



By Gary Frasier

Frasier's Philosophy

There is a great debate concerning changing the name of the Society. There are a number of reasons for a change as well as many reasons for not changing. This is not the first time the topic has come to the forefront. When the Society was first formed the name was the "American Society of Range Management." The early founders were proud to have a society that expressed their beliefs in the proper management of the nation's natural resources (see "Insight From SRM's Charter Members" in this and previous issues). Later it was realized that the Society was representing an area greater than the Americas and the name was changed to the Society for Range Management. The current debate is over whether the objectives, goals, and vision have changed sufficiently to warrant a change in the Society's name. Have we moved past the vision of our founders?

Much of this issue is concerned with "looking back." The year 2005 is the 100th anniversary of the founding of the United States Department of Agriculture's Forest Service. Several of the feature articles in this issue provide an insight into how the Forest Service came to be and what it has accomplished in the past 100 years. It is interesting to note that many of the SRM's founding fathers were part of the early US Forest Service. They had a vision of not only how to manage the natural resources but also of what scientific documentation was needed to manage the land and of how to inform the public about both the land and its management. We have come a long way. There is still a long way to go. Let us hope the decisions we make today are considered as important 100 years from now as the decisions made 100 years ago.

Everyone associated with *Rangelands* hopes that the changes initiated to the publication in 2005 represent the "road to the future." We hear from members when we make an error. This is good. I have had the philosophy throughout my career as a researcher that I will tell you all my mistakes. I do not want anyone to repeat them. I mean to do the same with *Rangelands*. We will not repeat mistakes and errors in the publication. This also means presenting scientifically correct information. *Rangelands* is designed to be read by people who may not be scientifically oriented. As a result of this wider readership, some articles in *Rangelands* are being used as expert knowledge in nontraditional situations such as conflict resolutions. In these instances the information in *Rangelands* can make a significant impact.

Let the people 50 and 100 years from now say, "They made the right decisions in 2005." ♦