



Needlegrass Notes

Volume 62:1

Spring 2016

Society for Range Management
California-Pacific Section



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President's Message Morgan Doran

It is spring which means it's time to shed that old layer of skin.... out with the old and in with the new (skin). That's my spring routine because I never fail to forget the sunscreen and a broad-rim hat on that first full day of field-work. Now that my burn is cured, and skin has sloughed I have the hat and sunscreen in the truck.

Before looking forward to our Cal-Pac meetings, I would like to address past issues and events that

have been prominent for our section. First is a lawsuit filed against Cal-Pac and the Board of Forestry over the Certified Rangeland Manager (CRM) program. This has been a long two-year ordeal, which the board was obligated to keep confidential until last fall when court documents were made public. The lawsuit, Rancho Guejito Corp. vs. California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and California-Pacific Section, SRM; was first filed in August 2014.

Claims in the lawsuit allege that the Board of Forestry, Cal-Pac, and the CRM Certification Panel were negligent in handling a complaint made against a Certified Rangeland Manager. This was the first complaint filed against the CRM program which was very new territory for our section. Thankfully, we ob-



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Your 2015 Committee Chairs & Members

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tained representation from Anthony (Tom) Caso, an attorney and professor at Chapman University School of Law, and is a Cal-Pac board member's uncle. Tom generously agreed to represent Cal-Pac for a very, very reduced fee, and he did an amazingly thorough and stellar job. The long saga of this lawsuit can be summarized by saying that all complaints filed against Cal-Pac have been denied by a judge's ruling on March 4, 2016. To simply describe this legal experience as a long saga definitely understates the sacrifices that were made by Cal-Pac members throughout the entire process. This has been a very stressful period for many members involved and the case had the potential to financially ruin Cal-Pac: this was a BIG DEAL!!

Now that this is mostly behind us, we owe a debt of gratitude to the many members that have dealt with this issue, especially Larry Ford who did the heavy lifting for our section in gathering information, testifying and staying abreast of case details and status. I say that this case is mostly behind us because of continuing loose ends, most important is the chance that Rancho Guejito will file an appeal before the May 16th deadline. The Cal-Pac board is also looking into Errors and Omissions insurance to protect Cal-Pac board and committee members from personal liability in future lawsuits. Such insurance is standard for many non-profit boards, but was unknown to us until this case. Cal-Pac also needs to evaluate any potential changes in how the CRM program is managed with the Board of Forestry. There is some good news that came out of this case in that our successful outcome really highlights the professional integrity and commitment of our CRM panel members. Thank you for doing such a great job and your dedication!

On a more positive note, Cal-Pac's presence was overwhelming at the SRM Annual Meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas. We had a strong showing of members, member presentations, and many Californians were recipients of SRM awards and positions. Congratulations go to: Dr. Kasey DeAtley from Chico State for receiving the Young Professional Conclave Outstanding Apprentice Award; Chico State student teams placed 1st and 4th in the 2016 Rangeland Cup competition; Jane Woods placed 5th in the High School Youth Forum; Grace Woodmansee from Chico State placed 5th in the Undergraduate Extemporaneous Speaking Contest; Kaelie Pena from Humboldt State was elected Secretary of the University/College Student Conclave; and Mark and Dina Moore of the Lone Star Ranch in Humboldt County won the National Excellence in Range Management Award, a Cal-Pac first. In addition, long-time section member, Patti Novak-Echenique, the NRCS State Rangeland Management Specialist in Nevada, has been awarded Rangeland Management Specialist of the year for 2015 by NRCS. WOW!! Way to go Cal-Pac...

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again!

Cal-Pac excitement will continue in June with our Spring Meeting at Range Camp in Half Moon Bay and then our Fall Meeting on the Big Island of Hawaii. We have lots of interesting topics on the agendas for these meetings, so don't miss out on these opportunities to engage and learn. And don't forget your sunscreen and hat.

Sincerely,
Morgan Doran
Cal-Pac SRM Section President

Notable Publications Philip Brownsey

I will apologize now if I missed or misrepresented the important points in these papers, or overlooked an interesting and important recent paper. I will leave it to the Cal-Pac members to read these to correct my errors. If you know of an article that Cal-Pac members may find interesting and would like me to highlight it, send me a note.

Davy, J. S., Roche, L. M., Robertson, A. V., Nay, D. E., and Tate, K. W. 2016. Introducing cattle grazing to a noxious weed-dominated rangeland shifts plant communities. *California Agriculture* 69(4): 230-236. doi:doi:10.3733/ca.v069n04p230

Gornish, E. S., and Ambrozio dos Santos, P. 2016. Invasive species cover, soil type, and grazing interact to predict long-term grassland restoration success. *Restoration Ecology* 24(2):222-229. doi:10.1111/rec.12308

Hanna, S. K., and Fulgham, K. O. 2015. Post-fire vegetation dynamics of a sagebrush steppe community change significantly over time. *California Agriculture* 69(1): 36-42. doi:10.3733/ca.v069n01p36

Marty, J. T., Sweet, S. B., and Buck-Diaz, J. J. 2015. Burning Controls Barb Goatgrass (*Aegilops triuncialis*) in California Grasslands for at Least 7 Years. *Invasive Plant Science and Management* 8(3): 317-322. doi:10.1614/IPSM-D-14-00043.1

Your 2016 Committee Chairs & Members

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Range Camp Julie Finzel and Marc Horney

Applications for the California Range & Natural Resources Camp Now Available

Range Camp is a 6-day camp experience for students ages 15-18 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 have an opportunity to win an opportunity to travel to St. George, Utah in February 2017 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 19-24. 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.

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>.

Calendar of Events

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

California Society for Ecological Restoration Conference

May 11 to 13, 2016
Kings Beach, California
sercal.org

California-Pacific Section Society for Range Management Range Camp

June 19 to 24, 2016
Elkus Ranch, Half Moon Bay, California
casrm.rangelands.org

California-Pacific Section Society for Range Management Spring Field Tour

June 22 to 23, 2016
Elkus Ranch, Half Moon Bay, California
casrm.rangelands.org

California Woolgrowers Association Annual Convention

August 25 to 26, 2016
Minden, Nevada
woolgrowers.org

California-Pacific Section Society for Range Management Fall Meeting

October 26 to 28, 2016
Kilauea Military Camp, Volcano, Hawaii
casrm.rangelands.org

California Invasive Plant Council Symposium

November 2 to 5, 2016
Tenaya Lodge at Yosemite, California
cal-ipc.org

100th Annual California Cattlemen's Association Convention

December 1 to 4, 2016
Sparks, Nevada
calcattlemen.org

70th Society for Range Management Annual Meeting

January 29 to February 2, 2017
St. George, Utah

71st Society for Range Management Annual Meeting

January 28 to February 1, 2018
Sparks, Nevada

Cal-Pac SRM 2016 Spring Meeting & Tour June 22 & 23, 2016 Half Moon Bay at Elkus Ranch Camp

Join us for a tour of the Range Camp at Elkus Ranch, participate in a Certified Rangeland Management program workshop, and visit two very different livestock operations in the Bay Area. Cal-Pac has run this range camp since 1985 but few of the members and officers have actually been to the facility when a camp is going on. We will have the opportunity to meet the campers and discuss careers in Range as well as see how our Range Camp committee does so much for the youth participants.



The second day of the meeting will be a tour of two livestock operations that each take a very different approach to grazing management within the San Francisco Bay Area: the TomKat Ranch and a grazing operation within the Midpeninsula Open Space Authority. Comparisons of grazing management will be done with discussion of how the grazing plan (prescription is developed). This will include how they monitor for change in each operation and what kind of results they are seeing in vegetation, soil, wildlife habitat and animal health.



June 22 (Wednesday)

11:00 - 2:00 Cal-Pac Board of Directors Meeting (Sheep Barn – Range Camp)

11:00 – 2:00 CRM Panel Meeting (conference room – Range Camp)

2:00 – 3:30 CRM Program and Future (Board, CRM Panel, All – Sheep Barn)

Both the Board and CRM meetings to be held at UC Elkus Youth Ranch Range Camp, 1500 Purisima Creek Rd, Half Moon Bay

4:00 – 5:00 – Tour Range Camp

5:30 – 6:30 BBQ Salmon Dinner at the Beach with Range Camp Participants

7:00 - 9:00 - Social – Half Moon Bay Lodge

June 23 (Thursday)

Tour of the TomKat Ranch & Midpeninsula Open Space Ranch. Compare and contrast two very different operations and what makes the livestock industry work in California.

For more information about the ranch:

<http://www.tomkatranch.org/> and <http://www.openspace.org/>

We will leave Half Moon Bay Lodge at 8:00 AM and arrive at the TomKat ranch gate 8:30. We will tour the TomKat Ranch from 8:30 – 1:00 then drive a short distance to a ranch within the MidPeninsula Open Space Authority. That tour will end at approximately 4:00 pm.

During the tour we will see firsthand how the TomKat ranch operates and learn about their Land & Livestock program plus see how Point Blue is working with them on grassland bird monitoring. There will be time for questions about the many aspects of this ranch. We will then travel to the Open Space Authority grazing lands to the Driscoll Ranch lease. They will discuss how the lease is set-up, the grazing plan, monitoring and any challenges they face running livestock in the SF Bay Area with a traditional grazing operation. It is about a 20 minute drive from the TomKat. We will plan to adjourn by 4:00 pm.

Please note that attendees on the tour to TomKat Ranch will be asked to sign a liability release for TomKat on the day of the tour.

Directions to Range Camp:

From the north and east:

- Take Hwy 92 WEST to Half Moon Bay.
- At Hwy 92/Hwy 1 intersection, turn left and travel 4 1/2 miles south.
- Look for the green “UC Elkus Ranch Next Left” sign.
- Turn LEFT onto Verde Road/Purisima Creek Road and continue on Purisima Creek Road for approximately 2 miles.

Look for the green “Richard J Elkus Environmental Education Center” sign and turn RIGHT into our driveway. PLEASE NOTE: Elkus Ranch is the SECOND driveway on the right hand side of Purisima Creek Road. Please DO NOT turn into the first driveway which is a private residence.

From the south:

- Take Hwy 1 North toward Half Moon Bay.
- At Hwy 84 (to LaHonda) intersection, continue 6.4 miles North on Hwy 1
- Look for green “UC ELkus Ranch Next Right” sign.
- Turn RIGHT onto Verde Road/Purisima Creek Road and continue on Purisima Creek Road for approximately 2 miles.

Look for the green “Richard J Elkus Environmental Education Center” sign and turn RIGHT into our driveway. PLEASE NOTE: Elkus Ranch is the SECOND driveway on the right hand side of Purisima Creek Road. Please DO NOT turn into the first driveway which is a private residence.

Hotel Lodging

A block of rooms has been held at the Half Moon Bay Lodge, Half Moon Bay. **The group rate of \$189 is good through May 23rd**, mention Cal-Pac Section, Society for Range Management. If you need the gov't per diem rate as for Melanie or Michelle. **Book your rooms early because this is their peak tourist season.** The Half Moon Bay Lodge is located at 2400 Cabrillo Highway S, Half Moon Bay, CA (650) 726-9000

or <http://www.pacificahotels.com/halfmoonbaylodge>



**Society for Range Management
 California-Pacific Section
 Half Moon Bay, CA
 June 22- 23, 2016**

Name(s): _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Affiliation (please check): Cal-Pac Member _____ Member of other SRM Section _____

Non-Member _____ Student _____

	Before 6/15	After 6/15
_____ MEMBER (full registration) includes dinner on 6/22	\$75/person _____	\$90/person _____
_____ MEMBER (tour-only) includes LUNCH ONLY on 6/23	\$40/person _____	\$45/person _____
_____ NON-MEMBER (full registration) includes dinner on	\$85/person _____	\$100/person _____
_____ NON-MEMBER (tour-only) includes LUNCH ONLY on	\$55/person _____	\$65/person _____
_____ STUDENT (full registration) includes dinner on 6/22	\$45/person _____	\$55/person _____
_____ STUDENT (tour-only) includes LUNCH ONLY on	\$35/person _____	\$45/person _____
_____ Spouse/Guest includes DINNER ONLY on 6/22	\$35/person _____	\$45/person _____

Grand Total = \$_____

On-line Registration is available through Allen Press at <http://srm.allenpress.com/SRM/> and then click on "Section Meetings" and choose Cal Pac. If you would prefer to pay by check, please make the check payable to Cal-Pac Section SRM and mail with completed registration form (with menu options) to:

Edie Jacobsen
 4576 New York Street
 San Diego, CA 92116

You can also pre-register by email at vitus7@att.net or call 619-322-4404.

MENUS:

Lunch (BOD & CRM Panel on June 22)

Wraps - Chicken__ Beef__ Vegetarian __ Gluten Free Salad __

Dinner at the Beach:

Salmon BBQ __ Vegetarian __

Lunch (Thursday during the tour) Served by Pescadero Country Store

Chicken Club __ Caprese Sandwich__ Roast Beef__

Green Salad __

Patti Novak-Echenique Named NRCS Rangeland Management Specialist of the Year NRCS Press Release

Patti Novak-Echenique, State Rangeland Management Specialist with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) – Nevada, received the agency’s highest honor in her profession – Rangeland Management Specialist of the Year for 2015. Patti received the award on February 3, 2016, at the NRCS training session in conjunction with the annual Society for Range Management (SRM) meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas.

The objective of the award is to recognize NRCS employees who have exemplified outstanding service to NRCS, to their clients, and to science through development and implementation of sound technology transfer on grazing land resources. Nominations are evaluated based on the following criteria: 1) communication through presentations, articles, tours, etc.; 2) training others in rangeland management and conservation techniques; 3) working relationships with various groups, organizations, agencies, etc.; 4) application of rangeland management; 5) complexity of work and diversity of achievements; and 6) professional activities.

Patti was recognized for her enthusiasm and commitment to the range profession; for providing training and mentoring of college students in rangeland inventories; her many years of work on soil surveys and ecological site development; for being instrumental in developing state and transition models for ecological sites in Nevada; for training landowners and NRCS employees in applying rangeland inventoring and monitoring methods and the application of rangeland conservation practices through workshops and one-on-one assistance; working with partnership agencies, organizations and universities; for being an active member in professional societies and her many presentations at national meetings.

Patti has served as the NRCS State Rangeland Management Specialist in Nevada since 2006. Prior to that she served as a Natural Resource Specialist in the Nevada NRCS state office, a NRCS Grassland Specialist in northern Illinois, a NRCS Area Range Specialist in southern California, and a Range and Wildlife Specialist for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power in Bishop, California.

Patti is a Certified Professional in Range Management with the Society for Range Management. She has held positions with the Nevada, California, and North Central Sections of SRM. She is also on the Executive Council of the California-Nevada chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society.



Society for Range Management's California Pacific Section announces the

SRM Cal-Pac Fall Meeting and Tour:

Management of Invasive Species, Endangered Species and Fuel Loads on Hawaiian Range and Pasture Lands



SRM CAL PAC Section invites you to join us at our Fall Meeting and Tour on the Big Island of Hawaii October 26-28, 2016.

We will be meeting at Kilauea Military Camp, in the village of Volcano, approximately 28 miles out of Hilo. Room Reservations are now open under "Society for Range Management" by calling Denise at 808-967-8337. Dr. Mark Thorne is our sponsor for this event. Room rates start at \$132 for a 1 bedroom. Variety of rooms available. Make your reservation early to ensure a room of your choice!

For more information please contact Jill @ 808-937-0314 or jill.ficke-beaton@hi.usda.gov



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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 mpdor@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.

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Society for Range Management

We're on the web:

<http://casrm.rangelands.org>
