



# Idaho Chapter SWCS Newsletter

Fall 2007

## Message from the "President"

**We currently have no President, and no member has stepped forward to take leadership. Last year's very relevant message to Chapter members is repeated below.**

Some words of wisdom from former Chapter presidents concerning our Chapter's past, and future:

*"Our Chapter is critical to provide a voice for conservation and to provide for the development of the profession of soil and water conservation in Idaho. To be effective, we need meaningful and timely activities, member commitment, sharing the workload, and member involvement in activities...I know our Chapter can again achieve a high level of success if we increase involvement and membership." -- Valdon Hancock, 2001*

*"I have been a member of the SWCS for almost twenty years...I sense that the RN Irving Chapter is struggling...The Chapter has had several summer tours and the annual meeting, and only a few of the Chapter faithful have attended... The activities of the Chapter must be pertinent to the members' needs...The RN Irving Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society can be only as great as you make it." -- Randy Phelan, 2000*

*"It has become difficult to get people to serve as officers and to act. Membership is declining. ...I ask that you all help me revitalize our SWCS Chapter. Working together we can have a*

*worthwhile, enriching professional organization." – Alan Harkness, 1995*

## **NOTICE: IMPORTANT Annual Business Meeting!!!!!!**

**Due to membership decline and a general lack of involvement by members in Chapter activities, the annual meeting in December will include a vote to dissolve the Chapter. If you have an interest in this vote, please attend the meeting.**

**The meeting will be held in conjunction with the IASCD Annual Conference, December 3-6 in Boise. Day and time to be decided. A notice will be sent out in November.**

## **Idaho Chapter SWCS Summer Tour**

This year's summer tour at the US Sheep Experiment Station (USSES) near Dubois was a joint effort between the Idaho Chapter and the Idaho Section of the Society for Range Management.



The first day was spent viewing and discussing spring and fall range, including the effects of continuous spring/fall grazing in sagebrush

## Chapter Contacts

### **President**

Vacant

### **Secretary-Treasurer**

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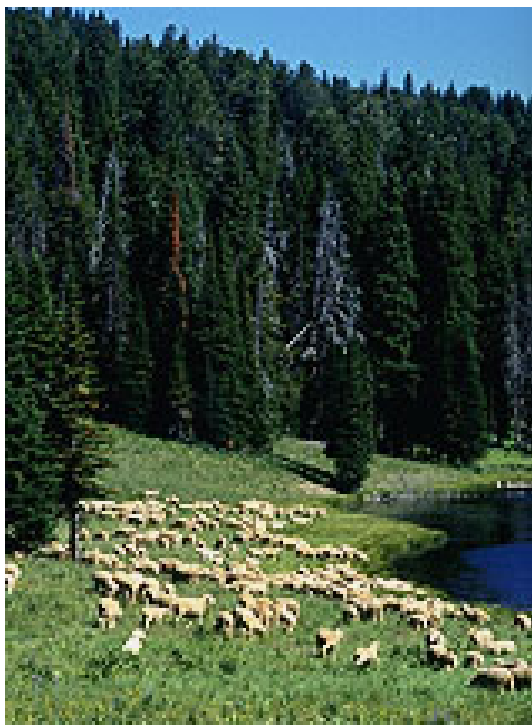
### **President-Elect**

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range, trends in sage grouse lek count data, and postfire (2 to 70+ years) shrub work. USSES is monitoring recovery with aerial imagery, and evaluating recovery rates of different shrub species.



The second day of the tour we traveled up to the summer range in the Centennial Mountains of Idaho and Montana. Water quality studies are being conducted on sheep crossings on Willow Creek, and on sheep bedding grounds on the Continental Divide. Researchers from USSES, the Kimberly ARS and the ARS-Northwest Watershed Research Center in Boise are evaluating runoff, erosion and sedimentation, nutrients in water, soil nutrient dynamics, and vegetation effects. We also discussed the impacts of sheep grazing since 1959 on subalpine range. Studies to evaluate selection and trampling include the use of repeat imagery for monitoring purposes.



## 2007 Annual SWCS Conference in Tampa

The Soil and Water Conservation Society's 2007 annual conference was held July 21-25 in Tampa, Florida. Over 500 members attended the conference - "Conservation Challenges in a Changing Landscape." Florida is one of the United States' most rapidly growing and urbanizing states. Florida is projected to lose 2.7 million acres of existing agricultural lands and 2.7 million acres of native habitat to urbanization over the next 50 years. Dealing with the conservation impacts of these land use changes is a major challenge for Florida and much of the rest of the world.

The conference included workshops, symposia, posters, oral presentation sessions, and technical tours on the latest advances in soil and water conservation and natural resources management science and technology.

Highlights of the conference included special sessions on adaptive conservation management, conservation implications of a bio-based economy, and integrated watershed management. In addition, there was a full one-day workshop on Soil Quality.

The conference included a special workshop on the Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) results and implications. This included a presentation on the Special Emphasis Watershed in Kimberly, Idaho, which addresses the impacts of irrigation on water quality. For additional information on this Idaho CEAP project, check out:

<http://sand.nwisrl.ars.usda.gov/posters/dtw/ceap/poster.htm>

The Idaho Chapter website address is:  
<http://www.plrcd.org/SWCS/>

Thanks to Kathy Dingman, Program Assistant, NRCS Panhandle Lakes RC&D for her assistance on our website!!!