

Title of Special Initiative: Peace River Forage Association Summer Tour 2013
Report Title: Final Report
Report Covering Period: June 15th, 2013 to August 1st, 2013
Organization(s): Peace River Forage Association
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Objectives:

- Showcase innovation within our region
- Provide networking opportunities to local and visiting producers and industry
- Strengthen and develop a working relationship between the Society for Range Management Pacific Northwest Division (SRM PNW) and the Peace River Forage Association of BC (PRFA of BC)

Accomplishments: Overall there were 75 participants for the PRFA/SRM tour on June 20th, 2013 and over half of these ventured from across BC & AB and as far as Idaho, Oregon and Washington. The participants spent the day touring to different parts of the region to see the innovation and diversity in agriculture and range. Even on bus rides to tour stops, participants left no time wasted and made sure to connect with old colleagues or make new acquaintances whenever possible.

This tour was very successful for strengthening the relationship between the PRFA of BC and the SRM PNW chapter. An excerpt from the SRM PNW article goes as follows “We saw local ranchers in the Peace River Forage Association (PRFA) work together to support ranching by implementing pilot projects such as installation of 3-dimensional fence, livestock waste composting trials, and by soliciting grants for improvements such as water developments. Recognizing their excellent work in pasture management, the BC SRM Chapter presented the BC Rangelands Management Award to the PRFA.” This award was graciously accepted by our president Darwin Linford.

Tasks in progress: not applicable for a short term initiative.

Extension and Communication: A 4 page article has been published in the Fall 2013 *Forage First* newsletter. The tour was also highlighted on three of the seven pages of the PNW July 2013 newsletter. Sponsors were acknowledged at the event verbally, with posters on water coolers and in the *Forage First* article. These are both kept on file if required.

Finances: Income and expense report attached.

Variations from original work plan, schedule or budget:

Summary comments, conclusions: Although the PRFA of BC tour day was on June 20th, 2013 there were many forage members that participated all three days to help host the SRM PNW chapter visitors to the Peace. They saw this as an excellent opportunity to network with individuals from other areas and gain new ideas and information for their own operation(s). This tour highlighted many of the innovative management strategies happening in the region for out of area guests. Some of the topics discussed were wind tower impacts, regional range overview, converting aspen to grazing, re-vegetation of oil & gas sites, Ducks Unlimited projects, and innovative pasture management.