

Needlegrass Notes

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Winter 2007

Cal-Pac Society for Range Management



President's Message

Royce Larson

The 60th Annual Meeting in Reno NV was a very good meeting with nearly 1700 registered attendees. Many of our section members attended that meeting and contributed to its success, thank you. The 2008 meeting will be in Louisville, KY. The 2009 meeting will be in Albuquerque, NM, followed by Denver in 2010.

Ann Harris, in the Denver office, approached Bill Frost and Ken Fulgham in Reno to inquire as to the willingness of the CALPAC section to host the Annual Meeting in Hawaii, either 2011 or 2012. The staff in Denver will do the initial scoping to determine the possibility, (hotel space, cost, travel, etc.) for us hosting this meeting. If this initial scoping is successful we will need to prepare to host the annual meeting once again. Our section successfully hosted the annual meeting in Kona Hawaii in 2001. Many of you, and especially Ken and Bill, played an important role in this meeting, if we get the chance we could do it again.

Currently the Board of Directors, Advisory Council (AC) and others within the National Society of Range Management are discussing the option of having all annual meetings rotated among a small group of cities. These could be cities such as Reno, Denver, etc. It is suggested that this would cost less and make the planning easier for the meetings. To fit the profile, the cities would have to be easily accessible for transportation and have facilities large enough to accommodate the annual meeting. It is desirable to have a hotel (such as the Nugget) where there are enough rooms for attendees to stay in and to hold all the concurrent meetings under one roof, or at least two hotels within walking distance. It is also desirable that these cities be centrally located, allowing for driving as well as flying to the conference. Of course there are some concerns about holding all annual meetings on this kind of rotation. First would be the limited potential for many sections to bid for, and sponsor, the annual meeting. Another concern voiced by many is the loss of cultural amenities such as traveling to Vancouver Canada, Guadalajara Mexico, Hawaii and even places like Casper WY and Rapid City SD. This issue will be discussed further, so if you have an interest please let your National Officers know of your opinion.

One other important item that was discussed at the AC meeting in Reno is the need for the AC to submit important issues to the Board of Directors for their deliberation and action. The AC is attended by each section's Past President, President, and President Elect. Action items are discussed and voted on. The motions that are passed are forwarded to the Board of Directors. It is within the AC that each section has representatives and can be heard from. Therefore, if we have any "national society" issues that we feel are important we

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Members: Lynn Huntsinger,
Bertha Gillam

President's Message (Cont.)

need to bring them to the AC meeting. We need to turn in any issues we have to the AC Chair by June 1, 2007 to be considered at the next AC meeting in February 2008. Therefore, if any of you have any issues, related to the national organization, please let us know before June. We will discuss this at our next CALPAC section Board of Directors Meeting in May. Hope to see all of you at our spring meeting in Santa Barbara.

Membership Chair Report

Mike Dolan, Membership Chair, attended the Membership Chair Committee Meeting at the Annual SRM Meeting in Reno. Most of the Membership Chairs felt the recruiting drive was good and that the time of year was good. It was agreed to have a membership drive every fall. Ideas that came out of the discussion were to send flyers/pamphlets to "Young Professionals", having a student liaison contact students, and contacting section members quarterly. The quarterly contacts would be to ask members to update their personal data. This was most popular in that members do change addresses, jobs, etc and this is many times not updated at the national level; it needs to be done at the section level. I will do that. When membership renewal notices are sent out by the Denver office, it will be cc'd to the Membership Chairs.

Mike has contacted expired and delinquent members asking them to re-join. Some have done so. Mike has also emailed new members welcoming them to the SRM.

Lesley wants people to answer a question for her. A banner was found at the Denver office and it had the words "Top Membership Award" at the top. It was white with a gold border and it had years (1980, 1981, etc) with a few Sections beneath the years. It seems to have been stopped. Does anyone remember this? Lesley wants to keep this going by giving the Section with the most new recruits (based on a percent of current members in that section), a banner or plaque that will travel to each national meeting.

Don't miss out on the Spring Meeting

May 17-19 in Santa Barbara!

See page 5.

California Winner

Congratulations to Adena Rissman, 1st place winner of the Oral Paper Competition at the 2007 Society for Range Management meeting in Reno, NV.

Oral Paper Competition - Ph.D.

- 1st place - Adena Rissman (University of California - Berkeley)
- 2nd place (tie) - Ryan Limb (Oklahoma State University)
- 2nd place (tie) - Stephen Winter (Oklahoma State University)

Fall Meeting in Bishop

Rob Pearce and David Kelley

We are pleased to announce the Fall CAL-PAC SRM meeting will be held in Bishop, California on November 2 and 3 (Board of Directors meeting on the 1st). This will be a joint meeting with the Nevada SRM Section. The topic of the meeting will be "Land Management in the Eastern Sierra Region." Speakers will include staff from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), LADWP consultants, BLM, USFS, UCCE, tribes, and others presenting information on land management on LADWP's over 300,000 acres in Inyo and Mono Counties, USFS and BLM rangelands, Prehistoric Occupation and Contemporary Land Use, soils and geology, among other topics. The fall tour will be exceptionally informative and will be conducted on LADWP projects starting at the upper Owens River continuing downstream to portions of the Lower Owens River Restoration Project (LORP), and then ending at the Owens Dry Lake. The LORP is a restoration project on about 60 miles of river channel, <http://lorp.info/>. The LORP project is one of the largest river restorations ever undertaken in the United States. The home base motel will be the Creekside Inn, <http://www.bishopcreekside.com/> where we will have rooms blocked out, and the meeting and banquet will be held at Whiskey Creek, <http://www.whiskeycrk.com/>. We are still in the planning stages but the meeting is coming together nicely. We will have registration information available soon. If you have questions contact Rob Pearce, 760-872-6111, robert.pearce@ca.usda.gov, or David Kelley, dbkelley@jps.net.

Pictures Anyone?

The CAL-PAC SRM website is currently under renovation and we are soliciting beautiful California rangeland photos to showcase. We would be delighted to credit photographers if desired. Please send to

Your 2007 Committee Chairs & Members

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Two New Rangeland Coalitions in California

Larry Ford

The **California Rangeland Conservation Coalition (CRCC)** is a partnership between more than 58 environmental, agriculture, and government agencies and organizations, some of which are traditionally adversaries. The Coalition began in 2004 when the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) recognized a growing common interest in preserving and protecting private rangelands as essential to wildlife and the continued viability of California's ranching industry. One of the coalition's first actions was The California Rangeland Resolution, which declares they will work collaboratively to protect and enhance the grassland and oak woodland landscape that encircles California's Central Valley, including the Sierra Nevada foothills and the interior Coast Ranges. In late 2006, the USFWS and CCA jointly funded a Director of Rangeland Conservation position to advance the goals of the Coalition. Tracy Schohr (tschohr@calcattlemen.org), former Director of Industry Affairs for CCA, was selected for the position. The coalition has established eight committees to promote its agenda of stewardship demonstrations and awards, internal communications and outreach, a legislative strategy, mapping of focus regions, agency and permit coordination, identification of research gaps and facilitation of priority research, and funding for related wildlife and rangeland projects. Numerous Cal-Pac SRM members have been involved in leadership of the coalition, including Sheila Barry and Theresa Becchetti. Cal-Pac SRM members Larry Ford, James Bartolome, and Lynn Huntsinger have agreed to serve on the Research Committee.

The **Central Coast Rangeland Coalition (CCRC)** includes members in eight coastal California counties encompassing Morro Bay, Monterey Bay, East San Francisco Bay, and North San Francisco Bay. It was formed in 2002 by a group of ranchers, public rangeland managers, agency personnel, conservationists, and scientists to develop consensus on rangeland health and sustainability. It recognizes that both science and practical knowledge are necessary to discover a common definition of rangeland health, means to measure it, and practices appropriate to different circumstances. The process started with meetings of ranchers and agency rangeland managers to determine priority rangeland health concerns and associated indicators within three areas. The coalition has developed a set of rangeland health indicators in three functional categories: planning, fundamental rangeland health, and special rangeland resources that require "customized" management. The indicators represent the minimum number of fundamental variables to measure all categories of rangeland health issues identified in the meetings. The indicators are the simplest and most sensitive measure of that variable, and can be sampled by both trained and untrained parties in less than one day. A panel of scientific advisors will soon review the indicators and recommend improvements. After refinement, the indicators will be tested at cooperating properties throughout the region. Cal-Pac SRM members Larry Ford and Lynn Huntsinger have a cooperative agreement with the NRCS to develop the indicators for the monitoring system.

News from "Way" Northern California

Marc Horney

While the Klamath Basin is probably best known for conflicts between irrigated agriculture and fisheries, the rangelands that comprise significant portions of the Klamath Basin watersheds are an important part of the picture here as well. Extensive areas of rangeland, especially east into the Modoc Plateau and north into Oregon, are undergoing widespread conversion from sagebrush-steppe to juniper woodland. This is a serious problem for sagebrush obligate species, particularly sage-grouse, which have nearly been extirpated from Modoc County, Modoc County, where as recently as the 1970's they were estimated to number nearly 14,000. (Cont. pg. 17)



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2007 Annual Conference of the
California Native Grasslands Association
and
Cal-Pac SRM Spring Meeting & Field Tour



*Restoring and Managing California's Native
Grassland Landscapes: the science and applications*

Veterans Memorial Building, 112 West Cabrillo Blvd,
Santa Barbara, CA

May 17—Tuition-based Workshops and Complimentary BBQ Social

May 18—Technical Sessions and Banquet

May 19—Field Trips and Tuition-based Grass ID workshop

Welcome to the 17th Annual Conference of the California Native Grasslands Association and Cal-Pac SRM Spring Meeting and Field Tour to be held in the Veterans Memorial Building of Santa Barbara, CA, on May 17-19, 2007.

Technical Sessions will be held on Friday, May 18, from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Following the Keynote by Dan Dagget, presentations and posters will provide discussions of assessment, restoration, and management of grasslands of California as well as other restoration and grassland topics.

The day will begin with breakfast served at 7:30 am. Concurrent presentations will begin immediately following the Keynote. A buffet lunch will be served and we have ordered a lovely spring day to allow you a few minutes of fresh air with friends and acquaintances before the afternoon sessions reconvene. Vendors' and sponsors' booths will be open throughout the Technical Sessions.

The Conference Banquet will also be held in the Veterans Memorial Building following this exciting and full day of talks. Bob Haller, professor emeritus at UCSB and noted plant geographer, will entertain us with colorful slides of California grasslands and wildflowers. Plan now to be able to share your enthusiasm with fellow participants.

Three tuition-based workshops will be held on Thursday, May 17, and a fourth workshop will be offered on Saturday and Sunday, May 19 & 20. In addition there will be two field trips on Saturday, May 19. Workshops and field trips have maximum enrollments, so early registration is recommended

Please review all of the information included in this packet and return your registration form to CNGA as soon as you can. . . there is even a \$25 reduction in fees for those who register prior to April 20, 2007.



Keynote Address

Environmental writer Dan Dagget will deliver the Keynote Address at this year's conference, *Restoring and Managing California Native Grassland Landscapes*, on May 18 at the Veterans Memorial Building in Santa Barbara. His presentation is certain to

intrigue CNGA members and Cal-Pac SRM members alike. In his writings and presentations, Dagget offers a provocative reassessment of the role of human actions and economies in shaping and sustaining natural systems.

Dagget is the author of *Beyond the Rangeland Conflict: Toward a West that Works* (2000) and *Gardeners of Eden: Rediscovering Our Importance to Nature* (2005). His work begins from the premise that healthy populations of wildlife and native plants need not be incompatible with thriving rural economies. He debunks the idea that degraded nature recovers best when left alone and demonstrates how damaged ecosystems can recover functionality through active stewardship. In his latest book he further suggests that some of the great ecosystems of the planet, such as the Amazon rainforest and the North American Great Plains, co-evolved with human stewardship.

Dagget and his partners in EcoResults! have successfully advocated collaboration among ranchers, farmers, and environmentalists for holistic management and conservation in working landscapes. More information can be found at www.ecoreresults.org

Tuition-Based Workshops - Thursday, May 17, 2007

Using Native Grasses and Graminoids in the Urban Landscape

co-sponsored by Santa Barbara Botanic Garden and CNGA 8:00 am–4:00 pm

\$120 per member and \$160 per non-member. Instructors: Steve Nawrath, Carol Bornstein, and David Amme

Interest in utilizing California native grasses within urban landscape environments has grown significantly. Planners, designers, and regulators in urbanized areas are recognizing the benefits native grasses provide. Participants will examine the use of California native grasses and graminoids in a broad range of urban settings. Examples of urban landscape design projects that incorporate native grasses successfully will be discussed and a section of the course will explore application of California native grasses in water quality improvement design. The course will also examine the cultural requirements and adaptability of key native grass and sedge species as they relate to the soil and site parameters in shaping a sustainable, native, drought-tolerant landscape. The Field instruction will be within the Botanic Garden. The workshop is appropriate for Landscape Architects, Engineers, Planners, Parks and Recreation Staff, Landscape Contractors, Biologists, Regulatory Staff, Land/Resource Managers, Nursery Practitioners, and Homeowners.



photo by Steve Nawrath

Steve Nawrath is a Landscape Architect and Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) working for the California Dept. of Parks and Recreation in Sacramento. He has degrees in Ornamental Horticulture and Landscape Architecture from California Polytechnic State University (SLO and Pomona). Steve has worked in the environmental design and ecological restoration fields for 15 years, both in the private and public sectors.

Carol Bornstein, the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden's Director of Living Collections and Nursery, holds a B.S. in botany and an M.S. in horticulture. She lectures, teaches, and is co-author of *California Native Plants for the Garden*, which received an award from the American Horticultural Society in 2006. In her work with native plants, she has experimented with innovative design applications, introduced new cultivars, and led the transformation of the botanic garden's famous meadow into a botanically diverse display of grasses and wildflowers.

David Amme is a consummate native plant horticulturist. In addition to being co-instructor for this workshop, David is lead instructor for the *Identifying the Native and Naturalized Grasses of California* workshop. David has worked for State Parks and Caltrans as an ecologist and environmental planner and is currently the Range Manager for the EBRPD.

Methods for Grassland Monitoring: A Field Workshop

sponsored by California-Pacific Society for Range Management 8:00 am–4:00 pm

\$60 per member and \$100 per non-member. Instructors: the Cal-Pac SRM team

This workshop will be held on Vandenberg AFB. Participants will meet at the Vandenberg Visitor Center (map will be provided at the time of registration) and will depart on a scheduled training bus promptly at 8:30 am. Participants will return to the HQ parking area by 4 pm. The objective of this workshop is to train natural resources professionals and others in the assessment of rangeland health and basic rangeland monitoring methods. SRM will provide food, water, and training materials. Participants should wear durable hiking shoes/boots, bring appropriate head covering and a jacket, a clipboard and pens/pencils. Vandenberg AFB security will require the last four digits of SSN for each participant. Individuals without valid Social Security Numbers may not register for this workshop.

Instructors:

- Mel George**, Extension Rangeland Management Specialist, UC Cooperative Extension;
- Craig Nathe**, Vandenberg AFB;
- Royce Larsen**, Watershed Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension;
- Neil McDougald**, Livestock, Range and Natural Resources Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension;
- Bill Frost**, Natural Resources Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension,
- Jon Gustafson**, State Rangeland Management Specialist, USDA NRCS, Davis, CA,
- Jeff Repp**, Rangeland Management Specialist, USDA Tech Center, Portland, OR

Tuition-Based Workshops - Thursday, May 17, 2007

Using Native Grasses and Graminoids in Restoration and Revegetation (the short course)

sponsored by California Native Grasslands Association 8:00 am-4:00 pm

\$150 per member and \$190 per non-member.

Instructors: John Anderson, Jeanne Wirka, Bryan Young, and others

A condensed version of the 2-day native grass restoration and revegetation workshop presented by CNGA, the objective of this course is to acquaint land managers, landowners, agency personnel, contractors, consultants and others with state-of-the-art techniques and strategies in restoration and revegetation using native grassland species. Topics will include species selection, site preparation, planting techniques, weed control and management. At the end of the course, individuals who are planning, implementing, or managing grasslands or other restoration sites using native grasses and graminoids (grass-like plants) should be able to apply these techniques to their own projects. Registrants will receive a full Restoration and Revegetation binder (a \$60 value) that includes support material for topics covered during the workshop as well as materials that are included in the expanded 2-day version of the workshop. The class will conclude with a short field trip in the late afternoon.

John Anderson is the Owner/Manager Hedgerow Farms, a commercial native seed production operation for over 30 species of native plants including grasses, wildflowers, sedges, and rushes. John is actively involved in initiating, implementing, monitoring, and promoting farmland ecosystem management practices in California's Central

Valley agricultural landscapes. He is a founding member and past president of CNGA, and is currently a state board member for Audubon California. John holds a D.V.M. from UC Davis.

Bryan Young is the Natural Resource Supervisor for the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District. He currently manages the operation of the 2,650 acre Bufferlands surrounding the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant in Elk Grove, California. The Bufferlands demonstrate the potential for a successful habitat restoration and land stewardship program within an urbanizing environment. Bryan has a degree from U.C. Davis in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology, he is a licensed pest control advisor, and is currently a Board Member for the CNGA.

Jeanne Wirka is the Resident Biologist at the Bouverie Preserve of Audubon Canyon Ranch near Glen Ellen, California. She has designed and implemented a large number grassland restoration projects ranging in size from 1 to 200 acres and has extensive experience in using prescribed fire and livestock grazing in grassland management.. Jeanne has an M.S. in Ecology from UC Davis where she specialized in plant community ecology. She was a vital member of the CNGA Board of Directors for several years and served as President of CNGA in 2003.

Complimentary Barbecue Social in Los Alamos

sponsored by S & S Seeds with transportation by Pacific Coast Seeds, Inc Thursday, May 17, 4:00-9:00 pm

S & S Seeds, the largest California Native Grass Seed producer in the country, will host a field tour and BBQ at their native grass production fields, the majority in peak bloom, in Los Alamos, CA, about 45 minutes north of Santa Barbara. To further facilitate this enjoyable evening, Pacific Coast Seed, Inc, will host bus transportation to and from the Veterans Memorial Building, Santa Barbara.

Due to the generosity of S & S Seed and Pacific Coast Seed, Inc., there is no charge for this event, however reservations are required! Each person registered for a workshop or the annual conference is welcome and may bring one additional guest. Please be sure to reserve your space(s) on the conference registration sheet (page 7).



Schedule:

- 4:00 PM Ranch Open to Visitors for those who chose to drive their own vehicles
- 4:15 PM Pacific Coast Seed, Inc, sponsored bus will load at the VMB
- 5:30 PM Organized Tour of the production fields
- 7:00 PM Complimentary Santa Maria-style BBQ
- 8:30 PM Bus leaves for Santa Barbara; lights out

Conference Technical Sessions

Friday, May 18, 2007

The Annual Conference Technical Sessions will be held in the Veterans Memorial Building, 112 West Cabrillo Boulevard, in downtown Santa Barbara.

The morning will begin with coffee, continental breakfast, and conversation. Come early, pick up your conference packet, meet your friends, and take your seats in the main hall for the Welcome by the CNGA and Cal-Pac SRM Presidents followed by the Keynote Address. Following the Keynote, there will be concurrent sessions scheduled for the remainder of the day.

Exhibitors and vendors will have their booths open for you to visit, and in addition to the oral presentations scheduled, there will also be posters presented, with creators available to discuss their findings.

Lunch, tri-tip and chicken with salads and side dishes (cost included in your registration), will be served on the Patio for a much needed fresh air and sunshine break.

Concurrent sessions will continue in the afternoon, with a break-out room designated for those of you who have particular interests to discuss in lieu of attending a presentation.

Following the close of the technical session, there will be an hour relaxation break, with a no-host bar, that will precede the Banquet. Be sure to read all about the Banquet Speaker, and plan now to complete Friday with a delicious dinner at the VMB.

Conference Banquet Friday, May 18, 6:00–9:00 pm

\$30 per person, Guests Welcome

Advance Reservations Required

J. R. “Bob” Haller
honored speaker

Bob Haller, Professor Emeritus at UCSB and Botanist at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, is an acclaimed plant geographer, and has studied plants around the world, especially those of Mediterranean regions. His research interests include the study of western pines, and he has published scientific articles on this genus, including material on Pinaceae for the upcoming *Flora of the San Juan River Drainage* in the four corners region. He and his wife Nancy Vivrette are both working on the pine family for the new Jepson Manual. Bob is an avid photographer, and is noted for his high-quality photographs of California plants and plant communities (and a darn good slide show!). Professor Haller inspired an entire cohort of botanists during his days at UCSB. His former students now fill botanical positions in agencies, academia, and firms across the west. His words will delight, entertain, and inspire you. Please invite your family and friends to join you for the evening (pre-paid reservations required).

Tuition-Based Workshop - Sat. & Sun., May 19 & 20, 2007

Identifying the Native and Naturalized Grasses of California



co-sponsored by UCSB Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and CNGA

8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Saturday, May 19, and Sunday, May 20

\$220 per member and \$260 per non-member. Instructor: David Amme

The theme of this workshop is “Grasses are fun and easy to identify.” Our goal is to learn the basic skills of identifying grasses.

Day #1: We will learn about California’s grassland ecology, the qualities of specific native grasses for restoration, and become skilled at recognizing the basic groups and common species through work with plant samples in the classroom. We will review the old Tribe method of identification and the artificial key methodology, focusing on the important distinguishing traits. A valuable class syllabus binder and a basic key will be provided.

Day #2: We will explore Santa Barbara-area grasslands, rich with a diverse assemblage of native and naturalized grasses, and

make use of our new understanding and skills. Bring a 10X hand lens, notebook, scotch tape, and any field guides to grasses you may have.

David Amme began his career as a landscape designer and gardener in the Berkeley Hills. In addition to being lead instructor for this workshop, David is a co-instructor for the *Using Native Grasses and Graminoids in the Urban Landscape* workshop. David has worked as the Resource Ecologist for the State Parks OHV Division and as an Environmental Planner/Biologist for Caltrans in the Bay Area. Presently David is the Wildlands Vegetation Program Manager for the East Bay Regional Park District and manages the grazing program for over 50,000 acres of grasslands in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

Fantastic Field Trips Saturday, May 19

approximately 8:00 am–2:00 pm

Advance registration is required. Transportation by carpool. Lunches, water, and snacks will be provided. Individuals who attend *only* the Saturday Field Day (selecting any one of the field trips) will pay \$60 for the day. Individuals who attend a tuition-based workshop on Thursday or the Technical Sessions on Friday will pay \$30.

El Chorro Ranch

Leaders: Bob Isaacson and representatives of California Rangeland Trust, CNGA, Cal-Pac SRM and Nevada County Land Trust

Visit historic El Chorro Ranch to discuss conservation easements for rangeland and to see restoration work that has been done on El Jaro Creek for the endangered steelhead. Participants will carpool to El Chorro Ranch north of Santa Barbara where they will spend time touring the ranch and restoration site.

Located on Highway 1 in Santa Barbara County, this ranch will remain a working cattle ranch forever as the result of the conservation easement agreement between the Isaacson family and the California Rangeland Trust. The enhancement/restoration project to be visited addresses severe streambank erosion and sedimentation in a creek that provides prime spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead on a working cattle ranch. This is one of several pilot projects on private property that provide feasible solutions to erosion and sedimentation issues. Workshop participants will view three projects including, a culvert replacement, side draw erosion treatment, and streambank stabilization to reduce erosion and sedimentation. How sustainable grazing practices for fisheries and wildlife are incorporated into restoration projects will be discussed and viewed during the tour. There will also be a section on monitoring a working landscape conservation easement.

In addition to ranch owner Bob Isaacson, tour leaders include representatives from the California Rangeland Trust, California Native Grasslands Association, California-Pacific Section of the Society for Range Management, and the Nevada County Land Trust. This is one tour you won't want to miss.

South Coastal Grasslands and Grazing Influences – Hollister Ranch

Leaders: Anne Coates, Sue Benech-Field, John McCarty

Hollister Ranch is an approximately 14,500-acre working cattle ranch on the south coast that was subdivided in the 1970's. Home to numerous rare and endangered species, including the California Red-legged frog, southern steelhead, Gaviota tarplant, and Lompoc yerba santa, Hollister Ranch is a very unique place with diverse plant communities, gorgeous beaches and beautiful ocean vistas. This field trip will visit a number of locations on the ranch where native grasslands are the predominant plant community. Join landowner Sue Benech-Field, Hollister Ranch Cattle Co-op Manager John McCarty, and Anne Coates of the Hollister Ranch Homeowners' Association on a tour of some of the best quality native grasslands on the ranch. Sign up is limited to 20 people. Participants will meet at one location near the ranch and carpool in vans to the grassland sites.

Native Grassland Restoration Sites in Santa Barbara County (South Coast)

Leader: Mark de la Garza, Watershed Environmental

This field trip will visit at least three south coast native grassland habitat assessment and proposed restoration sites. The sites range in size from 2-3 acres to over 100 acres, and occur in a variety of landscape and land use settings ranging from urban to rural. Habitats are primarily purple needlegrass-dominated, but a variety of subtypes are present, including associations with shooting stars, buttercups, wild hyacinth, purple owl's clover, and blue-eyed grass. Participants will meet in Santa Barbara and carpool to the sites.

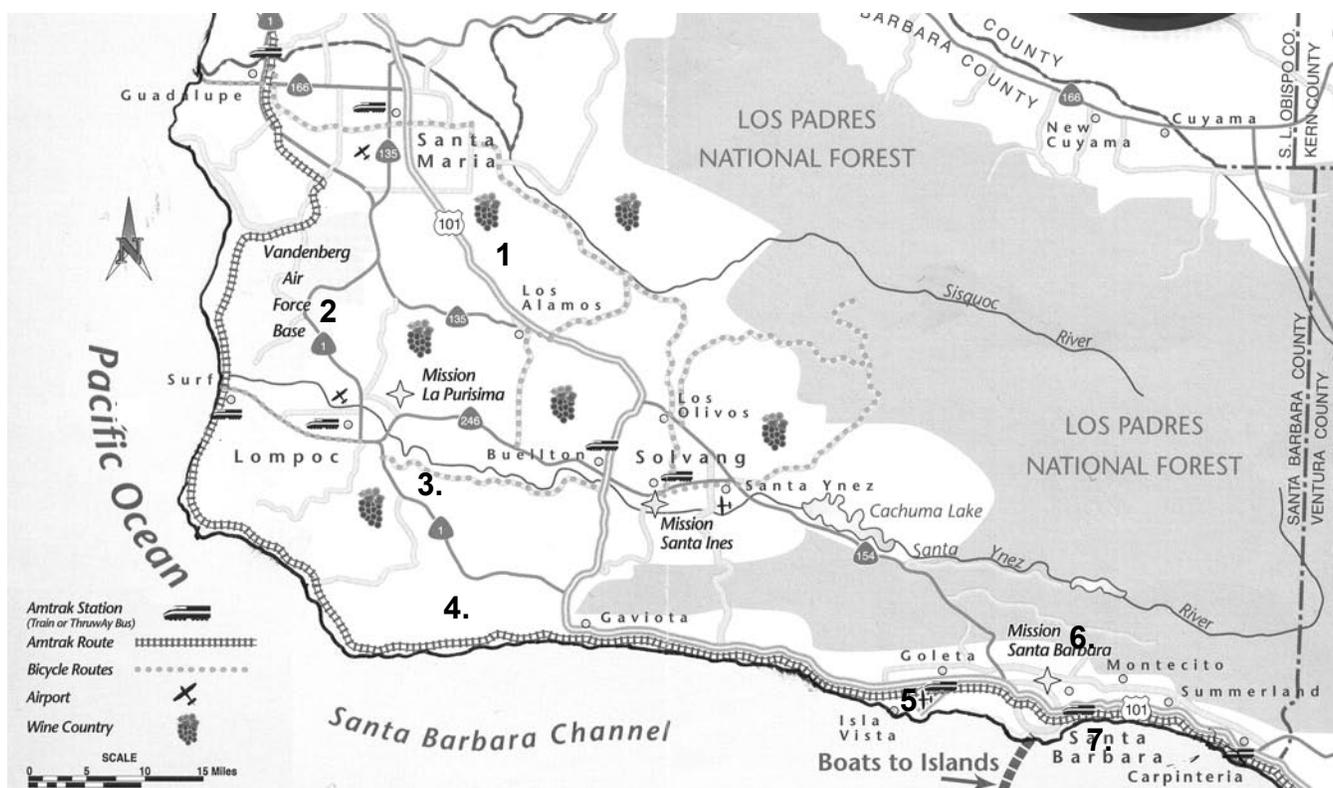
Register Early and Relax



The Annual Conference and Spring Meeting Committee members encourage you to register early and relax! Registrations received before April 20, 2007 are \$25 less expensive! If something happens and you are unable to attend, notify the CNGA Administrative Director, admin@cnga.org or call 530-759-8458 to have your refund processed. Cancellations prior to May 10th will incur no charge, cancellations after May 11 may result in a \$15 processing fee.

The Annual Conference and Spring Meeting Committee will continue to develop plans for the 2007 events. If you want receive up-dates between now and May 15, be sure to include your preferred email address.

Visit Santa Barbara - the American Riviera



1. BBQ Social at S & S Seeds - Thursday night
2. Methods for Grassland Monitoring workshop - Thursday
3. El Chorro Ranch Field Trip - Saturday
4. Hollister Ranch Field Trip - Saturday
5. Grass ID workshop at Cheadle Center UCSB - Saturday and Sunday
6. Urban Landscape workshop - Thursday
7. **Veterans Memorial Building, Santa Barbara** - Restoration & Revegetation workshop on Thursday and **Technical Sessions on Friday**

Santa Barbara County has been called “the American Riviera”. The beautiful beaches, campgrounds, museums, galleries, and historical architectural landmarks, make Santa Barbara a desirable destination for just about everyone. Those who live in southern California will enjoy the convenience of the location. Those who live in northern California may enjoy a conference and a short vacation rolled into one.

Transportation: Santa Barbara’s location, and the distribution of activities for the full conference, may result in your decision to drive. However, the Amtrak Pacific Surfliner runs from San Diego to Paso Robles and stops in Santa Barbara. Others may find they can make Amtrak connections on the Coast Starlight. The Santa Barbara Amtrak station is four blocks from the Veterans Memorial Building, 112 West Cabrillo Boulevard.

Hotel accommodations: Because the Technical Sessions for this conference will be held in the Veterans Memorial

Building, there is not a designated Conference Hotel. However, the conference planning committee is discussing hotel rates with several locations and by early April there will be a list of potential locations for you to stay. If you are only attending the Friday Technical Sessions, it will make sense for you to find a hotel in downtown Santa Barbara. However, if you are planning to attend events on Thursday and/or Saturday as well, then you may wish to look more widely.

Camping: There are a number of campgrounds, both public and private, in the Santa Barbara area. There will be a contact list for camping available very soon.

Other Activities: The Santa Barbara Conference and Visitors Bureau will be providing a number of booklets of information about the full range of activities available in the area – including a listing of 101 things you can do for FREE. Plan now, bring your family and your friends. Enjoy a weekend in May in Santa Barbara.



2007 Annual Conference of the California Native Grasslands Association and Cal-Pac SRM Spring Meeting and Field Tour



P.O. Box 72405 Davis, CA 95617 Voice 530-759-8458 Fax 530-753-1553 www.cnga.org admin@cnga.org

Registrant Name _____

_____ Member of CNGA _____ Member of SRM _____ Member of both _____ Member of neither

Registrants who are members of either CNGA or SRM are eligible for member rates for all conference events.

Company or Agency Affiliation (optional) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Preferred Phone _____ Email _____

Registration for the Tuition-Based Workshops: (Must be received by CNGA on or before May 10, 2007)

Workshops on Thursday, May 17, 2007

- Using California Native Grasses and Graminoids in the Urban Landscape \$120 members \$160 non-members
Methods for Grassland Monitoring: A Field Workshop \$60 members \$100 non-members
Restoration and Revegetation (the Short Course) \$150 members \$190 non-members

Workshop on Saturday & Sunday, May 19 & 20, 2007

- Identifying and Appreciating the Native and Naturalized Grasses of California \$220 members \$260 non-members enter the tuition amount \$_____

Reservation for the Bar-B-Que at S & S Seed - Thursday, May 17, 2007 (no charge but reservation required) total number _____

Registration for the Annual Conference Technical Sessions, Friday, May 18, 2007 check one:

Early registration (before April 20) [] CNGA or SRM member \$100 [] Not a member \$150

Pre-registration (between 4/21 and 5/11) [] CNGA or SRM member \$125 [] Not a member \$175

After May 11, 2007, ONLY on-site registrations will be accepted at the conference and depending on space available

[] CNGA or SRM member \$175 [] Not a member \$225 enter the registration amount \$_____

Banquet Friday, May 18, 2007 Number of dinner reservations _____ at \$30 each; enter the banquet amount \$_____

Field Trip, Saturday, May 19 Registration required. \$60 for individuals registering ONLY for the field day; \$30 for individuals who combine the field day with other registrations above.

_____ El Chorro Ranch _____ South Coastal Grasslands and Grazing -Hollister Ranch
_____ Native Grassland Restoration Sites in Santa Barbara County \$_____

Total included or promised to pay \$_____

Mail registration with check or credit card information to: postmarked on or before deadlines listed above.

California Native Grasslands Association P.O. Box 72405 Davis, CA 95617

CNGA and SRM members ONLY may Email registration information with promise to pay sent to admin@cnga.org on or before deadlines listed above. Do NOT email credit card information, the server is NOT secure.

Fax this form using credit card to 530.753.1553 at or before noon of deadlines listed above —no cover page needed.

Credit card (please circle one) Visa MasterCard American Express

Card number _____ expiration date _____

Authorized signature _____

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Society for Range Management - California Pacific Section
Range Manager of the Year Award
Nomination Form

Guidelines

Any member of the Section in good standing may nominate a candidate for Range Manager of the Year.

Nominations must be accompanied by a statement of not over one page outlining the nominee's activities and contributions, which merit this recognition.

Recognition as Range Manager of the Year is generally intended for Section members who have been active in Society affairs at local, state, or national levels, but anyone who has made a substantial contribution to range management, regardless of affiliation, is eligible.

Deadline for submitting nominations is September 20th

Send nominations to: Holly George, 208 Fairgrounds Rd, Quincy, CA 95971
Fax: 530/283-6088 Email: hageorge@ucdavis.edu

Nominee: _____

Organization/ Agency/ Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

The following individual(s) have submitted this nomination:

(signature)

(signature)

(print name)

(print name)

In one page or less, please describe the actions and contributions of the nominee that merit consideration for this award:

Society for Range Management - California Pacific Section Excellence in Range Management Award

2007 Nomination Form

Guidelines

Nominations for the SRM-CA Excellence in Range Management Award can be made by members of the Society, or by non-members who are acquainted with the operator's ranching practices and grazing operations.

All nominations must be approved and signed by two persons who are members of the SRM California Section. The questionnaire below must be completed by the nominators and signed by concurring members. At least one cattle and one sheep producer should be selected each year.

The nominee must have managed the land in question for at least five years.

All nominations should include 5-10 slides, pictures or CD file and a narrative for Committee review, and should be made with the expressed permission of nominee.

Deadline for submitting nominations is October 1st

Send nominations to: Holly George, 208 Fairgrounds Rd, Quincy, CA 96971
Fax: 530/283-6088 Email: hageorge@ucdavis.edu

Criteria for selection include:

- Consideration of nominee's stewardship of rangeland as demonstrated by sustainable productivity of natural forage, livestock, timber, wildlife habitat, water quality, protection of riparian habitats, production of other commodities, and aesthetic values;
- Contributions toward rangeland advancement off the ranch, including association work and training activities that encourage proper management;
- Improvements made in overall efficiency of the range management goals; and
- The manager's ability to develop creative solutions to rangeland management challenges.

“Way” Northern (Cont.)

The largest remaining population known in the county is at the Clear Lake National Wildlife Refuge, and that population is something less than 40 birds and declining. The Modoc National Forest, the Bureau of Land Management, the US Fish & Wildlife Service and Lava Beds National Monument have all been accelerating efforts to reclaim habitat, and initiated a joint translocation program in 2005 to introduce new genetic material into the population from sage-grouse populations in Oregon and Nevada. The Natural Resources Conservation Service allocated over \$500,000 in funds to private landowners in the area through its Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program to accelerate habitat recovery and management on private lands and associated federal grazing allotments. Most of this has gone towards juniper clearing. The state conservationist for NRCS in California, Ed Burton, has set a target of developing conservation plans for at least 200,000 new acres of rangeland in the state in FY 2007 and 2008, and it looks like the bulk of that effort may occur in sage-grouse conservation areas. Cece Dale-Cesmat is taking the lead on developing rangeland conservation plans on land in Lassen County this year, in the area near the Buffalo-Skedaddle population, and I am going to try and match that effort of hers over in the Clear Lake sage-grouse active management area next year. Hopefully, those completed conservation plans will set the stage for Environmental Quality Incentives Program funding allocated to rangeland/sage-grouse habitat maintenance and enhancement projects afterwards. Wish us luck!

In Memoriam

J.V. Stechman

Dr. Raymond D. Ratliff, native of Oklahoma, and long-time member of the Section, died January 18, 2007. Ray joined the California Section of SRM in 1957 while pursuing his BS degree at UC Davis and working for the USFS with Gus Hormay at Harvey Valley (Susanville) on rest-rotation grazing. He earned his BS from Davis in 1959 and an MS from UC Berkeley in 1961, when he began his assignment in bunchgrass studies with the Pacific Southwest Forest and Range Experiment Station at Fresno (San Joaquin Experimental Range and Sierra Nevada). In 1979, Ray achieved his PhD degree from New Mexico State University.

Dr. Ratliff was perhaps most well known for his exemplary research of mountain meadows of the Sierra. His hallmark publications include *A Meadow Site Classification for the Sierra Nevada, California* (1982), *Meadows in the Sierra Nevada of California: State of Knowledge* (1985), *Sierra Nevada Meadows: Species Alpha Diversity* (1983), and *Wet Meadow in a Guide to Wildlife Habitats of California* (1988). During his long tenure as a rangeland ecologist, he directed and published reports of more than fifty-seven project studies, many of these in concert with S. Westfall, D. Duncan, R. Denton, and J. Reppert.

During nearly five decades as an SRM Section member, Ray served in many capacities. He was chairman of the Cal Section Northeastern Counties Chapter (1964), Presenter in the SRM Annual Convention at Las Vegas (1965), Program Chair of Cal Section meetings in Chico (1967) and Fresno (1973), and served on numerous Section Committees (1969-1974). In 1981, Dr. Ratliff assumed the Presidency of the Section and served on the Board again in 1990-91. He organized the Section Perennial Grass Monitoring Workshop in 1989. Ray was the second (#002) CRM to be certified in California, and in 1997 was awarded Range Manager of the Year by his Section colleagues.

Ray Ratliff's dedication and devotion to his profession in rangeland science has been acknowledged and commended by his close associates of many decades, R. Denton and S. Westfall of USFS PSW F & R Experiment Station. His wife of 36 years, Donna Mae, characterizes Ray as a humble man "who never said an unkind word, and was always there to help..." Requiescat in pace.

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Society for Range Management

CAL-PAC Society for Range Management

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