

First In A Series: Insight From SRM's Charter Members

The SRM History Committee has conducted interviews with many of the Society's Charter Members to capture their perspectives of events leading to and subsequent to the formation of the American Society of Range Management in 1947-48. Beginning with this issue of *Rangelands*, interviews from several of these individuals will be shared for today's SRM members to enjoy and learn from.

SRM Charter Member – E. William Anderson

Editor's Note: On April 18, 2001 Tom Bedell and John Buckhouse interviewed Bill Anderson and his wife Lois in their home. Anderson can be reached at 3800 Carmen Drive, Apt 497A, Lake Oswego, OR 97034; phone: (503) 636-8017

A native of Idaho, Anderson graduated from the University of Idaho in January 1937 in Range Management with a Forestry minor. He had started at the College of Idaho in Caldwell but transferred to UI, where Litter Spence was the major professor. Leon Nadeau was also in Anderson's class.

Anderson recalls that he became interested in range management because he liked animals and land. The University of Idaho was an early leader in range, possibly because of strong U.S. Forest Service support and interrelationships. He says the Forest Service was a leader in grazing and watershed studies in those years and it was a natural outcome for the University of Idaho to feature range management and forestry.

Anderson worked for the U.S. Forest Service during summers on the blister rust project and after graduation worked on Region 4 AAA range surveys until June 1, 1937. In 1936 the Soil Conservation Service in Oregon was establishing a soil erosion demonstration project on Rock Creek in Gilliam County with a number of resource specialties being needed. Anderson was interested in working for SCS since he enjoyed working with individual ranchers on their lands, and he was hired to go to work June 1 of that year for the agency. Except for a year's leave of absence for his M.S. at Oregon

State College and service in the Navy in World War II, Bill stayed with SCS until retirement December 31, 1974.

The intent of the soil erosion project was to utilize the existing science in practical application to the land. Those were the years of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the project was headquartered in the old CCC building in Condon. Many of the projects involved controlling grazing use which required improved fencing and livestock water development. The CCC provided labor and ranchers provided materials so the efforts were cost-sharing – which was the start of private-public relationships on private lands. The Army managed the camps. Crew leaders were local people. By 1938 there were many projects in operation and the headquarters were moved to Pendleton. Anderson moved there and was the only SCS range professional in eastern Oregon until after W.W.II.

Anderson learned about the formation of ASRM from W.T. "Terry" White who was regional range conservationist in Spokane, and says he "joined right up." He also knew Joe Pechanec, the first ASRM president, who contacted Anderson asking him to take leadership in forming the Pacific Northwest Section, which he did. Anderson was not able to attend the first ASRM meeting in Salt Lake City.

Bill and Lois, a native of Pendleton, were married in 1941. Following the War, Anderson was assigned to Baker County and worked there until mid-1949 when he moved back to Pendleton and became the Oregon range specialist. In about 1960, they moved to Lake Oswego where Anderson worked out of the Portland office statewide. He was instrumental in

developing and using the process known today as Coordinated Resource Management Planning. He led the development of many plans in eastern Oregon and trained others in plan leadership. Anderson also made significant contributions in describing ecological sites on rangelands both quantitatively and qualitatively. He developed the ecological province concept and provided strong evidence that groups of ecological sites formed naturally into provinces.

Today, Anderson is concerned that the Society not get away from its roots. He wonders if there may be a tendency to either broaden out too much or on the other hand to centralize too much over time.

Anderson was President of the PNW Section in about 1957. From that position he was elected an ASRM Director and from there to be ASRM President for 1962. In those years and in Anderson's travels he felt that the PNW Section was very strong, perhaps the strongest, because of the internationalism. Different viewpoints were prevalent at both summer and winter meetings and moving the meetings around promoted a broad spectrum of interests. Many perspectives both internationally and across disciplines were expressed and respected. Anderson wonders if there weren't more heterogeneity then within the membership. This could have been possible because the Society welcomed, and of course still does, anyone to become members and be active.

During Anderson's presidency he recalls the strong pressure applied by Fred Renner, national SCS range conservationist, to manage ASRM in a top down bureaucratic way. He refused to do that. The ASRM structure depends upon diversity, ideas, interest and energy from grassroots, and Anderson promoted that perspective.

Anderson wonders if some of the turmoil today could be due to the lack of well-functioning working relationships across the resource fields, e.g. birds, fish, both large and small game, grazing, riparian. He wonders if we don't take ourselves too seriously, one of the interesting perspectives he admires the Canadians for.

In recent years, Anderson senses that we may have lost some sight of the basic functions of the use of science. He puts it in this context – utilize the

science to develop the technology, determine if it is feasible to apply and then is it practical both ecologically and economically? If and when so, the product of this process stands a good chance of being acceptable to those who will want to use it. Always involve the local people and when appropriate use a collaborative process such as CRMP. Coming to agreement among people and their perspectives goes a long way to achieving success.

SRM Charter Member – Everett R. Doman

Editor's Note: Interview conducted by Stan Tixier, on December 2, 2002. Doman can be reached at 1386 Darling St. Ogden, UT, where he has lived since he retired from the US Forest Service in 1974.

Everett Doman joined the Range Society when it was first started and attended the organization meeting in Salt Lake City in 1947. He recalls that the leaders at that meeting were Fred Renner, Joe Pechanec, and a man by the name of Allred who was a representative from the SCS.

At the time the ASRM was organized, Doman was the Range and Wildlife staff officer for the Manti Forest with headquarters at Ephraim, UT. He was in charge of the Range and Wildlife activities on the Forest. He says, "I was Ranger on the Fishlake Forest on the Thousand Lake mountain and the big job on the District was range management. All of our allotments were heavily overgrazed and we had very little money for physical improvements, so the only thing we could do was to work with the permittees to try and get better management, and get them to take the livestock off early in years when there was not enough feed."

Doman says he became interested in range management on that Ranger District. He joined the Wildlife Society in 1938 a year after it was organized, so was not a charter member of that group, but says he was interested in both wildlife and range management.

Doman says he doesn't recall how he learned about the first ASRM meeting, but says all the officers in the Forest Service were notified of the meeting and several attended.

The first section he was involved with was the Utah Section, then he moved to Jackson, Wyoming and I was a member of the Wyoming Section in the late 40's and early 50's. He then went to Washington, D.C. and was a member of the National Capital Section. From there Doman moved to Alamogordo, NM where he was a member of the New Mexico Section, then on to California where he was a member of the California Section, then back to Washington, and finally back to Utah. When he was in California he was Treasurer of the Bay Area chapter, then when he returned to Utah, he served two terms as Director of the Utah Section.

Of his memories of the first ASRM meeting, Doman says, "It seems there were around 50 people there. Renner, Pechanec and Allred pretty much conducted the meetings. I think Ed Cliff was also one of the leaders."

What were his expectations of this new society back in 1948? He says, "The Society has done a pretty good job. I expected they would help in getting us on the right track for range management, and I think they have done a pretty good job. The dues weren't very much. I was employed at the time and it seems they were only \$3 or \$4. When I became a life member I only had to pay \$150."

Doman's employment over the years has included a long list of service. His formal education included attending Utah State University in Logan and graduating in 1938 with a BS in wildlife management and a minor in range management. He says, "I took classes from Larry Stoddart and Art Smith and I enjoyed my range classes as much as I did my wildlife classes."

After he left the Manti, he went to Jackson, WY as assistant supervisor of the Teton Forest before it was combined with the Bridger. He says, "Art Buckingham was the supervisor and he gave me important assignments in range, wildlife and timber management."

When Doman left the Teton, he went to Washington, D.C. where his job was closely related to wildlife management and he was assistant to Lloyd Swift in the division of Wildlife Management. He says, "One of our important jobs was working closely with the people in range man-

agement to get coordination between wildlife and range. In fact, I spent one whole summer with Ken Parker with just that problem, of integrating range analysis with analysis of wildlife ranges."

Doman then went to the Lincoln National Forest as Supervisor at Alamogordo, N.M., and of course both range and wildlife management were very important jobs there. Most of the ranges there were overgrazed and there was quite a program going to get a balance between proper stocking and range management, he recalls.

He then went to California as assistant Regional Forester for Range and Wildlife management. He says, "The range job in California wasn't as tedious because the California ranges were in much better condition than others I had been on before. There were some overgrazing problems on the Modoc and Lassen, but actually a lot of the ranges in California were in pretty good condition. Then on top of that, it seemed we had more money there to do a little more range improvements such as water developments and fencing. It was a much more enjoyable job, rather than all the time having to push for range reductions. I wasn't involved in working up the Hormay system for range analysis, but I went out with Hormay several times, and I did try to promote his system of rotational grazing."

Doman then went back to Washington as director of Wildlife Management, where a big part of the job was getting coordination between other activities and wildlife. "There are lots of things that can be done in range management that can benefit wildlife. The same goes for timber management. Timber management and wildlife management really don't need to conflict if the timber management is done with considerations for wildlife and the same applies to range management," Doman says.

Doman says during his career he particularly remembers Charley Connaughton, Regional Forester in California was interested in the employees belonging to professional societies. "When I was Supervisor, I encouraged my rangers to be active in the Range Society. I think most of them were in the Range Society," he adds.

Asked for his perspectives on SRM and the profession today, Doman says, "I don't know that I could give much advice. I haven't been at cross-

purposes with the Range Society. I believe in their objectives and think the Range Society has done a good job. Over the years they have changed objectives, but I don't think I have anything to add to it." His advice to young people is to get involved with the professional societies, and not only to listen, but to pass it on.

SRM Charter Member – George W. Kansky

*Editor's Note: George Kansky retired from the U.S. Forest Service in 1976. He can be reached at Courtyard Plaza, 6125 S.E. Division, #160, Portland, OR, 97206.
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George Kansky says he became interested in forestry and range management in Iowa, where he lived through college years to 1941. He says, "My immediate family never owned Iowa land, nor livestock. Several relatives owned and operated Iowa farms. Corn-oats-hogs; and Iowa farmers fed out millions of western range cattle for eastern markets. I worked summers on farms, some with livestock and horses."

He adds, "My grandfathers, both immigrants from Europe, fascinated me with tales of forests managed for several hundred years, and that foresters were highly respected in their communities. They took me to the Oak-Hickory woods in eastern Iowa, and to creeks teeming with fish. This was for me. I did not seriously consider other goals and all my life felt good about my choice."

Kansky attended Iowa State College (later ISU) and earned his Forestry BS 1938 and Forestry MS 1940. Although Iowa State did not offer a range degree, Kansky's senior year and graduate study were in the Range Management option, which he says provided the same curriculum used for range degrees. He points out that ISU's motto: "Science With Practice" stipulated a field camp (his was in Oregon, 1935) and at least one paid employment in a forestry or range management job prior to graduation. He had three summers as Forest Guard on Mt. Hood N.F. and one on a Range Survey crew on the Umatilla N.F. He qualified with the Civil Service *Junior Range Examiner* examination.

He recalls, "These were years coming out of the Depression and an awakening of need for conservation of natural resources. For students they were for JOBS. Remember the CCCs, shelterbelts, conservation laws? National published reports; *A National Plan for American Forestry*, and "*The Western Range*." These were textbooks we nearly memorized to take the J.F. and JRE exams. Salary \$2000, marriage, and happy for life! But the military draft caught me late in 1940 between jobs. My draft board would only act to suspend my JRE eligibility for the duration.

In 1946–48, following discharge from the Army, Kansky says he found an open door to the Forest Service.

He says, "In Portland I met with Arnold Standing, (Personnel) and Fred Kennedy, (Range Staff) who were looking for someone to resume range surveys on the Umatilla forest. Standing said "—you came on the right day for a range job!" They sent me to Pendleton where I met John Clouston, my boss, (and forever friend)."

Kansky was assigned to range surveys on Umatilla National Forest as Chief of Party where he did surveys on three Ranger Districts. In Pendleton, he worked up the field data and maps and prepared District Management plans.

He recalls, "We organized a 5–6 man crew and trained for the Reconnaissance method with aerial photographs. The crew was an eager bunch—students in Range, Wildlife, or Forestry. We trained in the field with Gerald Pickford and Elbert Reid, PNW Forest & Range Experiment Station who were working on condition and trend on Blue Mountain Meadows. They gave us much help with Tufted Hairgrass (*Deschampsia caespitosa*.) and its meadow components. In a previous survey on the Heppner District we had used the square-foot density method, a fairly intensive way to record forage value as well as type. I wondered why the Reconnaissance method? Possibly the post-war need was to cover more land, to map types, and to record apparent overall range condition. Also to speed up planimetric mapping—needed everywhere."

Assigned to the U.S. Army's Topographic Mapping Battalion for nearly 5 years, Kansky

learned state-of-the-art cartography. "I liked map making and aerial photos nearly to the point of making it a career in itself, an expert photogrammetrist! But upon wiser advice, I returned to my first goal," he says.

Kansky says he first learned about the formation of the ASRM when John Clouston handed him an application for membership in Pendleton, OR. The PNW section is the only section he has been a member of. He says, "I thought that my being accepted as a professional in ASRM would be a career asset. I only knew the few people I worked with, and I wanted to learn more about my job from people doing the rangelands work."

Kansky's first society meeting was a fall meeting in Pendleton, OR. He remember Joe Pechanec, Fred Kennedy, Chuck Waldron, Bill Anderson, Glenn Jorgenson, Wayne West, and says, "The social hour—what a place to get acquainted! Acceptable beverage Straight Bourbon or Scotch – neat. It was a very enthusiastic meeting, and I thought the papers presented by experts were great."

He did not go to the Salt Lake City meeting in 1948.

Of the future, Kansky says, "I do think SRM is on the right track for raising all these questions. But we probably cannot carry it all. SRM has been troubled with our NAME, Membership, Goals. Our current officers have aggressively attacked these problems. It's been great to see their determination to keep SRM alive. SRM seems to be well into the Coalition effort with strong representation by visible leaders. It seemed to me that we truly represented the native communities of plants. Tough problems in forage quality, soil erosion, stock distribution. Decisions on how to use it—or how to convert it. Is this where we should be? Leaders for the use of natural range? And, TEACHING RANGE SITE VALUES? I see this coalition of organizations as helpful to all of us with better advertising, public awareness. The World Bank has helped emerging countries to get started. Maybe someone can help us finance the Rangelands Story. ASRM has done its job. Keep it up with confidence."

He adds, "After 60 years with ASRM/SRM I am more than ever sure the Range Management profession must continue. Leadership by SRM should de-

mand the college education that is strong in teaching the health of the range. It's a complicated world—spewing out "facts" and options faster than they can be utilized. But young people who have a commanding love for the range environment will keep their feet on the ground and sort out what nature wants. They now talk with far more educated, understanding stockmen, many of them members, than I've worked with. This is a tremendous gain which was impossible without ASRM's stimulation. I believe in women in the profession. They have a sensitivity with people; they respect planning and will conduct plans and decisions with courage and confidence. Newcomers in the profession will find satisfaction in their work seeing results in a growing, improved, restored site. There's a lot of opportunity out there."