

Update

Summer 2013



WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP RANCHERS RANCHING

The California Rangeland Conservation Coalition builds relationships that promote rangelands and private ranching through outreach and education, participation in research, and facilitation of conversations to reduce barriers to ranching and conservation and to make new opportunities to achieve the goals of the Rangeland Resolution.

OUTREACH

The 8th Annual Summit was jointly held at UC Davis with the Rustici Science Symposium. Both events brought together 389 participants including ranchers, land managers, academics, conservationists, businesses and government officials. Topics included collaborative partnerships, managing rangeland watersheds, feral swine control and ecological values of conservation practices. Many of the presentations are on the website. The Summit Committee is busy preparing for the 9th Annual Summit.

Three field trips were hosted by Coalition signatories in the spring, including Coyote Ridge in Santa Clara County, the UC Putah Creek Preserve in Davis, and Big Bluff Ranch in Tehama County. Participants learned about private-public partnerships for rangeland stewardship, invasive species, research on native grasses and keeping ranches productive while doing conservation among other topics.

EDUCATION

Coalition staff and signatories made presentations in the spring, and more are planned: Tehama Cattlewomen's and Tehama Cattlemen's, Glenn County RCD, Livestock Forum in Oakdale, RCD Sacramento Valley and Bay Area regional RCD meetings, Forest Service Line Managers meeting.

RESEARCH

Two presentations featuring research projects by Coalition signatories were given at Wildlife Society Western Section meetings. Coalition staff facilitated a breakout session on rangeland practices for climate change mitigation at CALCAN conference on agriculture and climate change UC Davis. The California Climate and Agriculture Network is a coalition that advances policies to support California agriculture in the face of climate change.

MEETINGS

The Coalition Steering Committee continues working with state agencies to expand the use of grazing as a resource management tool. Several members met recently with the new Director of State Parks, General Anthony Jackson and his staff. Others met with Dept of Interior, NRCS and many Congressional representatives in Washington, DC.

YOUR PARTICIPATION IS WELCOME!

- Subscribe to E-Update by sending an e-mail to pelayo@carangeland.org
- Join a committee – (e-mail pelayo@carangeland.org)
- Make a donation – CRCC, PO Box 73470, Davis, CA 95617
- Request a Coalition speaker or include the Coalition in rangeland projects
- “Friend” the Coalition on Facebook
- Visit www.carangeland.org for more information, Summit presentations, research bibliography, Guardian of the Range Portraits, and more

STEERING COMMITTEE

Chet Vogt, *Chair*, California Cattlemen's Association
Mark Rockwell, *Vice Chair*, Endangered Species Coalition
Bill Sanguinetti, *Vice Chair*, California Cattlemen's Association
Ashley Rood, Environmental Defense Fund
Bill Rankin, California Cattlemen's Association
Carissa Koopmann-Rivers, Audubon
Casey Stone, California Farm Bureau Federation
Ceci Dale-Cesmat, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Dan Macon, California Woolgrowers Association
Jan Knight, US Fish & Wildlife Service
John Hopkins, Institute for Ecological Health
John Kleinfelter, California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Justin Oldfield, California Cattlemen's Association
Karen Buhr, California Assoc. of Resource Conservation Districts
Kim Delfino, Defenders of Wildlife
Lesa Carlton, California Woolgrowers Association
Mark Kramer, The Nature Conservancy
Pablo Garza, The Nature Conservancy
Michael Delbar, California Rangeland Trust
Noelle Cremers, California Farm Bureau Federation
Sheila Barry, Univ. of California Cooperative Extension
Tom Hedt, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Vicky Dawley, Tehama Resource Conservation District
Wendell Gilgert, Point Blue Conservation Science

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California Rangeland Resolution

The undersigned recognize the critical importance of California's privately owned rangelands, particularly that significant portion that encircles the Central Valley and includes the adjacent grasslands and oak woodlands, including the Sierra foothills and the interior coast ranges. These lands support important ecosystems and are the foundation for the ranching industry that owns them.

WHEREAS, these rangelands include a rich and varied landscape of grasslands, oak woodlands, vernal pools, riparian areas and wetlands, which support numerous imperiled species, many native plants once common in the Central Valley, and are home to the highest diversity and density of wintering raptors anywhere in North America;

WHEREAS, these rangelands are often located in California's fastest-growing counties and are at significant risk of conversion to development and other uses;

WHEREAS, these rangelands, and the species that rely on these habitats, largely persist today due to the positive and experienced grazing and other land stewardship practices of the ranchers that have owned and managed these lands and are committed to a healthy future for their working landscapes;

WHEREAS, these rangelands are a critical foundation of the economic and social fabric of California's ranching industry and rural communities, and will only continue to provide this important working landscape for California's plants, fish and wildlife if private rangelands remain in ranching;

THEREFORE, we declare that it is our goal to collaboratively work together to protect and enhance the rangeland landscape that encircles California's Central Valley and includes adjacent grasslands and oak woodlands by:

- § Keeping common species common on private working landscapes;
- § Working to recover imperiled species and enhancing habitat on rangelands while seeking to minimize regulations on private lands and streamline processes;
- § Supporting the long-term viability of the ranching industry and its culture by providing economic, social and other incentives and by reducing burdens to proactive stewardship on private ranchlands;
- § Increasing private, state and federal funding, technical expertise and other assistance to continue and expand the Ranching community's beneficial land stewardship practices that benefit sensitive species and are fully compatible with normal ranching practices;
- § Encouraging voluntary, collaborative and locally-led conservation that has proven to be very effective in maintaining and enhancing working landscapes; and
- § Educating the public about the benefits of grazing and ranching in these rangelands.



Field trip to Big Bluff Ranch, May 2, 2013



Field trip to UC Davis Putah Creek Preserve, April 2013

Photos by Pelayo Alvarez