

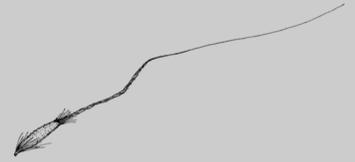


Needlegrass Notes

Volume 67:1

Spring 2021

Society for Range Management
California-Pacific Section



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Your 2021 Section Officers & Board

President: Jill Ficke-Beaton
jill.ficke-beaton@usda.gov

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2022: Laura Snell
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2022: Jeremy James
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2023 Mark Thorne
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2023: Alan Bower
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President's Message

Jill Ficke-Beaton

A learner by nature, I instinctively seem to try to recognize what I gained or learned from something I found challenging. The last year has been a challenge and since there are more to come, I'd like to point out what I have learned so far. I think you'll enjoy this perspective over the opposite which would be to cry about all the things we have lost this year, and the challenges of living in a pandemic.

Like mother earth and the management systems we prescribe, we are resilient. Regardless of the restrictions and limitations, there has not been a waiver in commitment from Cal-Pac members or leadership to keep supporting, producing, and attending quality educational opportunities or participating in furthering the mission of the SRM Cal-Pac Section. Yes, progress may be a bit slower or behind the typical schedule, but navigating a pandemic can be difficult, especially when the organizations members are scattered over great distances.

We are creative and adaptive. Hosting virtual meetings, tours, and range camp was not something that we would typically plan for or look forward to, as much of the value of the experiences are in getting together out on the land. Breaking new ground in the virtual world and having successfully hosted several virtual meetings



(Continued on page 2)

Your 2021 Committee Chairs & Members

Audit:

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

Awards:

Denise Defreese
grasslover70@gmail.com

Information & Education Co-Chairs:

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

President's Message – Continued

(Continued from page 1)

and a range camp, sets us up for an even better year. Albeit still virtual, but with a great deal of experience interacting through technology.

We are committed to our profession and the management of the land. That is evident by the participation in the SRM events, both national and sectional, as well as our committee involvement in producing, editing, and voting to submit the CRM Program Guidelines to the Board of Forestry (BOF). Continuing to press forward in favor of land management and considering the circumstances, Cal-Pac SRM is looking for members for a Fire Resolution committee that will develop and present a resolution for adoption to the SRM Board of Directors. Please let me know if you'd like to be involved.

Lastly, I'd like to point out that we are moving forward; vaccinations, herd immunity, travel and in person meetings will be coming soon, if they have not already begun in your neck of the woods. This will bring new opportunities for us in the future to not only plan for the in person meeting but also to be better prepared and even seasoned in pandemic procedures which will inevitably come in very handy. I'd like Cal-Pac to consider using the experience gained to incorporate a virtual aspect into future meetings when possible, to encourage member participation at all levels and distances.

I know Cal-Pac SRM members are resilient, creative, adaptive, committed, and prepared. The storms ahead could be a virus again, or anti-animal ag activists trying to take away a critical tool in land management, or a lack of understanding or application of land management resources in our forest lands. Whichever comes our way, I am sure the members of this organization will be there in the front lines providing the education, the resources, and the support to make sure that professional range management is allowed to be applied and that there are professional range managers to lead the way.

Mahalo Nui Loa- thank you so very much for all you do!

Sincerely,

Jill Ficke-Beaton
CalPac SRM Section President

Range Camp Update

June 21-25, 2021 Daily Zoom Meeting 2:30-3:30 PM

Range Camp is coming up fast! This is a 5-day virtual camp experience where high school students between the ages of 15-18 can learn about the different aspects of rangeland ecology, management, climate, and future college majors and careers. See the flier on the next page for more details!

We all look forward to being able to have Range Camp back at Elkos Ranch in the near future. Until then we will continue to learn from each other virtually! If you have questions or would like additional information please reach out to Theresa Becchetti at tabecchetti@ucanr.edu.

California Pacific Section Virtual Spring Meeting

June 17, 2021 2:00-4:00 PM

We will be hosting our spring meeting virtually again this year. There is a great line-up of speakers to discuss market-based programs and conservation. Grab an afternoon cup of coffee or tea and join us June 17 from 2:00-4:00 PM. Zoom login and meeting details are included on the flier on page 5.

2020 Election Results

Congratulations to **Alison Rolfe** who was elected as President—Elect and will serve as our 2022 President.

A big congratulations to **Mark Thorne** and **Alan Bower** who were elected to the Board of Directors to serve during 2023.

Congratulations to our incoming President and new Board Members!

Your 2021 Committee Chairs & Members

Membership Chair:

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

Nominations & Elections Chair (President-Elect):

Matthew Shapero
mwks Shapiro@ucanr.edu
(805) 654-1475

Professional Affairs/ CRM Panel Chair:

Denise DeFreese
grassllover70@gmail.com

CRM Panel Executive Secretary:

Jim Bartolome
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(510) 642-7945

Student Affairs Co-Chairs:

Julie Finzel
jafinzel@ucanr.edu
(661) 868-6219

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



Do you enjoy nature? Join us for **RANGE CAMP!**

Range Camp is a 5 day virtual camp experience where high school students ages 15-18 can learn about:

- Grassland Ecosystems and Management
- Forestry and Fire Science
- Wildlife and Ornithology
- Livestock Nutrition and Management
- Climate Change
- College Majors and Career Opportunities

THE RANGE CAMP EXPERIENCE:

Ever wonder the name of that beautiful flower along your hiking path or what kind of bird is serenading you on your walk? Maybe you want to learn more about active land management? Range Camp is here to help!

- YouTube Videos—Short and informative!
- Hands-on Activities—Let's go outside to learn!
- Daily Zoom—Get your questions answered!

Join us virtually June 21-25
Daily Zoom: 2:30—3:30 PM

Learn more and register at:
<https://ucanr.edu/sites/rangecamp/>

Deadline: June 1, 2021

Cost: \$25



*The first 25 registrants
will receive a free t-shirt!*

University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources





California-Pacific Section Virtual Spring Meeting 2021

This year's CalPac Spring Meeting will be again on Zoom and will feature three speakers and a moderated Q&A session to discuss the following:

The Invisible Hand and Rangelands Can market-based programs effectively incentivize the conservation and stewardship we need on working landscapes?



Sasha Gennet, Ph.D.
The Nature Conservancy
Director, North America
Sustainable Grazing Lands
Strategy



Byron Palmer
CEO, Grounded Land and
Livestock;
Grassland Manager, Sonoma
Mountain Institute



Kay Cornelius
General Manager,
Panorama Meats

June 17, 2021
2:00-4:00pm

To join the Zoom Meeting, use the url, meeting ID, or mobile phone number:

<https://ucanr.zoom.us/j/94033773076?pwd=MkxWR0F5RVFYRVc4eC94K0hzVHFoQT09>

Meeting ID: 940 3377 3076
Passcode: 782297

One tap mobile
[+16699006833,,94033773076#](tel:+16699006833,94033773076)

2020 California Pacific Section Awards

Rangeland Manager of the Year ~ Chuck Pritchard

Charles “Chuck” Pritchard of San Luis Obispo County was awarded the Cal Pac Section Range Manager of the Year at the 16th annual California Rangeland Conservation Coalition Summit virtual meeting in January. Professor Marc Horney of Cal Poly and Royce Larsen of UC Coop Extension Natural Resource/Watershed Advisor San Luis Obispo County both praised Chuck for his significant contributions to rangeland conservation over his long personal and professional career.

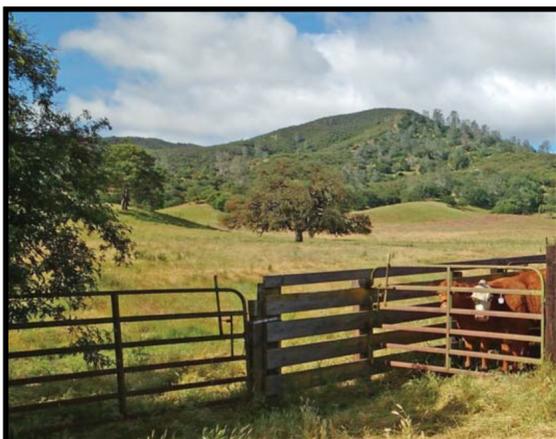
These included memberships or leadership on the state Range Management Advisory Committee, Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, CA Assoc of Resource Conservation Districts (RCD), CA Biodiversity Council, Upper Salinas/Las Tablas RCD, and the Public Lands Committee for the San Luis Obispo County Cattleman’s Association to name a few.

Chuck is a Cal Poly graduate (BS, Animal Science and Farm Management, 1962) who has maintained his connections with the university over the years including organizing many ranch tours for Cal Poly students and others over the last decade. His tours and tales are considered a full education in themselves.

Chuck has been, and remains, a good partner and ally in promoting rangeland conservation practice, and he has left an indelible and positive imprint on the many agencies, organizations, and individual people that he has contributed to in his productive life.

Excellence in Rangeland Management ~ Schmidt Family Bear Valley Ranch

The Schmidt Family Ranch and Peterson Land & Cattle Company (PLCC) received the 2020 Excellence in Range management Award from the California-Pacific Section of the Society for Range Management. The family was recognized for outstanding ranch management and land stewardship practices across distances and generations. The award was co-presented by Devii Rao, UC Cooperative Extension, and Karminder Brown, San Benito Working Landscapes Group during the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition 2021 Summit. The Schmidt cousins own three ranches in south San Benito County, covering 6,800 acres. Two of the ranches are adjacent to Pinnacles National Park. The family has been in business on these properties since the 1880’s. The Schmidt Family Ranch and PLCC represent



(Continued on page 7)

2020 California Pacific Section Awards—Continued

a complex family arrangement, with all three ranches owned by six cousins: Brian Schmidt, Kathy Spencer, Crystal Henzi, Rick Schmidt, Janice Schmidt, and Greg Schmidt. All ranch decisions are made jointly by the cousins and their families even though most of them live in Santa Clara or Monterey County. One of the primary challenges for ranching families who steward California's iconic grasslands is simply keeping the ranch in the family and ensuring it continues to be used for grazing. The Schmidt cousins have worked tirelessly to keep their land intact, through estate planning and ongoing family communication. Their long-term goal is to maintain the ranch as a whole, so future generations can continue the ranching lifestyle, traditions, and land stewardship.



The family was also honored for their commitment to wildlife habitat enhancement and a special passion for oak restoration. For many years, they have partnered with various agencies and organizations to restore oak trees and other native plants on the ranches. The plantings will improve wildlife habitat, increase shade for cattle, and enhance the views enjoyed by locals and tourists who travel along Highway 25. The Schmidt Family Ranch and Peterson Land & Cattle Company (PLCC) received the 2020 Excellence in Range management Award from the California-Pacific Section of the Society for Range Management. The family was recognized for outstanding ranch management and land stewardship practices across distances and generations. The award was co-presented by Devii Rao, UC Cooperative Extension, and Karminder Brown, San Benito Working Landscapes Group during the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition 2021 Summit. The Schmidt cousins own three ranches in south San Benito County, covering 6,800 acres. Two of the ranches are adjacent to Pinnacles National Park. The family has been in business on these properties since the 1880's. The Schmidt Family Ranch and PLCC represent a complex family arrangement, with all three ranches owned by six cousins: Brian Schmidt, Kathy Spencer, Crystal Henzi, Rick Schmidt, Janice Schmidt, and Greg Schmidt. All ranch decisions are made jointly by the cousins and their families even though most of them live in Santa Clara or Monterey County. One of the primary challenges for ranching families who steward California's iconic grasslands is simply keeping the ranch in the family and ensuring it continues to be used for grazing. The Schmidt cousins have worked tirelessly to keep their land intact, through estate planning and ongoing family communication. Their long-term goal is to maintain the ranch as a whole, so future generations can continue the ranching lifestyle, traditions, and land stewardship.

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Society for Rangeland Management Cal-Pac Member Awards

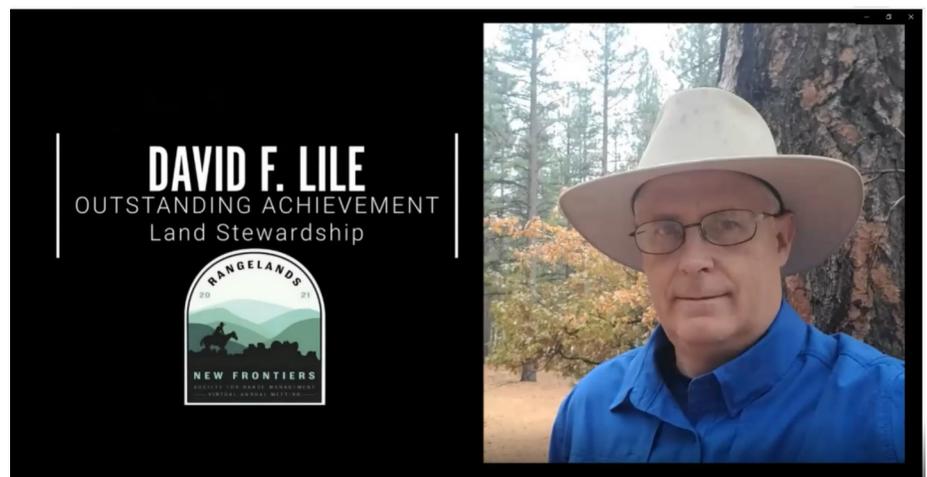
Congratulations to Dr. Marc Horney and David Lile for receiving Outstanding Achievement Awards from the Society for Rangeland Management during the 2021 annual meeting!



Congratulations to Dr. Marc Horney, Professor at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, for receiving an Outstanding Achievement Award in Research and Academia for his contributions to rangeland management and science. Dr. Marc has a longstanding research reputation and bibliography that points to his ability to add to our understanding of range ecology and management. He is an active member

of the Society for Rangeland Management at the local and national level, Chair of the Rangeland Management Advisory Committee to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, and an outstanding professor of rangeland resource management and livestock production. Dr. Marc has mentored countless students in their education and equipped next generation of rangeland professionals to competently manage the complex systems faced today.

Congratulations to David Lile, U.C. Cooperative Extension County Director and Livestock/Natural Resources Specialist for Lassen County, who received an Outstanding Achievement Award in Land Stewardship for his work in sustainable rangeland management and science. Mr. Lile has served as a Cooperative Extension Agent in Livestock and Natural Resources for over 30 years. He provides excellent leadership to solve rangeland challenges using science-based, solution-oriented approaches. Mr. Lile's work has facilitated improved policies, strategies, and practices to implement partnership-based conservation programs across millions of acres of rangelands. Stakeholders place high value on Mr. Lile's technical expertise, his friendship, and his ability to establish trust and confidence with a diverse community.



Society for Rangeland Management Student Awards

We want to give a special shout-out and congratulate the Humboldt State Plant Identification Team for receiving the Superior Achievement Award for their skills in plant identification! The plant identification contest was online this year, making it even more challenging. Congratulations to Coach Todd Gobler, and student competitors Dabid Garcia, Andrea Martinez, Louise Martin, Amanda Huebner, and Michael Mees!

Lost Resources

Joseph Wagner: August 21, 1946 to March 16, 2021.

Traveling Joe has gone to have his passport stamped one last time and turn in his time sheet. He fervently loved the western rangelands and has been a devoted member of the Society for Range Management almost since infancy, since his father was a founding member of the Society working for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Joe grew up in Arizona and Washington DC. He received his BS from University of Montana and kept on dishing it out ever after. He served in the Army as a topographic engineer in Germany from 1970 to 1972. Since then he has tried to map his way around the world attending international rangeland conferences and tours whenever possible. His career as a range conservationist and fire ecologist for the Bureau of Land Management began in Ely, NV in 1974, took him to Arizona and to NE California and South Central Oregon. The project he probably embraced the most was restoration of the Cedar Creek watershed on the Applegate Field Office of the Susanville District. This project allowed him to use all his planning, range, fire, monitoring and interpretive skills. Fire assignments sent him many other places and introduced him to still more people. He is remembered worldwide for sporting a handlebar mustache and twinkle in his eye. He tried hard to introduce young people and international acquaintances to the Society for Range Management. He sponsored high school youth and college students to attend Society functions and field trips. He served the Society on the International Affairs Committee and the Awards Committee. He was an officer and/or member in Nevada, California and Pacific Northwest Chapters.

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 katie@alt-me.com.

June

California Pacific Section Spring Meeting

June 17, 2021, Zoom Meeting

Range Camp (High School Students)

June 21-25, 2021, Daily Zoom Meetings

The Bird Course, Western Section of the Wildlife Society

June 5 and 12, 2021, virtual course

California Cattlemen's Association Virtual Workshop: Emergency Response, Livestock Access and Evacuation + Safety Considerations for Wildfires

June 23, 2021

August

2021 California Cattlemen's Association Feeder Meeting

August 18-20, 2021;

San Diego, CA;

2021 California Cattlemen's Association Mid-Year Meeting and Cattle-PAC Auction + Dinner Dance

August 25-26, 2021

Paso Robles, CA;

2021 California Wool Growers Annual Meeting and Convention

Details TBD

December

105th Annual CCA/CCW Convention and California Cattle Industry Tradeshow

December 1-3, 2021

Reno NV;



LD Ford, Consultants in Rangeland Conservation Science

Larry Ford, Pete Van Hoorn, and Felix Ratcliff (all licensed CRMs) have extensive experience providing the following services to municipal and state agencies, land trusts, Resource Conservation Districts, non-profits, private ranchers and rangeland owners, and larger consulting firms for the last 25 years in California:

- **Grazing management planning and assessment.** Science-based, focused on conservation of special resources, including--program evaluations/audits, and grazing management plans
- **Grazing effects monitoring.** Efficient, technology-assisted and rigorous methods. Quick reporting, focused on compliance, rangeland ecosystem health, and effectiveness
- **Grazing lease/license advising and supervision**
- **Legal support.** Including investigations and expert testimony

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Since 1998, Althouse and Meade conducts resource surveys and conservation plans on hundreds of thousands of acres throughout California. We work primarily in Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, and Kern Counties. Our expert team offers a variety of services:

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- Environmental Permit Compliance
- Environmental Compliance Management
- Wetland Delineations
- Habitat Restoration & Land Management Plans
- Habitat Evaluations
- Protocol Species Surveys
- Construction Monitoring

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- Trend Analysis & Mapping
- Forage Assessments
- Management Plans & Implementation
- Watershed Management
- Conservation Banking
- Conservation Easements

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- Interactive Web Maps
- Field Maps
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Full Page	\$100
2/3 Page	75
1/2 Page	60
1/3 Page	45
1/4 Page	30
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>
