

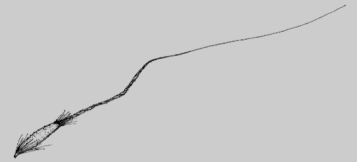


Needlegrass Notes

Volume 65:2

Fall 2019

Society for Range Management
California-Pacific Section



Your 2019 Section Officers & Board

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- Certified Rangeland Manager Panel update
- 2020 Cal-Pac Office Elections
- Fall meeting agenda and registration information
- Range Camp update
- Calendar of upcoming events

President's Message

Mindy Nicoletti

Can you believe fall is in the air? Compared to last summer this one has been one for the books. So many mild summer days (well, comparably to last year) and clean air, it makes me reflect on how fortunate I am to call Northern California home.

I want to give a big, "Thank You!" for those of you that joined us for the spring meeting in Santa Maria. Matthew Shapero and Kristan Norman did an outstanding job putting together a field tour of Rock Front Ranch and Righetti Ranch. The tour compared the two properties, one that had been affected by wildfire and the other which had been utilizing prescribed burns. We had a great turn out and excellent field discussions about wildfire in California.

The fall meeting will be focusing on diversification to working rangelands. You will be hearing from ranchers and landowners who have branched out and created new opportunities to generate income from their ranching operations. This meeting will be co-hosted with the Central Coast Rangeland Coalition (CCRC). The meeting will be located at Stemple Creek Ranch in beautiful Tomales on Thursday, October 17th. The evening before Wednesday, October 16th we will have a dinner and silent auction at La Gare restaurant in



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Your 2019 Committee Chairs & Members

Audit:

Larry Forero
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(530) 224-4900

Awards:

Denise Defreese
ddefreese@ebparks.org

Information & Education Co-Chairs:

Kaelie Pena
kaelie.pena@gmail.com
(530) 310-0539

President's Message — Continued

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Santa Rosa. I hope you all can come.

Please take time to vote for SRM Board of Directors. We have one of our members, Dr. Susan Marshall that is running for Director. What a great opportunity for Cal Pac to have representation for the national section. I encourage you to take a minute and fill out your ballot that was emailed to you.

As a final comment, I want to say that it has been my honor serving as Cal Pac president. It has given me an opportunity to share my love and enthusiasm for rangelands and to meet so many new people that have a similar passion. If anyone has interest in Cal Pac and would like to participate more, please reach out and contact me or someone else on the board. We would love to get you involved!

Sincerely,
Mindy Nicoletti
CalPac SRM Section President

California Certified Rangeland Manager (CRM) Panel Update

Recent RPF/CRM regulations have been examined by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL). OAL is likely to delete section 1611.5 ("Professional Standards and Responsibilities"). They did not feel it was appropriate to include these in regulations per se. Revisions and regulations will be discussed at the Board of Forestry (BOF) meeting on Sept. 26 in Fresno. BOF will then set the 15 day review period. Dan Stapleton (Assistant Executive Officer, Foresters Licensing) thinks regulations will be final by January 2020 at which time the CRM panel needs to draft "Program for Certification" document for adoption by the BOF. This program document will then be referenced in the regulations

The next CRM exam date is Oct. 4, the RPF/CRM exam will be offered in Rocklin and Eureka. Dr. Bartolome anticipates that two people will take the fall 2019 CRM exam. Congratulations to Kristina Wolf (CRM #M122) who passed the exam in April 2019.

Biennial licensing fees will go up to \$130 for CRM and \$350 for RPFs in 2020. They hope to provide an on-line payment (credit card) service soon.

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CRM Panel Update — Continued

The CRM panel proposes to draft and disseminate an on-line survey of current CRMs to better understand the level of CRM consulting work compared to other work or retirement activities, geographic areas where consulting is done, subject areas of expertise provided to clients, and what the CRM panel can do to provide professional development if desired. The panel feels that performing a survey will help connect CRMs and burgeoning interest in grazing for fuel reduction.

2020 Cal-Pac Officer Elections

How to make your vote count

Members who currently receive Section communications via email have been sent an electronic ballot. If you have not received an electronic ballot please contact Theresa Becchetti at tabecchetti@ucanr.edu.

If you are a member that receives a paper copy of the newsletter, an addressed ballot is enclosed that you can mail to Theresa Becchetti.

Candidates for Section President-Elect

This office spends 1 year as President-Elect, followed by 1 year as Section President, and 1 year as Past President, each with unique responsibilities. To learn more, you may refer to the Cal-Pac section handbook, available on our website: http://casrm.rangelands.org/Assets/CalPac_Handbook.pdf

Jill Ficke-Beaton (Maui, HI)

My name is Jill Ficke-Beaton and what an honor it is to be considered for the President-elect of the Cal-Pac Section. I currently serve as District Conservationist in the Kahului Field Office on the Island of Maui. I grew up on Maui and left in pursuit of a degree. I obtained a BS in Agriculture from the University of Hawaii at Hilo. Curious about the landscapes I love and the best ways to manage them, I continued my education and received my Master's in Natural Resource Management with an emphasis on Rangeland Ecology and a Water Resource Management Certificate from Colorado State University. This led to my certification as a Professional Rangeland Manager.

(Continued on page 4)

Your 2019 Committee Chairs & Members

Membership Chair:

Ling He
clarkia@hotmail.com
(925) 371-0154 x3860

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Professional Affairs/ CRM Panel Chair:

Larry Ford
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CRM Panel Executive Secretary:

Jim Bartolome
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Student Affairs Co-Chairs:

Julie Finzel
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(661) 868-6219

Marc Horney
mhorney@calpoly.edu
(805) 756-7543

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I started working in conservation, first as a customer of NRCS for our small cattle, sheep, and orchid operation, and then became an Earth Team volunteer, district planner, and joined NRCS in 2013. I have worked in the Hilo Field Office as a soil conservationist, the Waimea Field Office as a soil conservationist and most recently a range management specialist.

I am a strong supporter of agriculture and am currently serving as the Hawaii Cattlemen's Association Secretary/Treasurer, as well as being a member of the Hawaii Sheep and Goat Association (Past President, Secretary/Treasurer). I have served on the SRM Young Professional Committee, serving as President and Advisor, and serve on the Awards Committee. I would very much like to be able to give back to the Cal-Pac section as well as help increase the reach of the Cal-Pac section into the Pacific.

Bre Owens (Tehama County, CA)

Bre Owens operates Cobblestone Ranch, a small cattle and sheep operation based in Tehama County, in addition to working with the CSU, Chico Center for Regenerative Agriculture and a ranching-conservation collaborative called Working Circle Proactive Stewardship. She is a mentor through Quivira Coalition's New Agrarian Program and is excited to be bringing the fourth apprentice onto Cobblestone Ranch this fall. Bre is the current chair of the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition, a NRCS Technical Service Provider, and CA Certified Rangeland Manager (CRM #97). She has previously served on the Cal-Pac Section Board of Directors.

Efforts on the ranch include grazing management and landscape enhancement projects focused on multi-benefit outcomes including livestock productivity, soil and vegetation community health, wildlife habitat and an effective water cycle. As part of the operation, Bre grazes cattle on units of the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Management priorities on the Refuge are the maintenance and enhancement of wildlife habitat, including riparian forest and perennial grasslands.

Bre is motivated in this work we all contribute to by the expanding conversations on the benefits to ecosystems when properly influenced through human communities. And the recognition of the value of merging both the art and science of grazing, along with other land management tools we can utilize to enhance landscapes and support rural and urban communities alike. If selected to represent other rangeland managers and stakeholders as an officer of Cal-Pac, Bre hopes to further these conversations within the Section to bring together people and entities with different experience and areas of expertise, but shared optimism for rangeland conservation.

CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Billy Freeman (Central Sierra foothills, CA)

Since 2011 I have served as the Rangeland Manager for Sierra Foothill Conservancy (SFC), working in Fresno, Madera, Mariposa and Eastern Merced counties. I oversee the grazing and rangeland management on about 6,500 acres of fee title properties and assist in the management of over 22,000 acres of Conservation Easement properties. My duties include on the ground application of rangeland monitoring,

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grazing plan development, and grassfed beef marketing. I have also focused on managing SFC's cattle operation where we utilize planned grazing on about 5,500 acres of SFC conservation properties. I grew up in eastern San Diego county before attending Cal Poly San Luis Obispo where I earned a BS in Agriculture Systems Management. In 2016, I attained a Master's in Natural Resources Stewardship-Rangeland Ecosystem Science from Colorado State University, Fort Collins. I became involved with Cal-Pac SRM in 2017 when I was accepted as a Certified Rangeland Manager (CRM). I also attended the 2018 SRM annual meeting where I attained SRM approval as a Certified Professional in Rangeland Management (CPRM). I also presented at the meeting as part of the Rancher-to-Rancher network and continue to work on Regenerative Grazing outreach. I have enjoyed working on sensitive species and environmental mitigation grazing management programs, collaborations with conservation landowners, NRCS, Point Blue Conservation Science and conservation grazing implementation.

As a professional, I firmly believe in the benefits of organizations such as Cal-Pac SRM. I look forward to contributing to the management of rangeland issues, outreach and education activities. Further, I would like to assist in the section's growing involvement with producers and private landowners. Building up communities with rangeland science, education and leadership continues to be a personal goal for myself. Thus, I am motivated to further the goals of Cal-Pac SRM and to interact with other professionals involved in the organization. Thank you for your consideration.

Michael Higgins (San Luis Obispo County, CA)

I am pleased to be on the ballot as a candidate for the Board of Directors for the Cal-Pac Section of the Society for Range Management. I have been involved with SRM since 2009. I have attended both sectional and national meetings, presenting at our national meetings. In 2014 I partnered with previous Cal-Pac director and UC Farm Advisor Julie Finzel, completing an NRCS California technical publication. We presented jointly at an SRM national meeting. As a Society for Range Management director, I look forward to serving my profession in a greater capacity.

My education includes a Bachelor of Science degree in Rangeland Ecology & Management with a minor in Soil Science from Oregon State University.

I began my career in Idaho with Pheasants Forever, a nonprofit habitat organization. In Idaho I worked to improve greater sage grouse habitat & developed grazing management plans with USDA-NRCS clientele. I began working in California in 2013 as an NRCS Rangeland Management Specialist covering Kings, Tulare and Kern county. It was a privilege serving these ranching communities and I learned a great deal from the producers. Currently I am improving soil survey and ecological site description products to inform resource management planning and generate science-based management decisions.

Jeremy James (Yuba County, CA)

I have been involved with the Society for Range Management since 2004 when I joined the USDA-ARS as a Rangeland Scientist in Oregon where I focused on post fire restoration and invasive plant management. Starting by position in 2012 with UC Cooperative Extension as Director of the UC Sierra Foothill Research and Extension Center has allowed me some exciting opportunities to engage with SRM at the national level and the section level, including organizing and hosting field tours during the recent confer-

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ence in Sacramento and working with a diverse group of Cal-Pac section members on extension and education activities relevant to rangelands in California. During my time in California I have been amazed with how extensive and impactful the range profession is across the state. The number of professionals engaged in supporting critical range programs is larger and more diverse than most states, reflecting the central importance rangelands have to California. I have been very excited to see the great work Cal-PAC SRM has done in helping to organize this great expanse of professionals over the last several years and how the section has increasingly tailored its programming to rapidly respond to critical issues facing California rangeland, including most recently, catastrophic wildfire. I would be honored and excited to participate in this capacity and help further the impactful work the range community is doing for California and the West.

Laura Snell (Modoc County, CA)

Laura Snell has been a Livestock and Natural Resource advisor in Modoc County for over 4 years with UC Cooperative Extension. She has been an active member in the Society for Range Management for over 10 years including membership in the Nebraska, Nevada, PNW, and Cal-Pac sections. She received her B.S. and M.S. from the University of Nebraska in Water Science and Agronomy with a Range Science specialty. She has experience navigating the public/private land interface working collaboratively with public and private land managers, policy makers, and the public on issues such as wild horse management, post-fire grazing, water quality and quantity, and rural development. She has also been involved in the Public Lands Council, Wildlife Society, and local advisory groups. If elected, Laura is looking forward to bringing her broad background of experiences to the Cal-Pac section and serving a greater role in Society for Range Management issues.

Cal-Pac SRM Fall Meeting and Tour with the Central Coast Rangeland Coalition (CCRC)

October 16th & 17th — Stemple Creek, Tomales, CA

Beef, Bees, Trees and Gelato: Doing and Earning More from a Ranch

This joint meeting of the CCRC and SRM will focus on ranch diversification, which promotes sustainable working rangelands. We will hear from ranchers and landowners who have reconfigured their ranches to generate additional income by diversifying the use of their resources. We will hear from land managers who have worked with ranchers to diversify enterprises that promote land management goals and rancher sustainability. We will learn how they identified opportunities for new enterprises and worked through resource and regulatory issues.

On-line Registration is available through PayPal on the SRM Cal-Pac website. <https://casrm.rangelands.org/HTML/fallmeeting.html>. If you would prefer to pay by check, please make the check payable to Cal-Pac SRM and mail with completed registration form to:

Devii Rao (Cal-Pac SRM Treasurer)
31000 Airline Highway
Paicines, Calif. 95043
(831)637-5346 x 14

Meeting Accommodations

To ensure reasonable accommodations, please reserve your room early because this is a high tourism area. Some hotels are already booked for this time period. A list of hotels is provided in the additional information form online at <https://casrm.rangelands.org/HTML/fallmeeting.html>

You can also check out (airbnb.com) and Vrbo (vrbo.com) for local vacation rentals in the Tomales and surrounding areas. Stemple Creek Ranch also has a couple of onsite vacation rentals available through these two websites.

Wednesday October 16th Tentative Schedule

1:30 – 4:30 Cal-Pac Board of Directors Meeting

1:30 – 4:30 CRM Panel Meeting

*The Board and CRM meetings to be held at the Petaluma NRCS office:
5401 Old Redwood Hwy, Petaluma 94954.*

6:30 - 9:00 - Dinner/Social (optional) and Silent Auction – La Gare, French Restaurant (in the alley), BYOB. 208 WILSON ST, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

**Please don't forget to bring silent auction items!*

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Thursday October 17th Tentative Schedule

Time	Item <i>Person</i>
8:30 – 9:00	Register, Coffee
9:00	Welcome to the Meeting
	Welcome to Stemple Creek Ranch Loren Poncia
	Diversification Introduction <i>UCCE Livestock Advisor, Sheila Barry</i>
	Small Groups
	<i>Diversification opportunities: What works and why?</i> <i>Dr. Stephanie Larson</i> <i>UCCE Livestock Advisor, Marin and Sonoma County</i>
	<i>Evaluating your resources and opportunities (Producer Panel moderated by Marin Agricultural Land Trust [MALT])</i> <i>Mike Gale, Chileno Valley Ranch</i> <i>(Grass-fed beef, U-pick apples, and Event Space)</i> <i>Tamara Hicks, Toluma Farms and Tamales Farmstead Creamery</i> <i>(Artisinal goat and sheep cheeses, farm tours)</i> <i>Andrew Zlot, Double 8 Dairy</i> <i>(Water Buffalo Gelato and Mozzarella)</i> <i>Mike Giamonna</i> <i>(Ag Land Easement, beef cows and chickens)</i>
	<i>Not just direct marketing, timber, grazing, vineyards, hunt club and events</i> <i>Bill Morrison, Soper-Wheeler Co. LLC</i>
	Small Groups
12:00	Lunch
	<i>What works where and how to work with local regulations to make more opportunities?</i> <i>Michael Meeham, County of Santa Clara Planning Department</i>
	Walk to field sites on Stemple Creek
	Stop 1: Events/ Livestock
	Stop 2: Bees/ Carbon Farming
	Stop 3: Targeted Grazing
	Small Groups
4:30	End program

Range Camp Update

Range camp was another huge success! I was lucky enough to be able to volunteer again this year. I was thoroughly impressed with all the campers. Every single one of them did a great job and contributed to their presentation they made for town hall. They were an engaged and lively crew. A few received scholarships to be Cal Pac's section delegate at the Annual High School Youth Forum in Denver this year. I look forward to hearing how they do. Speaking of range camp, after 35 years of Cal Pac running the camp, there will be big changes next year as Cooperative Extension will be taking over managing the camp. I want to recognize all the Cal Pac members and everyone else who has volunteered their time, hard work and leadership to the camp. Your commitment to introducing youth to the world of range management hopefully will encourage a future with natural resources. Range camp would not be the success it was without you. We appreciate all you have done.

Sincerely,
Mindy Nicoletti
CalPac SRM Section President



Calendar of Events

If you think there is an event that would be of interest to the Cal-Pac membership, send an email to katie@alt-me.com.

Holistic Management International—Introduction to Holistic Management Whole Farm/Ranch Planning
October 7—November 9, 2019
Online

California-Pacific Section Society for Range Management and California Rangeland Coalition Fall Meeting
October 11-14, 2018
Arcata, California
<http://rangelands.org/casrm/index.html>

California Invasive Plant Council
October 15-18, 2019
Riverside, California
<https://www.cal-ipc.org/resources/symposium/>

CLFA meeting Seminar on Targeted Grazing—Additional Information to follow from Dr. Marc Horney RMAC Chair
November 8, 2019

Holistic Management International/Quivira Coalition Annual Conference
November 19-22, 2019
Albuquerque, New Mexico
<https://quiviracoalition.org/regenerate/>

California Cattlemen's Association Annual Meeting
December 4—6, 2019
Reno, Nevada

Cattle Industry Convention and NCBA Trade Show
February 5-7, 2020
San Antonio, Texas
<http://www.beefusa.org/events.aspx>

Society for Range Management 73rd Annual Meeting
February 16-20, 2020
Denver, Colorado
<http://www.srm2020.org/>

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Calendar of Events—Continued

The Western Section of the Wildlife Society 67th Annual Meeting

February 3-7, 2020

Redding, California

<http://tw-west.org/redding2020/>

California Ram Sale

April 18, 2020

Porterville, California

<http://californiawoolgrowers.org/calendar/ca-ram-sale/>

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>.

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1/8 Page	20
Column inch	10

Email Katie Brown at katie@alt-me.com for more information.

Newsletter Articles

All contributions to Needlegrass Notes are welcome. Please submit your articles and news items to: Katie Brown at katie@alt-me.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 Ling He at clarkia@hotmail.com. We will correct your email address on our email list serve so that you stay up to date on the latest news and happenings in the chapter.



*California-Pacific Section SRM
Attn: Theresa Becchetti
University of California Cooperative Extension
3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite A
Modesto, CA 95358*



Society for Range Management

We're on the web:

<http://casrm.rangelands.org>
