has also been extended another five weeks. "If we can graze livestock on this steep, fragile range, successfully, that demonstrates livestock is a viable use anywhere," noted Don Nebecker, Uinta Forest Supervisor. "This range has made a dramatic recovery." "Some of it is due to structural readjustment," Nebecker added, "but most of it is due to management by the livestock permittees." "The real story here today is the cooperation, courage and vision of the people working here," agreed Utah Gov. Val Oveson.

"War is hell—particularly a civil war fought between neighbors," noted Fee Busby, former president of the Society for Range Management and former University of Wyoming professor. "The peace we've experienced today is because we have worked together to improve this allotment." Hobble Creek became a success story when people on both sides of the fence started talking to each other. "Sometimes we in range management are accused of talking only to ourselves," said Busby. Talking to the group at a picnic ground in Hobble Creek Canyon, as a dutch oven supper cooked, Busby noted that other people besides cattlemen use the area: picnickers, campers, fishermen, horse riders, and hikers. "If we can talk to the recreationists, listen to and respect other people, maybe we can solve some problems before they become problems."

The Forest Service won the Hobble Creek appeal. The livestock association also won through cooperative range management, restored permit numbers, and improved range. Utah sportsmen won with improved wildlife habitat, and downstream irrigators won a healthy, restored watershed. And the public was the biggest winner of all because the cooperative efforts of many made Hobble Creek into a model of good multiple use on the National Forest. It was time to celebrate!

**Broadening the Base for Range Management**

**Peter C. Myers**

I want to thank your President, Bill Laycock, and your Executive Vice President, Peter Jackson, for the invitation to speak here today. This International Society and its members play a vital role in being the "conscience" of the world for the conservation of range resources. You are to be commended for that job, your past performance, and your strong support in the continuation of this resource endeavor.

**Using Our Talents**

It is extremely important that we each patiently practice those talents that we were blessed with in this range vegetation management, especially during such trying times as we have been confronted with in the current drought situation in the United States. Drought and dry conditions are words that range managers are more accustomed to than other agriculturalists, and it is your understanding of these conditions and basic plant and soil interrelationships that will continue to make this nation's range and pasture lands a productive type for present and future land uses.

Twenty-First Century agriculture in this country will recognize the vast resource benefits produced from America's rangelands. From my vantage point, the resource benefits produced from America's rangelands are just now beginning to be recognized by the public. May I be bold as to offer this membership, the heartbeat within the Society, suggestions to hasten the public's understanding and support.

**Building Understanding in an Urban Public**

The benefits derived from range and pasture resources are not fully understood or appreciated by our urban neighbors. Changing life styles of the past twenty years have brought our nation's population from a rural environment to the cities. Today we have a young generation that knows little of the traditional uses of range and pasture resources, but are more in tune with using rangelands for their recreation values, and riparian areas for their fish, wildlife, and other noncommodity values.

The Society must act aggressively to educate and broaden the knowledge of our urban population on the values and benefits of all range resources. USDA agencies are aware of this need and are looking at opportunities to broaden the understanding and partnership in managing rangeland and pasture resources for the present and future needs of people. The agencies in USDA also work closely with agencies of the Department of Interior (BLM, FIA, FWS) which are key players. We maintain this contact through the Range Issues Working Group of the Department's Natural Resources and Environment Committee.

**Promoting the Benefits of Livestock Grazing**

A stronger case must be made to seek public understanding of the opportunity and benefits that can be derived from using proper livestock grazing as a tool to achieve desired vegetation objectives for multiple resource values. There are many ways to do this. For example, the Mark Twain National Forest in Missouri identified four specific wildlife species that are dependent upon the edge effect in managed range and pasture land.

With the help of local and interested publics, range managers on the Mark Twain identified specific habitat and vegetation objectives. In addition, they identified plant diversity as an important component to obtain and maintain high quality wildlife habitats for eastern cottontail rabbit, eastern bluebird, orchard oriole, bobwhite quail, eastern wild turkey, and white-tailed deer.
The Range Conservationist and Wildlife Biologist on the Mark Twain verified the greater wildlife numbers and better habitat conditions would be achieved through proper livestock grazing of their rangelands, as opposed to no grazing. Simply stated, the Mark Twain National Forest uses cattle in accomplishing its wildlife objectives on rangelands.

I realize you westerners may not consider Missouri pastures as range, but this example could probably be multiplied in western range areas with western wildlife species.

Who benefits from effective range management of this type? The basic resources: soil, water, and vegetation. Also, the local economy and people benefit because the Mark Twain National Forest is able to provide its interested publics with increased wildlife numbers, both in game and nongame species, accommodate hunter demand for increased hunting opportunities, provide livestock grazing opportunities to local livestock producers, provide more water of higher quality, and return grazing receipts to the Treasury, all through "Caring For the Land and Serving People."

As another example, efforts such as Coordinated Resource Management contribute to good range management where public and private lands are intermixed. The Experimental Stewardship program in the Modoc/Washoe area of California and Nevada is a good example of close-knit cooperation between ranchers, public land managers, public conservation agencies, conservation districts, and others.

Although we seem to hear the most about public range—because of all the public demands placed upon it—we must always remember that most of the range resource in this country is under the stewardship of private landowners. To illustrate this stewardship and the benefits of a well-managed livestock enterprise, SCS Chief Wilson Scaling likes to tell the story of Rocky Creek watershed in Texas. It's a good example. As a result of range reseeding, brush control, and closer management of grazing by local ranchers, West Rocky Creek, long dormant, began to flow again and eventually became part of the urban water supply in San Angelo, 20 miles away.

Noxious Weeds

The cancer of range and pasture resources, noxious weeds, is of growing concern with USDA. I've been well aware of this problem since coming to USDA. Recent trips scheduled by the Secretary and me into western states on drought-related issues have revealed the public's concern about the increasing spread of noxious weeds on rangelands.

The spread of noxious weeds will affect each of us through loss in range productivity for livestock production, loss of valuable wildlife habitat, and loss of water for urban and rural municipalities. I will be asking a cross-section of USDA range professionals to make recommendations on a National policy on noxious weed management vs. noxious weed control for USDA.

Noxious weeds must be managed in the future if we in agriculture are to coexist. Solutions are not easy, especially because of the legal and financial limitations on the use of herbicides.

The Conservation Reserve

No doubt each of you knows my personal commitment to The Conservation Reserve Program, now in its third year. In this important "Soil Conservation" program, USDA continues to remove from production land that is erosive, that is marginal in productive capabilities for agricultural production and yearly cultivation, but has great potential for use when the correct crops are grown—forage and trees.

With your scientific knowledge and help many of these acres are now protected from past destructive farming practices. However, the real challenge now before each of us is to make sure the correct recommendations and technology are presented to landowners when these lands are released from the program. We must ensure that we do not lose the gains that are being made in getting the right land use on the right land.

You can play a strong role. I understand you have formed a CRP committee with just such an objective. I commend you and urge you to provide guidance to USDA and to all those landowners controlling CRP land so that the right decisions are made now and 10 years from now. The Grazing Land Forum, Pete Jackson, President, has an important role to play here, too.

It is not too soon for partnerships between this Society and USDA to be formed to address this important question of "Conservation After CRP." How will these CRP acres affect the cattle industry? How can we maintain these areas in a more desirable conserving use?

I am reminded of the great successes and demonstration role USDA and USDA agencies served in the stabilization of rangelands in the Plains States in the 1930s. It is now OUR conservation era, OUR legacy—the legacy of USDA, of private land owners, and of organizations such as the Society for Range Management—to provide the leadership for sound and wise land conservation practices to pass on to the next generation of Americans.

Range Management in our Eastern States

I certainly am pleased that the Society chose to meet this summer in a place that can be described as a state where the East meets the West. Opportunities to practice the science and art of range management are not limited to the western States. The principles of range management are just as valid in our humid eastern States, and often our vegetation concerns and management challenges are similar.

For example, Eastern forage systems are very productive in the spring and fall because the forage base is dominated by cool-season grasses and legumes. Our eastern States have little to no warm season grass or legume forages to balance out a growing-season-long forage base.

This is just the opposite concern of that faced by most western producers. To correct this imbalance, the Soil Conservation Service and the Forest Service has been recommending and establishing native warm season forages back into eastern ecosystems. These species are very familiar to you—big bluestem, little bluestem, Indiangrass, switchgrass, eastern gamma grass, and other species—but are not that familiar to eastern livestock producers. In some instances eastern farmers and ranchers now believe that tall fescue orchardgrass, brome, and various legumes species are native species.

We must return to balanced forage systems, that can provide excellent cattle weight gains through the hot summer months and that are not totally dependent upon costly energy inputs.