

Jean Snider Schadler- a Woman in Range Management

Sherry Turner

Jean Snider Schadler and husband Lonny's Coleman Valley ranch includes several thousand acres in Oregon, California, and Nevada. It is about as far from the "maddening crowd" as you can get in the continental United States. Their headquarters is 100 miles northeast of Alturas, Calif., and 100 miles southeast of Lakeview, Ore.

Jean and Lonny have two children, Mary Barbara, 6, and Katy, 2. She does the regular cooking and housekeeping chores on the ranch, serves as a "buckaroo," or cowboy, when needed, builds fence and operates haying and feeding equipment. In addition to her other chores she considers her main job to be bookkeeping and working with federal agency representatives. "Our ranch is 50% dependent on public land grazing permits," says Jean. "I work with the government while Lonny handles the cattle. I have to understand the federal objectives and perspectives and be well enough acquainted with procedures to protect our personal investment and meet the federal objectives." Her efforts the last few years have been directed through the Modoc/Washoe Experimental Stewardship Program. She served as chairperson of the steering committee from its organization in April of 1980 until October 1982. During this time the Program had a guiding force in improving cooperative rangeland management on public lands in the Stewardship Area of northern California and northwestern Nevada.

In addition, the Stewardship Program is experimenting with several administrative and rangeland management programs, including the "Grazing Fee Incentive" program where permittees receive a credit towards the annual grazing fees in exchange for range improvements they complete on their BLM or National Forest grazing allotments.

The Coleman Valley ranch's dependency on public grazing lands is typical of many ranches in northeastern California and northwestern Nevada where the Stewardship Program exists. Ranches were established in the early days where sufficient water to grow forage flowed from a mountain range into a valley. A ranch was developed at the site and an oasis formed surrounded by hundreds and sometimes thousands of acres of semiarid rangelands.

Because of the water and intensive management and development, the private lands came to have many times the productivity of the natural rangelands. Early ranchers found they could extend the productivity of their ranch by grazing livestock on the vast range acreages during portions of the year. Their entire ranching operation was dependent upon the surrounding rangeland as well as their deeded property. Most of these ranchers today would have to reduce their operations substantially if they could not use the public lands. In many cases, ranches would no longer be economically viable.

"Many times the cow manager has been blindsided because he doesn't fully understand what is expected of him as a livestock operator on the public lands," says Jean.



Jean Snider Schadler

She remembers attending a permittee meeting with Lonny a few years ago where the ranchers and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) employees were fighting over an Environmental Impact Statement. Soon after that meeting Jean helped form the Surprise Valley Range Improvement Permittee Committee.

At that time, the Challis Stewardship Committee in Idaho was just getting underway. Participants from the Challis Committee were invited to come to Alturas to talk about their program. Encouraged by the new ideas expressed, the Forest Service, BLM and ranchers decided to "take a look at this Stewardship Program."

The Stewardship Program is based on the concept of encouraging users of public range and forest lands, through incentives and other positive approaches, to take better care



Photo by Modoc County Record, Alturas, California

Left to right: Glenn Bradley, Modoc National Forest Supervisor; Jeanni Conlan, present Stewardship committee Chairman; Jean Schadler, past Stewardship Committee Chairman; and Rex Cleary, BLM-Susanville District Manager.

This photo was taken recently when Jean Schadler was honored at a dinner meeting of the Modoc/Washoe Experimental Stewardship Program for her exceptional efforts as a chairman of the Stewardship Steering Committee for two and one half years.

Jean is still a very active member on the Stewardship Executive Committee, as well as being on several sub-committees including chairing the sub-committee for preparation of the 1985 Report to the U.S. Congress.

of such lands. It also fosters the idea of resolving conflicts by bringing together, in the planning stages, the various interest groups involved in management of the rangelands. The program is directed by a steering committee composed of 21 individuals representing various interests, agencies, and points of view including state wildlife agencies, wild horse representatives, grazing permittees, federal land management agencies (the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service), federal conservation agencies (Soil Conservation Service and Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service) and environmental representatives.

"As past chairman of the steering committee, I tended to be in the limelight," Jean noted, "but the committee is made up of a lot of talented, secure people,"

"**Make consensus work**" became Jean's motto. Members of the committee agreed that *all decisions or actions of the stewardship program would be reached by consensus*. Consensus is unanimous agreement of all members present and acting. Thus, any member of the committee has veto power over any proposal. Any matter not receiving unanimous resolution is, and has been, sent back to a working committee for further study or tabled.

"Jean's leadership has really kept the stewardship program moving," says Lee Delaney, Cedarville Resource Area Manager for the BLM.

As a life-long participant in American movements, Jean is reserving judgment on the cooperative management movement until she sees how the agency professionals use this model program. "In the meantime," says Jean, "the stewardship program saved the life of my family's business. That was our goal. That makes it a success."

Jean's background in social programs of the 1960's probably helped provide her with the kind of experience that adds to her ability. She's a rancher's daughter and grew up near Lakeview, Ore. She attended and graduated from the University of Oregon at Eugene in 1968 as a journalism major. For 10 years following college she worked in social programs in the Portland area.

"I came home to rest one summer and haven't left since," Jean said. "I began working for the Schadlers, met and married Lonny."

"Young ranchers just out of college think they can join all the organizations and attend all the meetings but soon find out that the work piles up and they're way behind," says Jean. "As a rancher's wife I have time to do that kind of work. It may be something other ranch women will get more into in the future."

"**Now I'm trying to learn how to monitor,**" says Jean purposefully. Monitoring is determining the direction and rate of change of range conditions over a period of time. "I want to know more about our home range than anyone else possibly could."

BLM District Manager Rex Cleary summed it up when he said, "In leading us through the first two and a half years, Jean was a relentless taskmaster. That was a major factor in the successes that have been achieved."

Jean is a relentless taskmaster with herself as well as in a leadership role. That characterizes how she approaches life in general.

As a "woman in range management" Jean is a creative force to be reckoned with. ●

BLM Saves in Inventorying Oregon Artifacts

Everything from arrowheads to Model T hoods were located under a cost-saving method BLM's Prineville archeologists used for inventorying historic and prehistoric features on 21,771 acres of central Oregon land the agency proposes to trade for 20,664 acres of state of Oregon land.

Federal law requires BLM to analyze the impact to cultural resources of any action that could adversely affect them. However, the state would manage the land substantially as does BLM.

The sophisticated method substitutes sampling and probability calculations for a more costly 100 percent inventory. The work cost about \$8,500 instead of the \$30,000 that otherwise would have been spent.

Likely Spots Chosen

The survey work was concentrated on areas where human activities would have been more likely. Computerized soil, vegetation, and fauna surveys provided the backbone for the calculations. These were combined with studies of how plants were used by indigenous people and the outcome was identifying 1,649 acres as likely to contain prehistoric archae-

logical sites eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

The most likely spots: diverse past or present habitats, soils more than 12 inches deep, big game cover, available water—at least seasonally, pristine habitats more diverse than existing ones, topographic breaks, caves and overhangs, edges of plant types or water.

Signs Noted

Signs of more recent historic times were soldered tin cans, glass bottles, domestic utensils, a rock wall, and even automobile parts such as that Model T hood.

Results shown that the area had at least intermittent use by both prehistoric and historic people, but no substantial settlement ever existed. The earliest habitation was at least 7,000 years ago with 35 prehistoric sites logged and ten more historic sites dated from 1880 to 1930.

Others involved in the project were the Oregon State Division of Lands, Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, University of Oregon Museum of Anthropology, and BLM's Oregon state office.—*BLM News*