



January 12, 2012

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative
NIFA Fellowships Grant Program

To Whom It May Concern:

The California Rangeland Conservation Coalition (Rangeland Coalition) Steering Committee would like to express our support of the proposal titled “**Managing Rangelands for Multiple Ecosystem Services across a Variable Environment: Integrating Ecological and Human Dimensions**” for a NIFA Fellowship Grant.

The Rangeland Coalition is an unprecedented group of ranchers, environmental organizations, scientists and government agencies who are major California rangeland stakeholders. Together, signatories strive to enhance and preserve private working landscapes; one method we support in achieving this goal is through research. We feel that this proposal focuses on major resource management issues facing the state’s rangeland community and will have an intrinsic role on meeting the Rangeland Coalition’s Strategic Goals.

The work of project team members Leslie Roche, Ken Tate, Valerie Eviner, Toby O’Geen, Richard Standiford and Lynn Huntsinger plays a vital role in the Rangeland Coalition and their participation and collaboration with our diverse group of signatories is essential. Furthermore, we feel that this team has the credibility with rangeland stakeholders and the technical capacity to translate the results of the project into grazing management on-the-ground.

Rangeland Coalition partners and staff have been involved in the development of the research and outreach objectives of this project. Specifically, the Rangeland Coalition co-hosted a workshop in October of 2011 at the Sierra Foothills Research Extension Center with the project team members and played an instrumental part in the development and participation of the survey of ranchers about their grazing practices last year.

Again, the Rangeland Coalition supports the project proposal we look forward to serving as a member of the project advisory committee if funded. Furthermore, we are aware of ranchers and rangeland managers who have already expressed excitement for the project and are interested in participating in the study. If you have any questions regarding our support or engagement of the Rangeland Coalition, please contact Tracy Schohr at (916) 716-2643 or tracy@carangeland.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracy K. Schohr".

Tracy K. Schohr
Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pelayo".

Pelayo Alvarez
Director