SRM Image: What is It?

Thomas E. Bedell

THIS QUESTION OF IMAGE IS RAISED from time to time. The Board of Directors feels this issue is worthy of consideration. Image in this context can mean (1) what we want others to perceive us to be or (2) what we perceive ourselves to be. As a Society, we probably can do more about the latter than about the former.

SO, LET'S TAKE A HARD LOOK AT WHAT SRM stands for. Rangelands are the land, the terrain upon which precipitation falls, where streams and rivers and lakes are formed, all of the many kinds of vegetation that cover this land. Range management is not a use and never has been. We should not use the term in that context and should point that out when people do. Rangelands have many uses and most people recognize and accept these uses. We should not forget that the beginnings of range management sprung from conditions brought about by livestock abuse of rangelands. Because rangelands occur in arid situations in much of the world, the changes in ecological status brought about by livestock abuse take many, many years to be turned around. Most of us know and accept that.

BUT, RANGE MANAGEMENT BY DEFINITION IS NOT livestock management; it is not wildlife management; it is not recreation management; it is not timber management; it is not water management. If we can get rid of our "hang-ups" on what range management is not, we can concentrate and focus on what it is. Range management **is** to manage, to care for, to protect, and to conserve the basic vegetative integrity on rangelands.

The author is presently First Vice-President of the Society for Range Management.

DO WE WANT RANGE MANAGEMENT TO BE something else? We do not think so. But, it's not just what the Board wants; it is what we all, as SRM members, want. When we can agree upon what we want, then we can go about describing how we want that to occur. Our "hang-up" so much of the time is that we don't agree and counsel with each other on how (the methods or the approach) we will get what we want.

SO, LET US LOOK CLEARLY AT OURSELVES AS A society. We must be the real leaders in the world on what rangelands are and should be. Because there may be several means to achieve a management end, the approaches to management may be controversial. So what if they are? Let us be leaders in resolving the controversy. Let us reason together, discuss together, have all of the various kinds of forums we can manage. The Society is strong because of the diversity of interest and involvement. It is because of diversity in viewpoint that we can resolve problems. But, we must be united in what we want rangelands to be, to do, to look like.

RANGELANDS ARE A MAGNIFICENT RENEWABLE RESOURCE which have so many different and, yes, compatible ways in which they can be used. We must use our talents, our knowledge, our strength to focus attention on the importance of rangelands. We have the ability. We have the strength. Do we have the will, the motivation? We trust we do. Let us feel comfortable among ourselves on this; then we will be really able to go forward in solving the challenges, whatever they are.

Current Literature

This section has the objective of alerting SRM members and other readers of *Rangelands* to the availability of new, useful literature being published on applied range management. Readers are requested to suggest literature items—and preferably also contribute single copies for review—for including in this section in subsequent issues. Personal copies should be requested from the respective publisher or senior author (address shown in parentheses for each citation).

Achieving Efficient Use of Rangeland Resources; by Richard S. White and Robert E. Short (Eds.); 1988; USDA, Agric. Res. Serv., Fort Keogh Livestock & Range Res. Sta., Miles City, Mon. 132 p. (Fort Keogh Livestock & Range Res. Sta., Route 1, Box 2021, Miles City, Mon. 59301; $15) Proceedings of a symposium held September 1987 at Fort Keogh; contains 22 papers including state-of-the-art information, new concepts, and current knowledge relating to efficient rangeland utilization.

Compiled by John F. Vallentine, Professor of Range Science, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah 84602

The Biology of Canadian Weeds. 83. *Hypericum perforatum* L.; by C. W. Crompton, I.V. Hall, K.I.N. Jensen, and P.D. Hilderbrand; 1988; Can. J. Plant Sci. 68(1):149-162. (Biosystematics Res. Centre, Agric. Can., Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0C6) Summarizes for the poisonous plant, St. Johnswort, its description, distribution and importance, autecology, reproduction and development, and response to control treatment.

Broom Snakeweed *(Gutierrezia sarothrae)* Control with Picloram and Metsulfuron; by Kirk C. McDaniel and Keith W. Duncan; 1987; Weed Sci. 35(6):837-841. (Dept. Anim. & Range Sci., N. Mex. State Univ., Las Cruces, N. Mex. 88003) Found lower rates of either herbicide were effective in killing broom snakeweed and increasing forage production in east-central New Mexico.

Cattle Foraging Behavior in Leafy Spurge *(Euphorbia esula)*-Infested Rangeland; by Rodney G. Lym and Donald R. Kirby; 1987; Weed Tech. 1(4):314-318. (Dept. Agron., N. Dak. State Univ., Fargo, N. Dak. 58105) Cattle used 20 and 2% of the herbage in zero and low density infestations respectively, but avoided grazing in higher densities until the milky latex in leafy spurge disappeared in early fall.

Cattle Nutrition on Blue Grama Rangeland in New Mexico; by L.J. Krysl, M.L. Galyean, J.D. Wallace, F.T. McCollum, et al.; 1987; N. Mex. Agric. Expt. Sta. Bul. 727; 35 p. (Bulletin Room, Agric. Expt. Sta., N. Mex. State Univ., Las Cruces, N. Mex. 88003) Provides information on dietary quality, intake, and rumen fermentation during various stages of plant maturity based on esophageal fistula and rumen cannula techniques.

Causes of Fire Effects in Tallgrass Prairie; by Lloyd C. Hulbert; 1988; Ecology 69(1):46-58. (Requests to: Director, Konza Prairie, Div. Biol., Kan. State Univ., Manhattan, Kan. 66506) Results of investigations into the causes of increased production and flowering resulting from burning tallgrass prairie.

Comparison of Herbage Production under Continuous Stocking and Intermittent Grazing; by Sheila A. Grant; G.T. Barthram, Lynne Torvell, J. King, and D.A. Elston; 1988; Grass & Forage Sci. 43(1):29-39. (Macaulay Land Use Res. Inst., Penicuik, Midlothian EH26 OPY, UK.) Concluded that intermittent grazing of *Lolium perenne* swards gave no advantage over continuous grazing, provided a flexible stocking rate was used to control sward conditions.

Economic Analysis of Typical and Lean Beef Production; by Kerry Walker and James O. Wise; 1987; J. Amer. Soc. Farm Mgr. & Rural Appr. 51(2):69-74. (Dr. Wise: Dept. Econ., Univ. Ga., Athens, Ga. 30602) Concluded from their analysis that larger cattle (exotic crossbreds) were economically advantageous over smaller cattle (domestic breeds) in stocker and finishing phases but not in the cow-calf phase.

The Effect of the Duration of Regrowth on Photosynthesis, Leaf Death, and the Average Rate of Growth in a Rotationally Grazed Sward; by A.J. Parsons and P.D. Penning; 1988; Grass & Forage Sci. 43(1):15-27. (Inst. for Grassland & Anim. Prod., Hurley, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 5LR, UK.) Concluded from grazing sheep on *Lolium perenne* that regrowths of at least 14 days but less than 28 days most effectively achieved maximum average growth rate of highly digestible material and sustained a densely tillered, leafy sward.

Fire Response of Shrubs of Dry Forest Habitat Types in Montana and Idaho; by Nonan V. Noste and Charles L. Bushey; 1987; USDA, For. Serv. Gen. Tech. Rep. INT-239; 22 p. (Intermtn. Res. Sta., 324 25th St., Ogden, Utah 84401). Summarizes the characteristics and fire response of 20 shrub species that permit modification, either enhancement or reduction, of the shrub component of a stand with prescribed fire.

Grasses of Wyoming; by Gregory P. Hallsten, Quentin D. Skinner, and Alan A. Beetle; 1988 (3rd Ed.); Wyo. Agric. Expt. Sta. Res. J. 202; 440 p. (Bulletin Room, Univ. Wyo., Box 3313, Laramie, Wyo. 82071; $18) Summarizes the description, distribution, ecology, and importance of 250 Wyoming plants; also provides floral and vegetative keys to tribes, genera, and species.

Grazing on the American Rangelands; by Thadis W. Box and John C. Malechek; 1987; Amer. Soc. Anim. Sci., West. Sect. Proc. 38:107-118. (Coll. Nat. Resources, Utah State Univ., Logan, Utah 84322) Describes the complex interrelationships of grazing history, present range condition, mechanisms, and extent of plant community change, grazing animals as environmental tools, and future policy needs on U.S. rangelands.

Herbicide Treatment Effects on Properties of Mountain Big Sagebrush Soils after Fourteen Years; by I.C. Burke, W.A. Reiners, D.L. Sturges, and P.A. Matson; 1987; Soil Sci. Soc. Amer. J. 51(5):1337-1343. (Senior author: Natural Resource Ecol. Lab., Colo. State Univ., Fort Collins, Colo. 80512) Concluded that big sagebrush control, in the absence of grazing, had no effect on longterm site fertility.

Herded vs. Unherded Sheep Grazing Systems on an Alpine Range in Wyoming; by John F. Thilenius and Gary R. Brown; 1987; USDA, For. Serv. Gen. Tech. Rep. RM-147; 8 p. (Rocky Mtn. For. & Range Expt. Sta., 240 W. Prospect St., Fort Collins, Colo. 80526) Neither sheep management system was superior over the other based on vegetation response; both either increased or at least maintained total plant coverage and were concluded to be environmentally acceptable.

Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands of New Mexico: A Biological Appraisal; by James T. Fisher, John G. Mexal, and Rex D. Pieper (Tech. Coord.); 1988; N. Mex. Agric. Expt. Sta. Spec. Rep. 73; 53 p. (Bulletin Room, Agric. Expt. Sta., N. Mex. State Univ., Las Cruces, N. Mex. 88003) Emphasis given to the ecology of pinyon-juniper vegetation, the growth and management of pinyon, the biological and economic productivity of pinyon, and pinyon-juniper woodlands as wildlife habitat.

Plant Response to Defoliation: Morphological Considerations and Allocation Priorities; by D.D. Briske; 1986; Proc. Internat. Rangeland Cong. 2:425-427. (Range Sci. Dep., Texas A&M Univ., College Station, Texas 77843) Describes grazing resistance of the graminoid life form in terms of structural and functional organization.

Plant Response to Grazing: The Role of Photosynthetic Capacity and Stored Carbon Reserves; by J.H. Richards; 1986; Proc. Internat. Rangeland Cong. 2:428-430. (Dept. Range Sci., Utah State Univ., Logan, Utah 84322) Based on a review of literature and his own research with two *Agropyron* bunchgrasses, the author concluded that "under most instances of defoliation, phytosynthesis during regrowth outweighs stored carbohydrates as a source of carbon for shoot regrowth."

Principles of Grazing Management Systems; by A.D. Wilson; 1986; Proc. Internat. Rangeland Cong. 2:221-225. (CSIRO, Div. Wildl. & Rangelands Res., Deniliquin, N.S.W. 2710, Australia) Proposes 15 principles and/or hypotheses of grazing management and offers them as a focal point of future experimentation and debate. (Editor's note: this is worthy of required reading status for every range scientist!)

Recreation on Rangelands: Promise, Problems, Projections; by Dale Rollins (Ed.); 1988; Soc. for Range Mgt., % Texas Tech. Univ., Lubbock, Texas; 81 p. (Obtain from: Lisa Bradley, Dept. Range & Wildl. Mgt., Texas Tech. Univ., Lubbock, Texas 79409; $10) The proceedings of a symposium comprised of seven papers and held at the 1988 Annual Meeting of SRM at Corpus Christi on Feb. 23, 1988; emphasis given to the biological and economic potential of fee hunting on rangelands.

Selection of Winter Foraging Sites by Elk and Mule Deer; by Carl L. Wambolt and Allen F. McNeal; 1987; J. Environ. Mgt. 25(3):285-291. (Dept. Anim. & Range Sci., Mon. State Univ., Bozeman, Mon. 59717) Concluded that elk selected feeding sites on winter range where the relationship of food intake to energy expenditure was optimized, while deer selected feeding sites where forage availability, security, and thermal cover were optimized.

Systems for Reducing Dependency on Harvested Forage for Wintering Cows; by H.A. Turner and R.F. Angell; 1987; Amer. Soc. Anim. Sci., West. Sect. Proc. 38:197-200. (Eastern Ore. Agric. Res. Center, Burns, Ore. 97720) Compared three methods of overwintering on flood meadows: (1) rake-bunched hay and then baled hay, (2) rake-bunched hay, and (3) standing hay (uncut) plus supplement and emergency feeding. No. 2 proved to be a cost effective strategy, but No. 3 was concluded not a viable alternative because of reduced performance and costs similar to No. 1.

Toxic Plants of Oklahoma and the Southern Plains; by George E. Burrows, Ronald J. Tyrl, Dale Rollins, Thomas R. Thedford, Wilfred McMurphy, and William C. Edwards; 1988; Okla. Agric. Ext. Cir. E-868; 41 p. (Bulletin Room, Agric. Ext. Serv., Okla. State Univ., Stillwater, Okla. 74078; $5) Provides detailed plant taxonomic and veterinary information for species most commonly implicated in livestock poisoning in the area; contains 52 color prints of plant species, distribution maps, glossary of terminology, and cross index of scientific and common names.