

Rangeland Outreach & Extension Update

University of California
Cooperative Extension

Sheila Barry

Bay Area Livestock- Natural
Resources Advisor

Animal Agriculture Literacy is falling behind.

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Talking Points

- Rangeland Coalitions
- Grazing in California State Parks
- University of California Rangeland Positions
- UC ANR publications
- New series, “Understanding Working Rangelands”

California Rangeland Conservation Coalition



- [WWW. carangeland.org](http://WWW.carangeland.org)
- Initiated in 2005 in Alameda County, Koopmann Ranch by USFWS, CCA, TNC, CNPS, Defenders of Wildlife, Farm Bureau and others
- Theme: Working to Keep Ranchers Ranching
- Strategic Plan focus: Outreach and Policy
- Annual Summits – past summit wildfire focus
- Current chair: Bre Owens
- Quarterly Steering Committee Meetings
- Annual Summits
- New statewide boundary

**“ We’ve moved beyond
Yes cow, No cow
to When cow, Where cow”**

Mark Kramer, TNC



Photo Credit: Richard Stover 2014,
Arana Gulch, Santa Cruz, CA

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Central Coast Rangeland Coalition

- <http://www.elkhornsloughctp.org>
- Initiated by central coast ranchers and TNC
- Educational Meetings 2x per year (3rd Thursday in October and April)
 - Past: April 16 Rancher Economics
 - Future: October 20 Endangered Species Habitat
- Educational/ Outreach Committee monthly phone conferences
- Annual Rancher, Manager, Scientist Forum Paper

Grazing in State Parks

A project of the CRCC

- Nov 2013 State Parks Proposal- Managed grazing pilot projects (recommendations for 5 parks, with various conservation objectives identified.
- Negative response from Parks July 2014
- Next step review what's working in State Parks with grazing

New UC ANR Rangeland Positions

Livestock & Natural Resources Advisor

- UCCE Siskiyou, Carissa Koopman Rivers
- UCCE Modoc, Laura Snell
- UCCE San Benito, Santa Cruz, Monterey, Devii Rao

Specialists

- Water Resources & Climate Change Adaptation, UCB, Dr. Theodore Grantham
- Rangeland Management Specialist, UCD, Leslie Roche
- Restoration Ecology Specialist, UCD, Elise Gornish



UC ANR Positions (under recruitment)

Livestock & Natural Resources Advisor

- UCCE Fresno and Madera
- UCCE Ventura and Santa Barbara
- UCCE Placer-Nevada
- UCCE Plumas-Sierra
- UCCE Imperial

Specialists

- Rangeland Policy, UCB
- Rangeland Resource Economics, UCD
- Beef Cattle Herd Health and Production, UCD



UC ANR Positions (proposed)

Livestock & Natural Resources Advisor

- UCCE Sutter-Yuba
- UCCE Sierra Foothills

Specialists

- Small Ruminant, UCD
- Ruminant Nutrition and Behavior, SFREC
- Grazing Ruminant Nutrition, UCD



Publications

(titles in the works)

- Common Rangeland/Forage Plants ID cards- Forero
- Targeted Browsing California Brush- Davy
- Supplementation to address secondary compounds –Davy
- Management Alternatives for Foothill Abortion- Becchetti
- Ecology and Management of Annual Rangelands (book)- George
- Outdoor Pork Production Guide
- Grazing Leases



Flickr.com

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Over 2 million visitors a year to Bay Area Working Rangelands



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Bay Area Working Rangelands with Recreation

- Federal
 - USFWS
 - National Park Service
- State
 - DWR
 - Fish and Game
 - Parks and Recreation
- Regional
 - East Bay Regional Park District
 - Contra Costa Water District
 - East Bay MUD
 - Mid-Pen Regional Open Space District
- County
 - Santa Clara County Parks
 - Santa Clara County Open Space Authority
 - Sonoma County Parks
- Local
 - City of Fairfield
 - City of San Jose
 - Moraga
 - Pleasanton
 - Walnut Creek
- Non-Profit
 - Muir Heritage Land Trust

I. They don't understand what they are seeing..



California Grazing

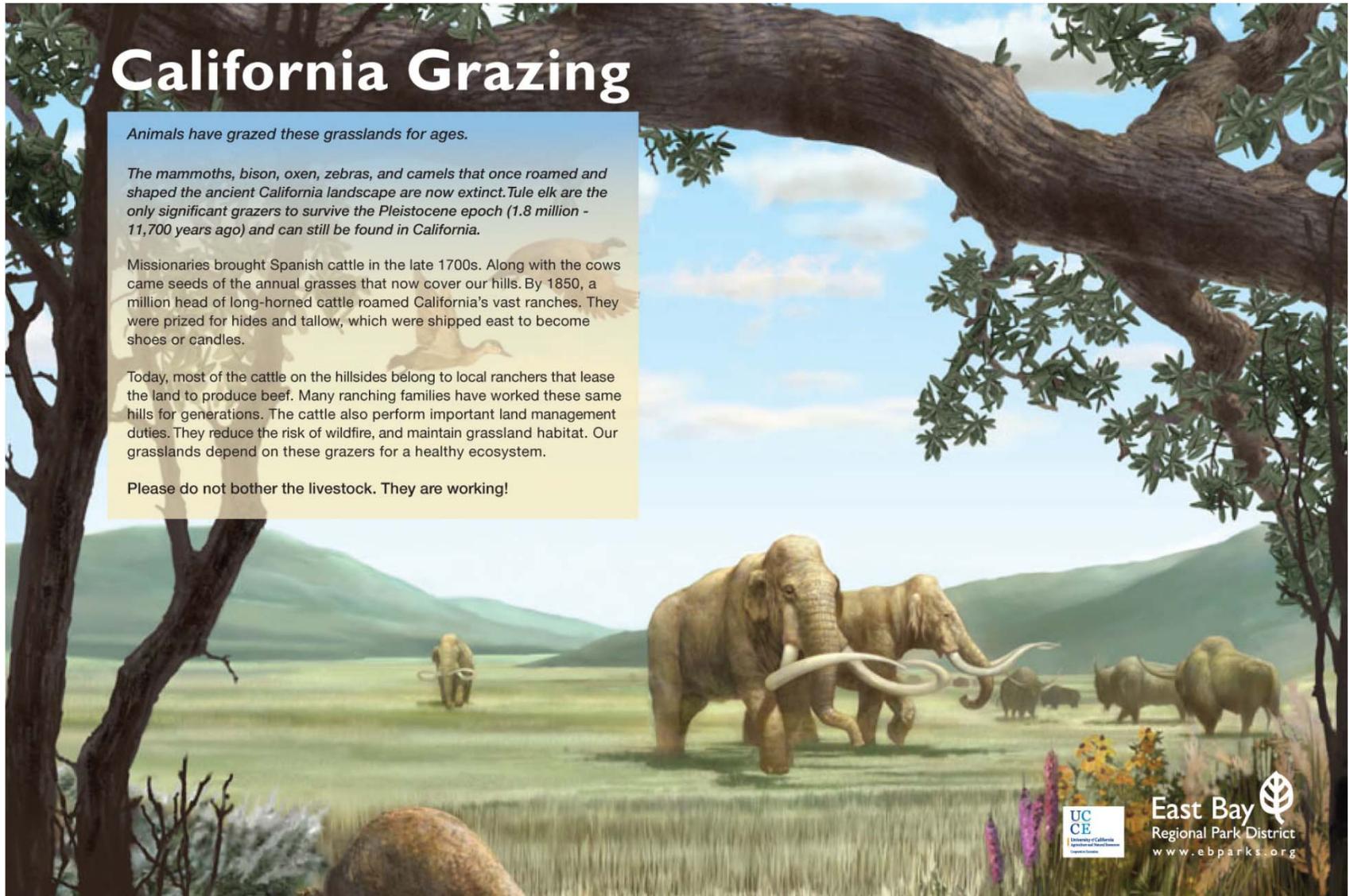
Animals have grazed these grasslands for ages.

The mammoths, bison, oxen, zebras, and camels that once roamed and shaped the ancient California landscape are now extinct. Tule elk are the only significant grazers to survive the Pleistocene epoch (1.8 million - 11,700 years ago) and can still be found in California.

Missionaries brought Spanish cattle in the late 1700s. Along with the cows came seeds of the annual grasses that now cover our hills. By 1850, a million head of long-horned cattle roamed California's vast ranches. They were prized for hides and tallow, which were shipped east to become shoes or candles.

Today, most of the cattle on the hillsides belong to local ranchers that lease the land to produce beef. Many ranching families have worked these same hills for generations. The cattle also perform important land management duties. They reduce the risk of wildfire, and maintain grassland habitat. Our grasslands depend on these grazers for a healthy ecosystem.

Please do not bother the livestock. They are working!



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II. They don't understand the ecological value of what they see.



Why Cows?

You may see livestock grazing the hills and valleys as you enjoy this beautiful park. Why are they here?

Well-managed grazing reduces the risk of fire and gives native grasses and wildflowers access to sunlight. A cow almost eats its weight in plants every month. Collectively, cattle maintain an open grassland habitat.

Many native species benefit. Western fence lizards and California ground squirrels thrive in grazed grasslands. Red-legged frogs and tiger salamanders find critical breeding habitat in stock ponds.

There may be trade-offs: large cows on the trail may be unnerving, and the byproducts of so much eating can create an obstacle course for hikers. Yet, we need the services that these livestock provide. Who else is going to mow all that grass?



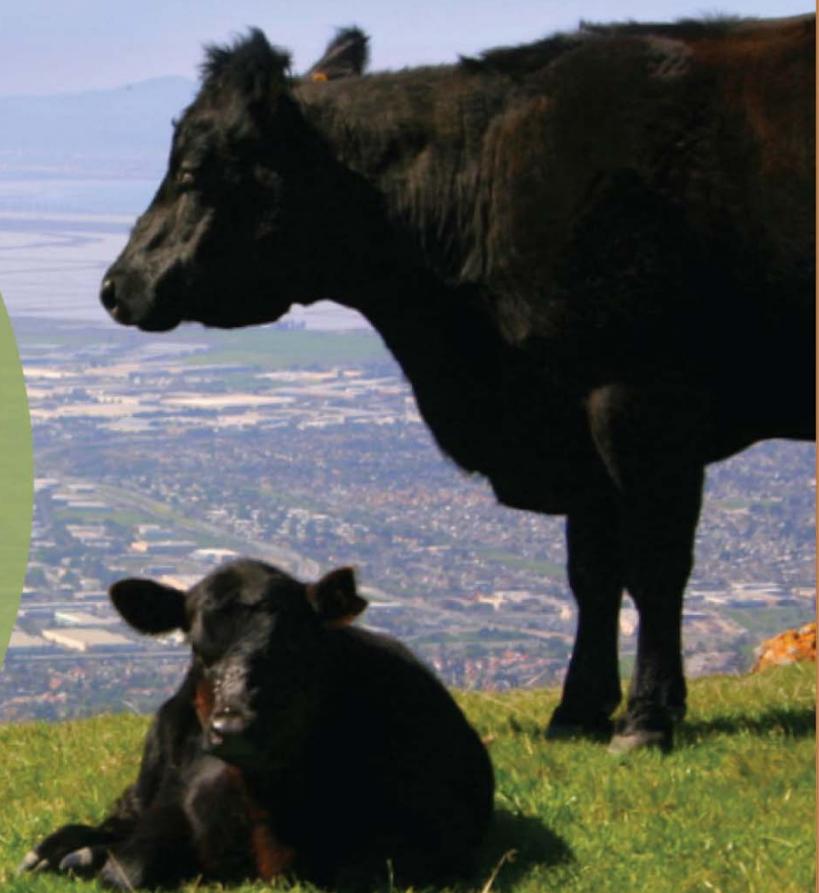
The western fence lizard is a major host for larval ticks, its immune system cleanses ticks of the spirochetes that cause Lyme disease.



The California ground squirrel's extensive burrow system provides habitat for frogs, salamanders, burrowing owls, and badgers.



Look for male golden dung flies perched on fresh splot, waiting for females to arrive. Many other insect species exploit this rich resource also.



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III. They are clueless about animal agriculture.



**IV. California's "Happy Cow"
has added confusion to
cluelessness.**





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Photo Credit: Our Southern Roots

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Sharing the Land With Livestock

With a little care, you can share the land safely with cows.

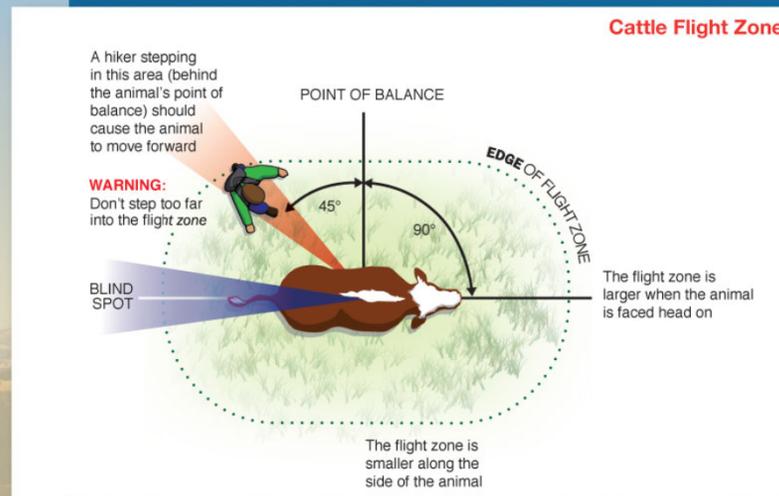
While most cows are peaceful, mothers will do almost anything to protect their calves. Do not get caught between a cow and her calf. Always keep dogs on leash around cattle, a mother cow sees dogs as serious predators.



If you find cattle blocking the trail, here is how to pass safely:

- Ensure the cows have a safe, open place to go.
- Alert them by speaking in a normal voice.
- Step calmly into their "personal space" or "flight zone." If they do not move, take another step. This should get them moving.
- Step back and give space to any cow that shows signs of aggression.

Enjoy hiking safely among your cow neighbors!



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What we have been doing?

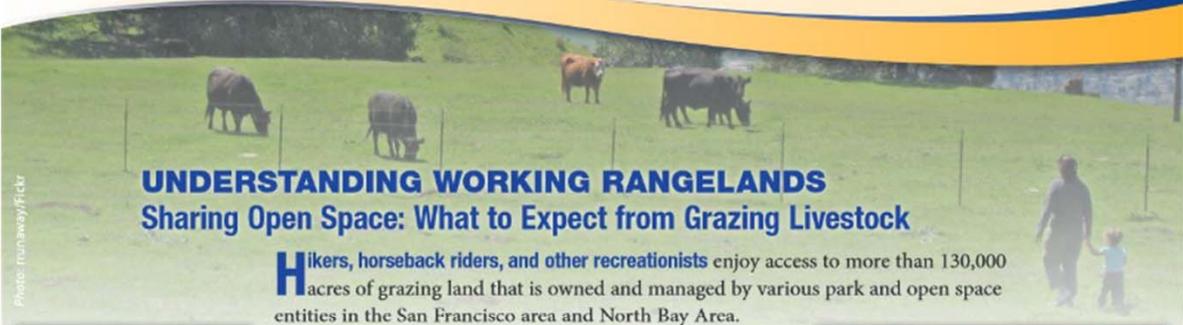


- Changing Parks' perspective on grazing and what they say about it
- Educating park interpreters
- Informing Park Boards
- Informing ranchers
- Developing outreach material
- Developing signage
- Uncovering additional outreach needs

Understanding Working Rangelands

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ANR Publication 8516 | April 2015
<http://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu> UC
PEER
REVIEWED



UNDERSTANDING WORKING RANGELANDS
Sharing Open Space: What to Expect from Grazing Livestock

Hikers, horseback riders, and other recreationists enjoy access to more than 130,000 acres of grazing land that is owned and managed by various park and open space entities in the San Francisco area and North Bay Area. Ranchers ran livestock on most of these lands well before the public was welcomed to share the lands with cattle, sheep, or goats. Though grazing and recreation are two distinct uses for rangeland, they generally coexist easily and with very few conflicts. When ranchers graze livestock on lands that have public access, they take great care to select and keep only animals with a gentle temperament there. Any animal that displays aggressive behavior is removed from the herd and from areas shared by the public. We should remember, however, that when an animal acts aggressively, the behavior is simply its natural response to what it views as a threat.

Photo: runawayflickr

STEPHANIE LARSON is UC Cooperative Extension livestock and range management advisor and UCCE county director for Sonoma County; LISA BUSH is a rangeland management consultant in Sebastopol, California; and SHEILA BARRY is UCCE livestock and natural resources advisor for the San Francisco Bay Area and UCCE county director for Santa Clara County.



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