

59th Society for Range Management Annual Meeting and Trade Show

Rangelands to Rain Forests: A Journey Through British Columbia

By Greg Tegart and John Buckhouse

In keeping with our theme, Rangelands to Rain Forests, we are offering a glimpse of some of the extraordinary ecosystems, regions, vistas, wildlife, and ecological zones that are found in the Pacific Northwest and specifically in British Columbia.

More information concerning these meetings can be found on the SRM Web site, in the monthly updates of the Member's Resource News (monthly since March 2005), and in *Rangelands* (each issue since June 2005).

The Pacific Northwest Section of the Society for Range Management is composed of the states of Washington and Oregon and the Canadian province of British Columbia. The 59th Annual Meeting will be held February 11–17, 2006, in Vancouver, which is in southwestern British Columbia.

Atop the Rocky Mountains lies the Continental Divide—the southern portion of the border between Alberta and British Columbia. The Canadian Rockies are known for their deep valleys, high peaks, and glaciated landforms. On their western edge is the East Kootenay trench, sometimes referred to as the Serengeti of the north, as beautiful as it is diverse.

The wonderful grasslands of the Nicola, Kamloops, and Cariboo regions may be experienced as one travels west. These marvelous grasslands are headquarters to numerous ranches and include the world famous Douglas Lake Cattle Company and Gang Ranch.

In the higher elevations, grasslands and timber merge, forming attractive and productive forested grasslands.



The SRM meeting logo features the trail boss and an outline map of the Pacific Northwest Section.

Management issues of encroaching Douglas fir, lodgepole pine, and ponderosa pine into certain grasslands brings up thoughts of fire ecology, disturbance ecosystems, and pyric subclimax plant communities.

Farther west, one gets into more mesic and utic systems, which are currently home to much of the dairy, nursery, and greenhouse agricultural industries of British Columbia.



High-elevation lake near Commander Glacier.

As one approaches the coast of the Pacific Ocean, one enters zones of temperate rain forests. Huge trees, a variety of ferns, high rates of precipitation, and cool temperatures bring one into a world that only a small minority of the world's population has had the privilege to explore.

To the north, each of these systems blends toward the boreal forests, which extend north toward the boundary of British Columbia and Northwest Territories.

Throughout it all, the area teems with wildlife. Wild trout and salmon, bald and golden eagles, bighorn sheep, deer, elk, mountain goats, and caribou have established their niches and thrive.

British Columbia's license plates boast the phrase "Beautiful British Columbia." This is not an exaggeration!

The Pacific Northwest Section of the Society for Range Management is proud and pleased to sponsor our 59th Annual Meeting. We have a marvelous meeting planned in an extraordinary setting. This is one meeting you will not want to miss—in fact you will want to bring your family as well!



Relay Creek.



East Kootenay Trench, Columbia Lake.



Nicola grassland near Merritt.



Gang Ranch.



Tatla Lake.



Fraser River west of 100 Mile House.



Hamilton Commonage.



Douglas fir and pine grass.



Temperate rain forest.



Bighorn sheep herd, East Kootenays.



Moose with babies, Moyie River.

The Rangeland Program at the University of Idaho prepares students for highly sought careers in:

- ♦ rangeland conservation
- ♦ wildlife habitat management
- ♦ wildland fire
- ♦ restoration ecology

or several other natural resource careers.

For more information:

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