



## Lost Resource – Mr. Michael Casados

A longtime member of the NM SRM Section, Michael Casados, 55, passed away unexpectedly on September 8, 2013 at his home in El Prado, New Mexico. Michael was a well-liked and important asset to the Section serving as both the Secretary and Treasurer for many years. He served as the Treasurer for the 2009 SRM Annual Meeting in Albuquerque. Michael received a BS degree in Range Management from New Mexico State University in 1985. Michael worked a number of years for the Bureau of Land Management in Idaho but eventually relocated to New Mexico with the U.S. Forest Service. He most recently served as the Range Staff Officer for the Questa Ranger District. District Ranger Jerry Mastel said, "I have never known a person who was more gentle or kind than Michael – it truly came from the very core of a good man. I'm sure you all know we have lost a good friend..." Michael also had an active role in the local chapter of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, serving as Chapter Chair. He regularly attended the SRM Annual Conventions and was a fixture at the registration desk for NM Section meetings. In 2012, Michael received the Presidential Award from the NM Section for his outstanding service. Michael's success as a range conservationist came from his deep understanding of both the land and the people who were linked to it. Michael considered himself to be very fortunate to work in the range profession and to be able to do it in the Taos area where he was born and raised. He had a deep appreciation of his cultural heritage. He was also a private person who never sought personal recognition. Michael is survived by his wife, Manuela de Ponte, two sisters, Eloida and Angie, many special nieces and nephews, and his many friends. His services were held on September 13, 2013 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Taos. The services were attended by his family and friends, colleagues from the Questa Ranger District and Carson National Forest, area ranchers, and NM SRM members. All will miss his vibrant smile.