facility on the east end, then reaches to the large boat storage barn, includes the deer pens, and runs far out west to **Dr. Perkins'** common garden plots and **Dr. Jenks'** bighorn sheep pen.

Oak Lake Field Station Annual Research Retreat

Oak Lake Field Station provides unique facilities close to campus for field-based natural resource management research and instruction. A diversity of terrestrial and aquatic habitats, field laboratory facilities and long-term data sets support a number of student and faculty projects every year. In addition, the station manages a small grants program supported from private donations to stimulate undergraduate research activity.

The station hosted its annual research retreat on Saturday, October 19. This event is intended to stimulate interaction among researchers and also provides an opportunity for funding agencies to see preliminary results. Student and faculty researchers gather for an informal day of presentations and discussion of ongoing projects. Natural Resource Management agencies in attendance discuss emerging issues which might serve as focal points for future projects. The station supported completion of four MS thesis projects, numerous published journal articles and conference presentations over this past year. New and on-going research projects are supported by \$2.8M in research funding from a variety of sources. The retreat schedule and list of presentations can be viewed on the station web site.

<http://www.sdstate.edu/nrm/facilities/oaklake/index.cfm>

Keep up with the station on Facebook at *Oak Lake Field Station*.



Participants at the 2013 Oak Lake Research Retreat: Back row from left to right, Jay Gilbertson (EDWDD), Geoff Henebry (SDSU, GIS Center of Excellence), Arvid Boe (SDSU, Plant Science), Chad Kaiser (SDSU, NRM), Andrew Kopp (SD DENR), Drew Davis (USD, Biology), Ryan Schmid (SDSU, Bio/Micro) and Arjun Kafle (SDSU, Bio/Micro); Front Row from left to right, Alexander "Sandy" Smart (SDSU, NRM), Nicole Boone (SDSU, EES Undergrad), Ruth Howell (SD DOT), Deb Springman (EDWDD), Gabrielle Maltaverne (SDSU, EES Undergrad), Xu Lan (SDSU, NRM), Victoria Albers (USD, Biology) and Paul Johnson (SDSU, Plant Science).

Publications arising from 2013 Oak Lake Research

Bedford, K., N. Burkard, B. Crider, E. Kanaan, N.H. Troelstrup, Jr. 2013. Effects of climate change on phenology of blackbirds and orioles (icterids) in eastern South Dakota. Proceedings of the South Dakota Academy of Science (In Press). – Undergraduate Student Class Group Manuscript

Calles Torrez, V., P. J. Johnson, and A. Boe. 2013. Infestation rates and tiller morphology effects by the switchgrass moth on six cultivars of switchgrass. Bioenerg. Res. DOI: 10.1007/s12155-013-9306-7.

Carroll, B. 2013. Using resident small mammals to assess the habitat potential of experimental biofuels feedstocks. MS Thesis, South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD. 101p.

Johnson, P. J., P. N. Buhl, and V. Calles Torrez. 2013. A new species of *Platygaster* (Hymenoptera: Platygastridae) parasitizing *Chilophaga virgati* Gagné (Diptera: Cecidomyiidae). Zootaxa 3630 (1): 184-190.

Kafle, A. 2013. Chironomidae contributions to the macroinvertebrate assemblage, Index of Biotic Integrity and relationships to water impairment for eastern South

Dakota Streams. MS Thesis, South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD. 135p.

Krause, J.R., K.N. Bertrand, A. Kafle, N.H. Troelstrup, Jr. 2013. A fish index of biotic integrity for South Dakota's Northern Glaciated Plains ecoregion. *Ecological Indicators* 34: 313-322.

Kuehl, L.C. and N.H. Troelstrup, Jr. 2013. Relationships between net primary production, water transparency, chlorophyll a and total phosphorus in Oak Lake, Brookings County, South Dakota. *Proceedings of the South Dakota Academy of Science (In Press)*. – Undergraduate Research Publication.

Vande Kamp, K., M. Rigge, N.H. Troelstrup, Jr., A.J. Smart, B. Wylie. 2013. Detecting channel riparian vegetation response to BMP implementation in ephemeral streams using SPOT HRV imagery. *Range Ecology & Management* 66: 63-70.

Diane Drake's new office

In an effort to help productivity from her substantial workload, **Di Drake** moved from the main departmental office in the Northern Plains Biostress Laboratory to an individual office. We hope that having less interaction with "traffic" in the main office will allow her to concentrate more on her ever-increasing volume of accounting chores. While it was hard for Di to leave the main office, she is just down the hallway from her former office mates.



Di Drake in her new office space. *Alumni*: this was Dr. Hubbard's former office space. I can't put my finger on

it, but something is a little different than when Dan occupied the space?? ☺

Pipestone Creek experiential learning

Drs. Katie Bertrand and **Brian Graeb** combined their respective classes to provide *experiential learning* to our students by conducting a National Park Service (NPS) stream survey for Pipestone Creek in western Minnesota. Katie took her WL 367 Ichthyology class and Brian took his WL 431/531 Advanced Fisheries Management class. The students will prepare a final report for NPS, so you simply cannot get better "**real world**" experience than this class exercise!



Dr. Katie Bertrand excels at information transfer, this time at Pipestone Creek!



Dr. Brian Graeb, also in information-transfer mode.

Pond Boss Regional Gathering

During late September of 2013, I attended a regional meeting of *Pond Boss* members near Lincoln, NE.

These meetings always involve a wide range of people, from private pondowners to private sector fisheries biologists, and the information exchange DOES flow. The knowledge base of both of those groups is impressive. See the picture below for the floating dock/net pen arrangement at the private pond at the house where we met. Fish cage culture and sport fish attractor, all in one! The *Pond Boss* family is one of our primary donors for the **Jesse W. West Fisheries Research Endowment**.



Pond Boss regional gathering in September 2013 just south of Lincoln, NE; this is a wonderful group of friends.

Hubbard in retirement?

So, how is **Dr. Dan Hubbard** doing in retirement? Well, based upon the photo below that was taken by **Dale Gates** (BS, Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, 1988), Dan is doing rather well.



Dr. Dan Hubbard in west-river SD during September of 2013. Great-looking dog, Dan!

Ecology Club: SCUBA

The SDSU Ecology club has brought SCUBA diving to South Dakota State University. The course is intended to be an introductory scuba lesson for those with interest in certification. They do not offer certification at this time; however, they do hope to bring this to SDSU students in the future. This activity was set up by Gabrielle Maltaverne and Austin Hanson as a fun, educational, and fundraising activity for the chapter. They had 6-8 participants in each of the two three-hour long classes provided this past April of 2013 and hope to conduct more in the near future.



SCUBA and SDSU ecology – a perfect match.

Range Club

The SDSU Range Club developed a tribute poster for West River Cattlemen that is hanging in the Animal Science Complex. Displayed below the poster are the top 5 pumpkins for their carving contest.



Back row left to right: Andrea Beck, Shelby Denker. Middle row left to right: Emily Helms, Melissa Kafka. Front row left to right: Sophie Strubbe, Jared Brown, Morgan Myers, Nicole Schwebach, and Tyler Swan.

Almost another ichthyology quiz?

No, I won't impose another ichthyology quiz on everyone again so soon. ☺ However, six students in **Dr. Graeb's WL 413 Advanced Fisheries Management**

class gained experience with unique fishes, including tilapia and coppnose bluegills, on a 1 November electrofishing expedition east of Dallas, TX. Fisheries alumni – how many of you recall sampling this far south? ☺ This is again *experiential learning* at its finest! I could not resist that editorial comment! ☺ The research is being done on **Mr. Lee Roy Mitchell's Eagle Nest Preserve**, and we truly are appreciative of Mr. Mitchell's donation to the Department. Oh, and did I mention the 10+ pound largemouth bass that the students got to handle? ☺ Again, not many of those in SD! ☺ This connection is another result of our interaction with the *Pond Boss* organization, to whom we also express our sincere appreciation. We believe we actually are moving to a new "model" in higher education, with private sector assistance and donations providing both research and experience for both graduate and undergraduate students at SDSU. **Dr. Graeb** invests substantial time and energy into both the graduate and undergraduate aspects of this project, and he does it with such a positive attitude! ☺



One of Jason Breeggemann's largemouth bass carrying an internal transmitter, and healing nicely (note the sutures)! As an NRM PhD student, Jason is conducting ground-breaking research on bass habitat use at Eagle's Nest Preserve. Again, this research is due to wonderful ongoing support from Mr. Lee Roy Mitchell, and from our friend Bob Lusk at Pond Boss.

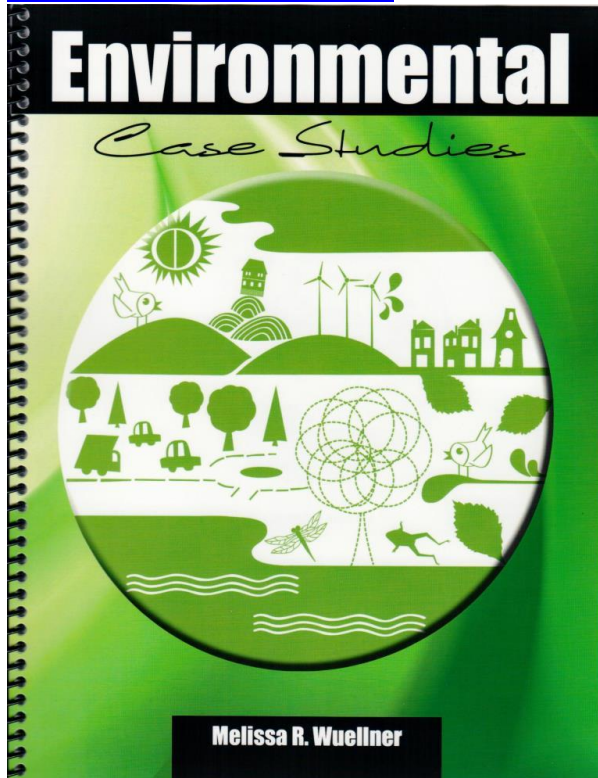


Wyatt Yohnk (left) and Andrew Heakin (right) with two fishes not found during electrofishing surveys in South Dakota. Wyatt has a tilapia, and Andrew is holding a coppnose bluegill (they are gorgeous fish, if you have never seen one; zoom in on that picture).

Wuellner book project

Assistant Professor **Dr. Melissa Wuellner** has published a new textbook entitled *Environmental Case Studies*. The textbook, produced by Kendall-Hunt Publishing, is a collection of 16 case studies that instructors of general environmental conservation or natural resources courses could use to promote active learning and critical thinking. Individual case studies cover some of the challenges and controversies related to world population growth, climate change, water and land conservation, wildlife and fisheries conflicts, non-renewable resource use, "green" energy, and achieving sustainable agriculture. Many of the case studies are written to be easily adapted for small or large classrooms or the online environment. The book will be printed and distributed on a small scale in 2014 to get feedback from students and instructors before wider distribution in 2015. Instructors who adopt the textbook will be granted access to a website with additional supporting materials, including further background information

and grading rubrics. Anyone with questions about the textbook, please contact Dr. Wuellner at melissa.wuellner@sdstate.edu.



The cover of Dr. Wuellner's new case study textbook.

Patch Burn-Grazing Meeting Successful

Range Field Specialist **Pete Bauman** was able to bring agency managers and ranchers together with this year's patch-burn grazing meeting. The 2013 meeting was held in Gary, South Dakota at the historic Buffalo Ridge Resort with a theme of 'Patch Burn-Grazing in Fragmented Landscapes.' The meeting was coordinated by SDSU Extension, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Minnesota DNR, Pheasants Forever (PF), and NRCS. Additional regional sponsors included the Great Plains Fire Science Exchange, the Tallgrass Prairie/Oak Savanna Fire Science Consortium, and The North American Grouse Partnership. Local sponsors included the SD Grassland Coalition, MN Prairie Chicken Society, Coteau Hills Chapter of PF, Millborn Seeds, and Dakota Ridge Pheasants. Over 100 participants from 9 states were in attendance for the two day event. Along with about 20 private producers from SD and MN, the crowd included public land managers, private contractors, biologists, and state and government agency program managers.

Day one began with an introduction to the concepts of traditional patch burn-grazing (PBG) by Ryan Harr, Private Lands Biologist for the Iowa DNR and former Iowa State University Professor. The remainder of the day was dedicated to the Chippewa Prairie complex located near Appleton, MN. Speaker sessions began with presentations from Dave Trauba (MN DNR), **Pete Bauman** (SDSU Extension), Joe Blastick (TNC) and Fred Harris (MN DNR). In addition, local producer Randy Rolfsmeier shared his views on the project in relation to cattle management and performance. Day one closed with a presentation by Bob Hamilton, manager of the TNC's 45,000-acre Tallgrass Prairie Preserve. Hamilton discussed the implications of patch burn-grazing on large-scale grassland management and research in the Flint Hills of Oklahoma and Kansas and lessons learned over many years of PBG management with both bison and cattle. An evening social was sponsored by Dakota Ridge Pheasants.

Day two began with a field trip to TNC's 160-acre 7-Mile Fen preserve near Clear Lake, SD where participants were exposed to the pros and cons of utilizing PBG on a small scale. The 7-Mile Fen property was in poor condition when it was acquired by TNC in the late 1990's. At that time it was under an annual season-long continuous grazing rental agreement with 25 cow-calf pairs on the 115 grazable acres. After several years of rest and recuperation, site managers are able to again graze 25 pairs under the PBG system, but with dramatically different results. The site now offers ample mid and old-growth grass while offering excellent habitat for species needing short-grass on the burn-graze patch. Local producer and project partner Cliff Millsapps talked about the positive impacts he has seen on his cattle and on the range under the PBG management system. After reviewing current PBG research with SDSU Range Professor **Sandy Smart** and watching a display of the Rainfall Simulator provided by NRCS staff, participants took part in a panel discussion with local ranchers who have utilized fire and grazing in their ranch management. Jim, Ryan, and Brodie Dailey discussed how they've incorporated fire into their management of native prairies and custom grazing pastures. Herb and Bev Hamann discussed their ranch operation and how initial apprehension

of fire has now turned into a positive experience. While realizing the benefits of fire, both families cited practical and safe application of fire as a future hindrance for producers in the region.

Presentations on the second day also featured a host of speakers from across the Great Plains. Chris Helzer (TNC Nebraska) discussed utilizing PBG for maintaining grassland restoration and species diversity objectives. Jessica Dowler discussed initial results of PBG on the new 20,000-plus acre Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge near Crookston, MN. Erin Holmes from WI PF introduced the audience to a unique partnership program focused on re-connecting grass and CRP landowners with cattle producers to promote a working grassland landscape model. Missouri Department of Conservation biologist Max Alleger discussed management issues where public attitudes toward grazing can be challenging, offering examples of improved habitat as incentive to continue refining a PBG system. Finally, Britt Smith of Oklahoma State University presented information on his MS work focused on PBG impacts to grassland species.



Pete Bauman, the outstanding Range Extension Field Specialist for NRM, on the outside of a grazing enclosure.

Carla Dieter in Action

Many alumni and friends likely know **Carla Dieter**, wife of **Dr. Chuck Dieter** in NRM. From KELO news: "Two South Dakota nurse practitioners are credited with saving a life at thousands of feet in the air Saturday.

While on her way to Washington DC, USD Nursing Chair Carla Dieter was on a Delta flight when an Idaho woman had a severe airborne peanut allergy reaction. "She was clutching her throat, struggling to breathe," Dieter said. Dieter and Nicole Gibson, who is the Nursing Chair for SDSU, stepped forward. Without the woman's Epi Pen, the pair had to think on their feet while digging through the planes first aid kit. "Obviously it's not the most ideal situation, you don't have every resource at your fingertips, but using what they had, and we had the both of us working as a team, really supporting each other was key," Gibson said. Once the woman was stabilized by the pair using Benadryl, epinephrine and oxygen, the flight staff made an emergency landing in Pittsburg.

That's when the two realized what they'd done to save the life of a stranger. "Nicole or I, neither one of us classified it as heroic," Dieter said. "It was something that, we just answered the call." "The beauty was we learned to work in teams and this truly was a team effort," Gibson said. And this wasn't the first time the women have worked side-by-side. Dieter mentored Gibson while she was earning her education. "It's not an experience you look to have, but if it's an experience that I was going to plan on having, I couldn't have planned it any better," Gibson said.



Clear Lake, SD custom grazer and pheasant hunting lodge owner Jim Dailey holds a copper colored 'burnsi' leopard frog caught while touring the Chippewa Prairie Patch Burn-Grazing project area.

The women were on their way to nursing conferences in Washington DC. Days after the incident, they ran into the woman they'd saved who was also a nurse attending one of the conferences.”

Donors via SDSU Foundation

I have not received an updated list of donors since the last newsletter in September, so I did not include a list of donors in this newsletter issue. We express our sincere thanks to all of our donors! Rest assured that we will continue to thank our donors as we get updates from the Foundation.

CONTACT US with news, comments or questions:

*PLEASE contact us with Alumni Updates. We get more positive feedback from people who appreciate these updates than anything else in the newsletter! **Range Science and Environmental Management** alumni – we especially need to hear from you! We know that you likely were in other departments when you were here, but NRM would sure like to keep you connected with the new department. We think things are going pretty darn well with the combined department.*

*Also, **please** send email address updates, corrections, and share the newsletter with friends and alumni so we can grow that email address list. **Thanks** for any help!*

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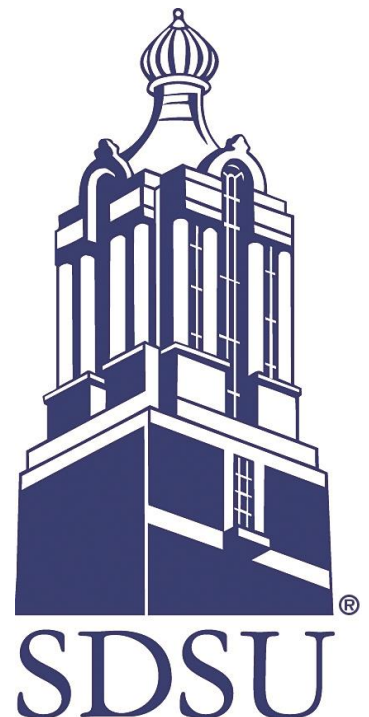
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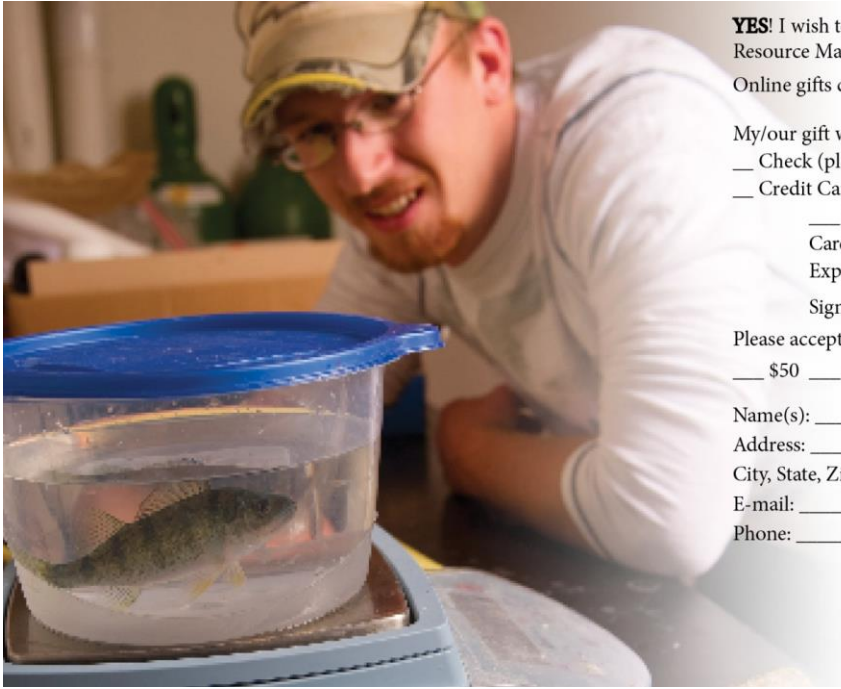
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