

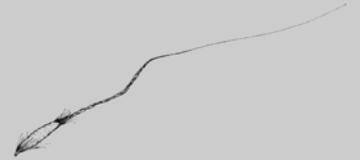


# Needlegrass Notes

Volume 64:1

Spring 2018

Society for Range Management  
California-Pacific Section



## Your 2018 Section Officers & Board

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## In this issue:

- Certified Rangeland Manager Panel update
- Awards: 2017 Range Manager of the Year (Dr. Marc Horney) and Excellence in Range Management (Parks Ranch, Lassen County)
- Range Camp Information
- Spring meeting agenda and registration information

## President's Message Kristan Norman

From significant Drought, to record breaking rainfall, then fires and debris flow events, the environment that we live in has ceased to be predictable. The impacts felt from this environmental roller coaster have been catastrophic statewide, effecting individuals on many levels. In Northern California, the Tubbs Fire has been considered California's most destructive fire in terms of loss of live and structures. The Thomas fire, of Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, is ranked the State's largest ever wildfire in history, burning 281,893 acres (440 square miles). With this rapidly changing environment, the word "resiliency" has become a common objective in landscape planning, as well as the recovery process. Whether you were personally impacted, knew someone, or were fortunate enough to assist in providing resources in the recovery process, resiliency became the word to live by. Going forward, I hope this cycle of events never repeats itself, and never becomes the new "norm". We must keep learning from our collective experiences, which will assist in being prepared for what the next wave of environmental conditions come our way.

With all the challenges we're facing with managing our rangelands, it is especially important to participate in professional societies. Networking and



(Continued on page 2)

**Your 2018 Committee Chairs & Members**

*(Continued from page 1)*

**Audit:**

Larry Forero  
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**Information & Education Co-Chairs:**

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Liz Kellogg  
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knowledge sharing are key to being effective in making rangeland management decisions. If each Cal-Pac member could reach out and recruit one new member, we could be doubling the knowledge sharing and outreach. Think of what a difference that would make! In regards to membership, recent membership changes have transitioned from an anniversary calendar year renewal, to end of year renewal. With these changes, there are many members who are unaware of lapsed memberships. For our parent society, there are currently 893 lapsed 2017 members. And for Cal-Pac, we currently have 89 expired memberships. And I hate to say it, but there are quite a few active members on that list that I'm sure are unaware of the lapse in membership. So please take a moment to check on your membership status, and if needed, renew today!

The upcoming Cal-Pac Spring Workshop and Field Tour will be held in conjunction with the Central Coast Rangeland Coalition, and will be focused on conservation easements and keeping ranches working. The workshop and field tour will be held on Thursday, April 19th, from 8:30 to 4:00, at the Koopmann Ranch in Sunol. The Spring Cal-Pac board meeting will take place on Wednesday April 18th, from 1:00 to 5:00, and meeting location is to be determined. I encourage everyone to participate as it will be a great opportunity to get a better understanding of challenges and threats to both conservation and ranching.

The 2018 National SRM meeting, held in Sparks, Nevada, had a great representation from Cal-Pac. It seemed every turn I took, I ran into another familiar face. A big congrats to Humboldt State University, who proudly took home the Range Plant Identification Contest's Third High Team, where they were 3rd overall, and 1st in the United States. This year the Cal-Pac Section was able to support Range Camp's 2017 top three youths for participation in the High School Youth Forum. Also, "Bridging the Gap" a young professional/student mentorship event, which replaced "Tapping the Top", had a much larger than expected turn out, connecting many students and young professionals with experienced professionals. This connection building continued beyond the conference, and I was very encouraged with SRM's Young Professional Conclave (YPC) Secretary, Kaelie Pena, and her enthusiasm to expand student/YPC member involvement in Cal-Pac, as well as Range Camp. And speaking of Range Camp, if you haven't had the opportunity, please consider volunteering. Whether you have one day, or an entire week, Range Camp needs you!

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Lastly, you may be wondering about the “We are Rangelands” sign I have with me out in the field. (And the cows were definitely wondering about that too.) While attending the Advisory Council Meeting in Sparks, each section was handed out two signs to share within their section. The goal is to highlight our members out on rangelands to the parent society, showing the diversity of our working landscapes. I am happy to pass these along, and will have them available at the Spring Tour for that next unsuspecting herd of cattle. Please visit: <http://www.rangelands.org> for SRM Membership Toolkit and more information on We Are Rangelands campaign.

Sincerely,  
Kristan Norman  
Cal-Pac SRM Section President

## California Certified Rangeland Manager (CRM) Panel Update

The CRM Panel has been active both in reviewing applications for and grading the CRM exam and discussing roles for Cal-Pac and the CRM Panel in the CRM program going forward. In 2017, five people took, and passed, a newly revised CRM exam, bringing the total number of licensed CRMs to 86.

In recent months, CRM Panel Chair, Dr. Susan Marshall, has been participating in Rangeland Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) and Professional Foresters Examination Committee (PFEC) public meetings to discuss the current status of the CRM program and ways forward. There was a set of draft regulations to revise the CRM program in 2008, which were set aside once the lawsuit with Rancho Guejito began. Now that this civil suit has ended, there is strong interest within the Board of Forestry, the Cal-Pac Board, and the CRM Panel to revisit the question of revising the CRM program regulations in light of lessons learned from the litigation and a desire to limit the time commitment and responsibilities of the CRM Panel volunteers.

Both Cal-Pac and Rancho Guejito have separately proposed new regulations and guidelines for the CRM program and a meeting is scheduled for April 4 in Sacramento to try to reach a consensus between these two proposals so that the Board of Forestry may move forward in publishing revised, draft regulations for a 45-day public comment period.

### **Your 2018 Committee Chairs & Members**

#### **Membership Chair:**

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#### **Professional Affairs/ CRM Panel Chair:**

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(707) 826-4064

#### **CRM Panel Executive Secretary:**

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Marc Horney  
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## 2017 Range Manager of the Year

Dr. Marc Horney was presented the Range Manager of the Year award by Chapter President Sheila Barry at the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition Summit held in Stockton in January. He had just demonstrated the extent of his service to the profession having given a brief report and impassioned plea for assistance and request for participants for several of his many ongoing projects including the Range Management Advisory Committee of the Board of Forestry (for which he is chair); the Cal-Pac sponsored Range Camp (of which he is past director and tireless supporter); and his most recent project at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, a two week four unit summer course at Swanton Ranch for students and professionals on Sustainable Livestock and Rangeland Management.



Marc Horney is an assistant professor at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and teaches courses in Rangeland Resource Management and livestock production and his commitment of energy to the Range Management profession seems limitless. Beyond the projects listed he is an active member of the California-Pacific Section of the Society for Range Management, serving on the Remote Sensing/GIS Committee, Targeted Grazing Committee and Range Science Education Council. He has served the Cal-Pac SRM section working on the Student Affairs Committee, Certified Range Manager Panel and past director.

His research work has spanned animal nutrition and management, weed ecology, geospatial technology applications (GPS/GIS/remote sensing), oak woodland management. His projects have included work on vernal pools, annual and perennial grasslands, groundwater monitoring, inventory and management of sage-grouse and deer habitats, watersheds, ranch planning, rangeland water quality, vegetation mapping and inventory, and technical assistance to Fire Safe Council and Weed Management Area group efforts.

An awards committee member noted of his nomination "Long deserving of this award, he may do more for the section than any other member—range camp, list serve, RMAC, teaching, etc. Long overdue for this award"

Congratulations to Dr. Marc Horney!



## 2017 Excellence in Range Management

The Cal-Pac Section awarded the 2017 Excellence in Range Management award to Parks Ranch located in northern Lassen County at the California Cattle-men's Association (CCA) Convention luncheon in Reno in November. David Lile made the presentation to Jerry and Buck Park, the fourth and fifth generation ranchers on the land.

The Parks Ranch is located about 6 miles south of Adin, California in Lassen County. The ranch is a commercial beef cattle operation using private, BLM and Forest Service grazing allotments.

They were awarded for their extensive rangeland stewardship, including sage grouse conservation plans, western juniper control, lupine grazing management, assistance with the Hayden Gold Mine Restoration, riparian and stream channel enhancement and management and cooperative work with UC Davis researchers on a foothill abortion vaccine.

The Parks' stewardship of their private rangelands as well as BLM and USFS grazing allotments is impressive, but their commitment to supporting their industry and sharing their knowledge of range management is also inspiring. Since the mid 1990's Buck has been one of the foremost leaders in northeastern California, serving and leading numerous agricultural, conservation, and wildlife organizations. Specifically, Buck has served as Fall River Big Valley Cattlemen's Association President, Lassen County Farm Bureau President, Pit Resource Conservation District Chairman, Providence Farm Center President, Lassen County Fish and Game Commission board member, Pit River Rod and Gun Club, CCA Public Lands Committee Co-Chair, and Lassen Community College Board of Trustees. As a leader of these organizations Buck has worked effectively with a wide variety of stakeholders and resource agencies on issues pertaining to grazing and endangered species, water quality, fire and fuels reduction, many NEPA processes pertaining to federal rangelands and more. Buck's credibility runs deep because he does much more than speak to these issues: one only has to visit the ranch or grazing allotment to see such work firsthand.

Congratulations to Parks Ranch!



## **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 Minneapolis, MN in February 2019 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 17-22. More information and applications are available at <http://www.rangelands.org/casrm/HTML/rangecamps.html>, and also attached. 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.

### **Media Inquiries:**

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Volunteer Director, California Range & Natural Resources Camp

UC Cooperative Extension Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor

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# **RANGE CAMP 2018**

34<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL RANGE AND NATURAL RESOURCES CAMP

JUNE 17-22, 2018 - HALF MOON BAY, CA

**Presented by the California-Pacific Section of the Society for Range Management**

**To give 10-12th grade students the opportunity to explore the science and management of our natural resources with experienced professionals and university faculty.**

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## **Sessions and Activities include:**

- Riparian Habitats
- Rangeland Ecology
- Wildlife Management
- Soils
- Forestry
- Plant Identification



- Recreation
- Private & Public Lands
- Watershed Hydrology
- GPS / GIS Technology Applications
- Tour of Working Ranch
- Team Project Planning Competition



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**Cost: \$450**

### **“Top Camper” Contest: Plant ID test, subject matter exam & staff evaluation**

Top three placing students\* given opportunity to represent California-Pacific Section, SRM at the Society for Range Management's High School Youth Forum, in Minneapolis, MN Feb 10-14, 2019 (all expenses paid for top two students). All participants receive t-shirts and camp completion certificates.

*\*Must be a current high school student in Feb '19*

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### **More Information & Applications**

[http://www.rangelands.org/  
casrm/HTML/  
rangecamps.html](http://www.rangelands.org/casrm/HTML/rangecamps.html)



### **Contacts**

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**RESOURCE**  
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

**APPLICATIONS DUE APRIL 27, 2018**



# CONSERVATION EASEMENTS TO KEEP RANCHES WORKING

## Spring Workshop and Field Tour

Thursday, April 19, 2018

8:30 am – 4:00 pm

Location: Koopmann Ranch  
9406 Koopman Rd, Sunol, California

**What are the opportunities and challenges  
for conservation easements to support ranching?**

**What are the biggest threats  
to conservation and ranching?**

**Can easements be effective  
across generations?**

Registration details:

[http://www.elkhornsloughctp.org/training/show\\_train\\_detail.php?TRAIN\\_ID=Ma64UDQ](http://www.elkhornsloughctp.org/training/show_train_detail.php?TRAIN_ID=Ma64UDQ)



*Joint Meeting of the California-Pacific Section  
of the Society for Range Management  
and Central Coast Rangeland Coalition*



# CONSERVATION EASEMENTS TO KEEP RANCHES WORKING

## Spring Workshop and Field Tour

*Joint Meeting of the California-Pacific Section of the  
Society for Range Management and Central Coast Rangeland Coalition*

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**Wednesday, April 18** 1:00 to 5:00 PM Cal-Pac Society for Range Management Board, Meeting location TBD

**Lodging:** Holiday Inn Dublin-Pleasanton 6680 Regional St, Dublin, CA 94568.

Phone: (925) 828-7750 website: <http://www.trivalleyhotel.com/>. A block of 20 rooms will be held through April 4, 2018 at \$159.00/night plus tax. Book by this date to receive the discounted rate. Please use the booking link: [Cal-Pac SRM](#), and booking code: SRM.

### Workshop Agenda, Thursday April 19

8:30 AM	Registration and coffee
9:00 AM	Welcome, opening remarks
9:15 AM	Group introductions
9:35 AM	Introduction to Conservation Easements: Purchased, Donated or Mitigation. Long-term Viability for Ranching and Conservation <i>Michael Delbar, California Rangeland Trust</i>
10:00 AM	Barriers and Opportunities for Conservation on Central Coast Rangeland <i>Lina Aoyama, UC Berkeley, CCRC Forum Scholar</i>
10:30 AM	BREAK
10:45 AM	In Perpetuity: Long Term Views of Conservation Easements and Payment Structures <i>Reid Johnson, UC Berkeley</i>
11:15 AM	Panel Discussion: Can Conservation Easements Work to Sustain Ranching and Conservation? What do permitting agencies, ranchers and easement holders need to make them work? <i>Matt Wacker, Ecologist, HT Harvey &amp; Associates</i> <i>Erik Gantenbein, Preserve Mgr, Center for Natural Lands Management</i> <i>Darrel Sweet, Rancher, Landowner</i> <i>Janice Gan, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife</i>
12:00 NOON	Group Discussion and Lunch
1:20 PM	Drive to field site
1:40 PM	Habitat Creation and Enhancement, <i>Robin Dakin, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission</i>
2:20 PM	Easement Management, Rancher's Perspective <i>Tim Koopmann, Rancher</i>
2:40 PM	Easement Monitoring and Informing Management <i>Sheila Barry, University of California Cooperative Extension</i> <i>Larry Ford, LD Ford Rangeland Conservation Science</i>
3:10 PM	Group Discussion
4:00 PM	Program ends

TO REGISTER VISIT [http://www.elkhornsloughctp.org/training/show\\_train\\_detail.php?TRAIN\\_ID=Ma64UDQ](http://www.elkhornsloughctp.org/training/show_train_detail.php?TRAIN_ID=Ma64UDQ)

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: Mon, Mar 26, 2018 Early registration cost \$35, registration at the door \$50.

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1/4 Page	30
1/8 Page	20
Column inch	10

Email Philip Brownsey at pb3@airpost.net for more information.

## Newsletter Articles

All contributions to Needlegrass Notes are welcome. Please submit your articles and news items to: Philip Brownsey at pb3@airpost.net

## 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  
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## Society for Range Management

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We're on the web:

<http://casrm.rangelands.org>

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