

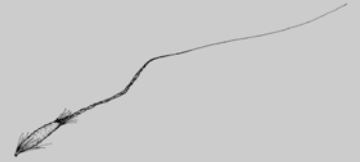


Needlegrass Notes

Volume 63:1

Spring 2017

Society for Range Management
California-Pacific Section



Your 2017 Section Officers & Board

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President's Message Sheila Barry

It's raining again. Although it seems like we've been under siege from atmospheric rivers, at least in the San Francisco Bay Area, it's only been about 20 years since California has seen this much rain and snowfall. Although new rainfall records may still be set we aren't likely to experience death and destruction similar to the Great Flood of the 1861-62 when it rained for 43 days straight leaving much of California underwater for six months.

Flooding claimed lives and property, including the loss of approximately 200,000 head of cattle that drowned. However, similar to the early 1860s, the rainfall this year has been especially welcome because of the previous years of drought. Let's hope we just don't get too much of a good thing or at least have clear skies for our Spring Tour on rangeland soils on **Wednesday, April 5th, 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM**. The tour follows a soils health workshop on **Tuesday, April 4th** at Rush Ranch in Suisun City, and Dinner Board Meeting on **Monday, April 3rd 5:00 to 8:00 PM**.

In addition to the workshop and tour on rangeland health we will also be honoring some of our section members with 50-year pins. We have at least 10



(Continued on page 2)

Your 2017 Committee Chairs & Members

(Continued from page 1)

Audit:

Larry Forero
lforero@ucanr.edu
(530) 224-4900

Cal-Pac members who have been members of the Society of Range Management for at least 50 years, and at least a couple of them will be attending. It's an honor to have so many members with such a long history with the Society.

Awards:

Denise Defreese
ddefreese@ebparks.org

Our section is also fortunate that Dr. Ken Fulgham was selected by the nomination committee to run for 2nd Vice President. Ken's passion for rangeland management and dedication to our professional society is unmatched. The Society and our Section would undoubtedly benefit from his leadership. Look out for election information this Fall and REMEMBER TO VOTE!

Information & Education Co-Chairs:

Lance Criley
lcriley@fs.fed.us
(619) 445-6235

We had a strong participation from Section members at the Annual Meeting in Saint George, Utah the beginning of February. Several of us attended a symposium on targeted grazing coordinated by Cal-Pac member Brittney Cole. Our section supported Brittney's efforts to hold this symposium at the Annual Meeting. Brittney has provided an article about the symposium in this newsletter. Our section also supported 4 high school students to attend the meeting—that must be a new record! We supported 3 top campers and the 4th student was a high school youth forum member from the previous year. Mary Marsh was elected by her peers in the previous year to be this year's High School Youth Forum President. We were pleased to support Mary Marsh to attend the High School Youth Forum for a second year in a row.

Liz Kellogg
ac@tierradata.com
(760) 749-2247

Finally Cal-Pac SRM since we have put the lawsuit behind us, we are now insured! We have a general liability policy, professional liability policy and a policy to protect our board and directors. All our committee members including the Certification Panel are covered by our insurance as well as Range Camp. Thank you, Morgan for finding insurance coverage for our Section.

Hopefully we have some drier trails ahead! See you soon at our Spring Meeting!

Sincerely,
Sheila Barry
Cal-Pac SRM Section President

Range Camp

Applications for the California Range & Natural Resources Camp Now Available

Range Camp is an environmental science & management camp for high school students from across California. The camp takes place at the University of California's Elkus Youth Ranch in Half Moon Bay, CA.

Range Camp is a 6-day camp experience for high school sophomores, juniors and seniors who have an interest in the science and conservation management of natural resources in California. Students get an introduction to ecological principles, including characteristics and interrelationships of plants and animals, fire ecology, hydrology, geology and soils, and management of grassland, brushland, forest, and stream and river ecosystems. Field activities include learning to read wildlife 'sign', learning outdoor navigation with compasses, maps and GPS, forest management, visits to working ranches and conservation projects, and a beach BBQ.

The camp is organized by the California-Pacific section of the Society for Range Management, with support from a variety of institutions, including university faculty and students from the University of California and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts, and numerous other agriculture and conservation organizations. Sessions are taught by university faculty and staff from local, state and federal agencies, and private professional scientists and natural resource management specialists. All students compete for the opportunity to travel to Reno, NV in February 2018 as a representative of California to the national high school youth forum event which takes place at the annual scientific conference held by the Society for Range Management.

Range Camp runs from June 18-23. More information and applications are available at <http://www.rangelands.org/casrm/HTML/rangecamps.html>. Cost is \$450.00. Applications will be accepted until May 15th if spaces remain. Camp staff will try to assist students/families with financial need in finding scholarship support. Please indicate so on application.

"Range Camp has enlightened me. It has changed me. It has permanently made me a 'happy camper.'" – Terilyn Chen, 2010 Range Camper and current student at Harvard University.

Your 2017 Committee Chairs & Members

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(925) 371-0154 x3860

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Student Affairs Co-Chairs:
Julie Finzel
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Marc Horney
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(805) 756-7543

Prescribed Herbivory for Vegetation Treatment Projects: A Forum Session at the SRM Annual Meeting Brittany Cole Bush

This past January Cal-Pac was able to support a forum session held at the annual Society for Range Management conference in St. George, Utah. The session titled, “Prescribed Herbivory for Vegetation Treatment Projects” presented the content of a white paper published by the California Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) for Board of Foresters and case-studies of different scales of prescribed herbivory operations. In addition to the presentation of the white paper content there was a panel discussion which included a diverse cross-section of representatives in this work of prescribed herbivory. The panelists included: owner/operator contract graziers, a regional park stewardship manager, and an educator and directing member for the Targeted Grazing committee of SRM.

There was a full-house turnout with a very interactive audience, supporting evidence that the work of prescribed herbivory is increasing in the Western States. A cross-section of graziers, public agents, land managers, academics and public officials were represented in the room and participated with questions for the panelists that informed graziers of cattle, sheep and goats as well as public agents considering the use of prescribed grazing in their respect contexts.

The aforementioned panel included 4 women who represent the various kinds of stakeholders in the field of prescribed herbivory:

Lani Malmberg of Goats Eat Weeds/Ewe4ic Geological Services is a contract grazer of over 2 decades performing ecological services with large herds (1,500+ head) of cashmere goats. Educated in ecological restoration, biology/botany and weed sciences she brings a holistic perspective to the work of prescribed herbivory through practice in her whole systems approach. Lani described the importance of educating new individuals coming into this work and is dedicated to the proliferation of mindful grazing and browsing as a land remediation and vegetation management tool. She is also a directing board member of the “Beyond Pesticides” organization advocating for prescribed herbivory as an alternative to chemical based vegetation management. Lani has a strong voice in the industry as a pioneer of this work and shared case-studies of application and success of her projects throughout the West.

Andréé Soares, owner-operator of Star Creek Land Stewards, Inc and home-based in Los Banos, California has managed a commercial scale contract grazing operation since 2014, which performs vegetation management projects in Northern California. She noted that she has seen an increase in the demand for their services in primarily fire hazard reduction. Her operation is a stacked enterprise that includes seasonal lamb and goat meat production as well as the ecosystem services of the contract grazing element of her business. Coming from a family with a long history in the commercial sheep industry, Andréé’s operation represents how large-scale producers can adapt their operations to answer to the growing demand for prescribed herbivory. Andréé also is a member of RMAC representing the California Wool Growers Association and the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition.

Denise DeFreese is the Wildland Vegetation Program Manager for the East Bay Regional Parks District (EBRPD) and Certified Range Manager in California. The EBRPD comprises over 120,536 acres and 65 regional parks and has been using contract grazing with sheep and goats for over a decade. She shared a case-study of prescribed herbivory using targeted grazing of sheep to reduce an encroachment of medu-

sahead, as well as a long-term stewardship project of Serpentine Prairie located in the Oakland Hills in Redwood Regional Park. This Serpentine Prairie is the home to the federally listed Presidio clarkia (*Clarkia franciscana*), as well as 19 species of California native grasses in the roughly 40 acres. Collaborating with Star Creek Land Stewards in the Summer of 2014, short duration high intensity grazing on three acres was prescribed with initial simple goals to reduce thatch and non native grass cover. Denise stated that the vendor (contract grazer) was instrumental in determining the number and sheep-goat combination to achieve these desired goals. Outcomes of this project can be found at: <http://www.ebparks.org/about/stewardship>.

Dr. Karen Launchbaugh of the University of Idaho, Rangeland Center presented a project in collaboration with Eva Strand and Christopher Schachtschneider entitled, "Targeted Grazing to Manage Wildland Fuels and Alter Fire Behavior." She shared historic patterns of wildland fires and how grazing affects these fires and fuels which included: perimeter or extent of fires, patchiness, intensity, flame length, and rate of spread of fires. We learned that in addition to weather considerations and landscape features and content, fuel characteristics can potentially be influenced by grazing by the mix of live and dead fuels, the fuels amount, biomass composition and fuel continuity. Another element of Karen's presentation were the grazing effects on the populations of cheatgrass, the correlation to fires on range and how grazing can either increase or decrease these populations based on seasonality of grazing and intensity.

As a young professional working in "prescribed herbivory" since 2012, I am encouraged to see the increasing interest and consideration of grazing and browsing as a vegetation management tool, as many other ecological benefits can arise from carefully managed, targeted grazing efforts. This session proved to be informative, inspiring and useful in informing an array of land managers and livestock producers and I am pleased to have participated. Pastoralism Prevails!

A self-deemed "modern-day, urban shepherdess", Brittany Cole Bush is a professional working in the fields of land stewardship, restoration, animal husbandry, consulting and education in California. She represents the California Wool Growers Association in the Range Management Advisory Committee, is a committee member of the Young Entrepreneurs of the American Sheep Industry, writer for the Stockman Grass Farmer and collaborator with Fibershed 501(c)3.

Calendar of Events

If you think there is an event that would be of interest to the Cal-Pac membership, send an email to pb3@airpost.net.

4th Rustici Rangeland Science Symposium

March 23 to 24, 2017

UC Davis, California

<http://rangelands.ucdavis.edu/rustici/rangeland-symposium/>

California-Pacific Section Society for Range Management Spring Meeting

April 3 to 5, 2017

Suisun City, California

casrm.rangelands.org

California Rangeland Conservation Coalition Tour at SFREC

April 13, 2017

Sierra Foothill Research and Extension Center, Browns Valley, California

sfrec.ucanr.edu

Central Coast Rangeland Coalition Spring Meeting

April 20, 2017

Byron, California

elkhornslough.org

California Society for Ecological Restoration

May 10 to 12, 2017

Davis, California

sercal.org

California Woolgrowers Association Annual Meeting

August 18 to 19, 2017

Cambria, California

cawoolgrowers.org

71st Society for Range Management Annual Meeting

January 28 to February 1, 2018

Sparks, Nevada

We want your input on future section meetings!

Given our geographically large and diverse Section, there may be options for meeting/tour locations that a Past President may not be familiar with. Therefore we would like to solicit input from you about places you would like to visit for future section meetings as well as topics you would be interested in hearing more about. If for some reason your suggestion is not able to be used for the next upcoming meeting, it will be kept for future meetings. Also if you would like to volunteer to help organize a meeting, please let us know as well through this survey. The survey can be found at: <http://ucanr.edu/calpacsuggestions>.



SCIENCE OF RANGELAND SOIL HEALTH & MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS



Workshop & Tour

**What's all the fuss
over rangeland
soils?**

Why do we care?

**What should
rangeland
managers know?**

**World-renowned
soil scientists will
fill you in.**

April 4-5, 2017

Suisun City, CA

**HOSTED BY THE
CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC
SECTION, SOCIETY FOR
RANGE MANAGEMENT**

Meeting information and
registration details at:
<http://rangelands.org/casrm/>

SCIENCE OF RANGELAND SOIL HEALTH AND MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

A Workshop and Tour

And the Spring Meeting for the California-Pacific Section of the Society for Range Management

Tuesday, April 4th, 8 AM to 4:30 PM: Workshop at Rush Ranch, 3521 Grizzly Island Rd, Suisun City, CA, (www.solanolandtrust.org/RushRanch.aspx).

Wednesday, April 5th, 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM: Tour of rangeland soils will generally follow the Putah Creek alluvial fan from the Coast Range to the Sacramento River. The tour will begin at the top of Monticello Dam, 9 miles west of Winters, CA on Highway 128 and will end near the Sacramento River.

Lodging: Hampton Inn and Suites Suisun City Waterfront, 2 Harbor Center, Suisun City, CA ([website](#)), phone (707) 429-0900. A block of 20 rooms will be held through **Friday, March 10, 2017** at \$91.00/night plus tax. After 3/10 the rate will go up and rooms will be released. Please use the booking code **CPF**.

Workshop Agenda, Tuesday, April 4th, Moderated by David Kelley: *Speakers and titles subject to change.*

8:00 AM	Registration
9:00 AM	Historical perspectives on rangeland soil science and conservation practices. <i>Dr. Leonard Jolley, USDA-NRCS, retired</i>
9:20 AM	Soil properties and potential for change through management. <i>Dr. Will Horwath, Professor, UC Davis</i>
10:00 AM	How rangeland soil characteristics affect our ability to change soil health properties. <i>Dr. Susan Marshall, Professor, Humboldt State University</i>
10:30 AM	Break
10:45 AM	Dynamic processes in rangeland and oak woodland soils: Water, nutrients and biology. <i>Dr. Randy Dahlgren, Professor, UC Davis</i>
11:15 AM	Grazing land management practices and effects on soil health and carbon dynamics. <i>Toby O'Geen, UCCE Specialist, UC Davis</i>
11:45 AM	Lunch
12:30 PM	Field tour of soil pits and compost site.
2:15 PM	Effects of grazing management practices on rangeland soils. <i>Dr. Leslie Roche, UCCE Specialist, UC Davis</i>
2:45 PM	Perennial grass restoration: How soils and hydrology affect restoration outcomes. <i>Dr. Victor Claassen, UC Davis</i>
3:15 PM	A national perspective on rangeland soil health and why we should care. <i>Dr. Joel Brown, USDA-NRCS, Jornada Experimental Range, NM</i>
4:00 PM	Wrap up and tour details <i>Morgan Doran, UCCE Advisor</i>
4:30 PM	Adjourn
6:30 PM	California-Pacific Section Spring Meeting Dinner at the Cast Iron Grill & Bar (website), 700 Main Street, Suite 104 (entrance on Solano Street), Suisun City.

Wednesday's tour will begin at 8:30 AM at the top of Monticello Dam, 9 miles west of Winters on Hwy. 128. The drive from Suisun City to the Dam is approximately 36 miles, 45 minutes ([map](#)).



California-Pacific Section, Society for Range Management
Spring Meeting and Tour, 2017

REGISTRATION FORM

Complete this and the next page and submit with payment.

Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Guests: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Meeting Registration Fees: *lunch on 4/4 and 4/5 is included with registration*

Registration Options	Early Reg. Price	Reg. after 3/24/17	Number of People	Sub-Total
Full registration: <i>Tuesday, 4/4/17 Rangeland Soil Health Workshop</i> <i>Wednesday, 4/5/17 Rangeland Soils Tour</i>	\$ 80.00	\$ 100.00		
Tuesday, 4/4/17 Rangeland Soil Health Workshop only	\$ 60.00	\$ 75.00		
Wednesday, 4/5/17 Rangeland Soils Tour only	\$ 20.00	\$ 25.00		
STUDENT Full package registration: <i>Tuesday, 4/4/17 Rangeland Soil Health Workshop</i> <i>Wednesday, 4/5/17 Rangeland Soils Tour</i>	\$ 30.00	\$ 35.00		
STUDENT Tuesday, 4/4/17 Rangeland Soil Health Workshop only	\$ 20.00	\$ 25.00		
STUDENT Wednesday, 4/5/17 Rangeland Soils Tour only	\$ 10.00	\$ 13.00		

Enter this total amount in line 1 in the meeting expense table on next page.

TOTAL

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Cal-Pac Spring Dinner Reception

The Cal-Pac Spring Meeting Dinner will be held on Tuesday night at the Cast Iron Grill & Bar (<http://www.castirongrillandbar.com/>) in downtown Suisun City, two blocks from the Hampton Inn.

If you plan to join the group for dinner, choose the number of each entrée for you and your guests.

Note: All dinners include soup or salad (choose when seated) and 18% gratuity. Individuals must purchase their own drinks and dessert. Corkage fee is \$10 per bottle.

Entrée	Price	Number	Sub-total
Ribeye Steak – A 12 oz. ribeye steak, seasoned and chargrilled to order is topped with herb butter; served with balsamic roasted onions, goat cheese creamed spinach and buttermilk mashed potatoes	\$ 41.00		
Grilled Tri-Tip – 10 oz. tri-tip is chargrilled and topped with a house made chimichurri sauce; served with buttermilk mashed potatoes and sautéed vegetables	\$ 28.00		
Pork Chop – 11 oz. of premium “White Marble Farms” bone-in pork chop marinated in sake and miso, chargrilled and topped with a lemon-thyme pan sauce; served with buttermilk mashed potatoes and seasonal vegetables	\$ 26.00		
Chicken Breast – An 8 oz. chicken breast is pan seared with a rotisserie; served with roasted sweet potato hash and sautéed vegetables	\$ 24.00		
Four Cheese Ravioli – Vegetarian meal; plump raviolis served in a roasted red pepper sauce with eggplant, capers, and pine nuts. Served with garlic bread.	\$ 21.00		
<i>Enter this total amount in line 2 of the meeting expense table below.</i> TOTAL			

Meeting Expense Table:

1	Total meeting registration fees	\$
2	Dinner on Tuesday, 4/4/17	\$
3	AMOUNT DUE:	\$

Payment options: Check one (if paying by check, make payable to Cal-Pac Section SRM)

Check _____ PayPal [online](#), date paid _____ Pay with check or credit card at the door _____

Mail all registration forms, and check if paying by check, to:
Devii Rao, 31000 Airline Highway, Paicines, CA 95043

IMORTANT: The online payment system with PayPal is new for Cal-Pac. As a backup, we need everyone to mail completed registration forms to Devii Rao at the address above.

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1/2 Page	\$60
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1/4 Page	\$30
1/8 Page	\$20
Column inch	\$10

E-mail mpdoran@ucanr.edu for more information or to submit an advertisement

Newsletter Articles

All contributions to *Needlegrass Notes* are welcome. Please submit your articles to:

pabrownsey@gmail.com

Keep in Touch

Moved, changed jobs, or have a new email address? Don't forget to update your membership information on the National SRM website at <http://www.rangelands.org> and the California-Pacific Chapter by sending an email to Morgan Doran at mpdoran@ucanr.edu. We'll correct your email address on our email listserve so that you stay up to date on the latest news and happenings in the chapter.

California-Pacific Section SRM
8279 Scott Forbes Road
Browns Valley, CA 95918



Society for Range Management

We're on the web:

<http://casrm.rangelands.org>
