

59th Society for Range Management Annual Meeting and Trade Show

Rangelands to Rain Forests: A Welcoming Plenary Session

By Hugh Barrett (on behalf of the Plenary Session Organizing Committee)

In his book *Steelhead Country*, Steve Raymond wrote, “The northwestern tip of North America leans over the Pacific Ocean like an old cedar limb weighted down with rain. The limb has a long reach and casts a long shadow that falls all the way down to the northern California Coast. Out of that shadow ten thousand rivers run.” Some of those rivers, the great ones like the Klamath, the Columbia, and the Fraser, are born far in the region’s eastern interior: on the western slopes of the Canadian and American Rockies, in the Cascades of Oregon and Washington, and in the mountains and valleys of the Basin and Range Province and in the Columbia Basin—the rangelands of the Pacific Northwest. These rivers are the distillate of the geology, the soils and vegetation, the farms and ranches, the cities and towns, and the attitudes and economies that fill their basins and watersheds.

Following the presentation of the colors by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Color Guard (yes, Ann Harris, real, live Mounties) and welcomings from our distinguished invited guests—hopefully including the Queen’s Representative, Lieutenant Governor Iona Campagnolo of British Columbia—the 2006 Plenary Session will explore the biophysical and social elements of this immense and diverse region that, in part, defines the Pacific Northwest Section of the Society for Range Management—“in part” because at the core of this section are its members, whom as John Buckhouse would say are, individually and collectively, “a delight.”



A blend of speakers will guide us on a short and fascinating journey into this land—its character and history, its societies and economies—from the deep past to the present.

Wayne Choquette, an archaeologist from the interior of British Columbia, with a deep knowledge of the geology and prehuman and preglacial landscapes, climate and biota, and



Hornby Island, on the western edge of the PNW.

precontact peoples of the Northwest, will introduce us to the Canadian headwater country of the Columbia River.

A Toronto-born forest hydrologist, **Dr. Tom Pypker**, of Oregon State University, earned his doctorate in the canopies of old-growth forests of the evergreen part of our region where he learned how these old trees process water from rain and snow. His message holds valuable lessons for those of us who work in or study the more arid forests of ponderosa pine, pinyon, juniper, and cedars.

Bringing our session to its conclusion is the son of a Welsh father and an American mother, born and raised in Mexico City. **James Honey** heads up the Ranchland Renewal Program for Sustainable Northwest (SNW) in



Thompson River heading into the Fraser River, interior British Columbia.

Portland, Oregon. James will describe SNW's successes of ecological, economic, and societal integration in Oregon and current efforts in the upper Klamath Basin with tribes, irrigators, ranchers, loggers, and rural communities in building new partnerships, alliances, and economies—breathing new life into the old West.

So that each of you has a chance to wake refreshed and well rested, the Plenary Session will begin at the most civilized hour of 9:00 AM on Monday, February 13, 2006, in the B.C. Ballroom of the historic Fairmont Hotel. See you there! ♦