

Thoughts of One SRM President 30 Years Ago

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A review of 1962's accomplishments leaves the impression that we have moved ahead generally. This is true. We have made good progress in 1962 and in many more items than the ones reported on during this Society meeting. Our accomplishments over the years are amazing, actually, when you consider the manner in which the Society has to work through

committees and on donated time. Many, many busy people have been nothing less than magnanimous in their contributions.

From my experience with Society business and functions during past years, a number of items have come up which seemed worthwhile for future consideration as Society projects.

One item in particular that we have not yet considered appears to be of prime importance. It has to do with our role, individually, and as a Society in developing guidelines for multiple-use management of our native grazing resource. This item requires some rather realistic soul-searching on the part of each of us.

Range management, along with management of other natural resources, rapidly is entering a new era in which multiple-use management will be a popular term. Multiple-use management is not a new term. Neither is it a new concept nor experience. Something new is being added to multiple-use management of rangelands, however. Today, rangelands are esteemed for a variety of newly glamorized products. Almost explosively, camping, fishing, boating, hunting, rock collecting, week-end ranching and other uses are becoming sources of supplemental income from private grazing lands and demanding uses of public grazing lands. Furthermore, the whole populace is getting interested in these newly glamorized range products. The livestock rancher, irrigation farmer, forester, game manager, and rangeman have become a minor group—number-wise—in this new development. Multiple-use management is no longer something with which we tussle as part of our routine work. It has become big-time stuff. We must not overlook the fact that these new products are sources of supplemental income from land. With today's economic pressures, this makes the land-

owner sit up and take notice. Economics is forcing these uses of rangelands to be included in normal planning of rangeland management and improvement.

Unquestionably, the heat is on for working out equitable coordination of all uses of rangelands in a practical manner. It seems self-evident that more and closer collaboration—not merely cooperation—between interests, agencies, and groups will be essential. Even more important, the philosophy of rangeland management must become one of improvement rather than regulation; one of teamwork rather than of segregated programs and interests.

Fortunately, strong steps in this direction already have been taken. Federal agencies are being coordinated more closely at Departmental level to accomplish single programs; rancher-, wildlife-, and other groups and organizations definitely are working together on knotty problems. Ranchers and land-management agencies are collaborating more than they used to.

Multiple use management is not simple. One of its major difficulties lies in judiciously assessing a relative value to each of the various uses that must be integrated on rangelands. Learning how to maintain these relative values once they are assessed under actual management will be even more difficult. Guidelines for assessing values equitably to rangeland users are not available. It is quite obvious that all uses cannot be assessed equally. Some must dominate. Others must be subordinated. Situations will vary. Each situation will have to be worked out separately. Judgement by individuals and groups will need to be the procedure by which relative values are assigned, even after guidelines are available. The ability of the individual to think, speak, and apply multiple-use management will be the deciding factor in how wisely the various rangeland uses are rated relatively and how well this rating will be maintained through management.

The members of the Range Society, particularly the younger ones, certainly are going to play a major role in deciding the criteria on which each use will be judged relative to all other rangeland uses. If you recognize the increasing demand for knowledge and experience in the modern version of multiple-use management, then you will also recognize the responsibility that each of us has to learn all we possibly can about our field, the other fellow's field, and how they dovetail together.

As we seriously try to develop our philosophy and abilities in order to work effectively in multiple-use management, we need to pay particular attention to an unusually favorable characteristic of the American Society for Range Management. This characteristic is the make-up of

Editor's Note: This was the President's Address at the 12 February 1963 Annual Meeting of the Society for Range Management meeting in Rapid City, South Dakota. For a number of reasons the paper was never published in the *Journal of Range Management* as has been the standard practice. Everyone should read this and ask, "What has changed?"

the Society, and particularly the fact that we have rancher-members.

Reflect, if you will, upon the far-sightedness of our Society's founders when they laid the groundwork for ranchers to be members of this Range Society along with other specialties in the field of grazing land management. Visualize the extremely important contribution being made to our over-all program by our rancher members. In a professional way, they provide the practical experience and industrial judgement that is absolutely essential for a balanced Society. No other scientific organization associated with natural resource management can claim this sort of balanced make-up. The American Society of Range Management, by its very nature, is "sitting pretty" in its potential as a leading organization on multiple-use management. As individuals and as a group, we must learn to more fully utilize the advantages we have.

Please note that the over-all effectiveness of the Range Society and of its individual members would be enhanced significantly by an increased membership of those ranchers who value a coordinated scientific and practical approach; ranchers who appreciate the special things this Society can contribute to resolving multiple-use management wisely and at local level.

As members of the Range Society, we are being challenged. To meet this challenge, we must increase our ability to act with prudence, particularly where the art, science and special interests of grazingland management are inter-related and appear controversial. This is what we must pursue diligently before we can effectively assist the general public to appreciate the truly sound relationship that recreation, wildlife, watershed, wood production and domestic grazing *must* have to each other in this era of multiple-use management.

As a major project for the future, I would like to suggest that each of us and the Range Society carefully study the need for a stepped-up activity centered around multiple-use management. The demand for guidelines for assessing values to rangeland uses already is great. The Society needs to evaluate what it can do to enhance the opportunities for our members to learn from the experiences and

studies of others and what it can do to help develop good guidelines. Within the framework of our newly organized Range Education Committee, we have intensified our efforts devoted to educating the general public primarily on the rangeland resources and rangeland management. We need to focus comparable Society attention on the whole multiple-use aspect of grazing resource management. The fact that forage management is the focal point around which practically all rangeland uses are centered, makes the American Society of Range Management the nucleus organization in multiple use of native grazing resources. I think the matter is worth special consideration at this time.

In closing, I want to restate a principle that we will need to remember time and time again as we work together to attain prudent multiple-use management of our native grazing resources. This applies to ranchers, researchers, bankers and businessmen, technicians and land administrators alike. The whole Nation is going to learn the term "multiple-use management". It *will* be put into effect in one manner or another. Good range management, range science and wise resource use *must* retain domestic livestock grazing in its true perspective among all the uses of our rangelands. We must be big enough industrially, professionally, and character-wise, to resolve hot-blooded local and national issues on rangeland management and, at the same time, attain perpetuation of a healthy range livestock industry. The most damaging evidence against attaining this objective will be if we get caught with our PLANTS down. You understand what I am pointing out, surely.

The contribution of the Range Society to multiple-use management is going to be great. The type of membership we have and the caliber of our members assures this. The future of rangelands as a scientific study and of rangeland management as a profession looks exceptionally bright, promising, and challenging to me. So much so, in fact, that I wish I had another 25 years to devote to it. I am confident that the next 25 years will beat the socks off the past 25 for sheer pleasure of accomplishment.