



Ranch Roundup

C O O P E R A T I V E E X T E N S I O N

UCCE SUMMER RANCHER SOCIAL JUNE 27

Greetings from the Farm Advisor,

Summer is off the a busy start and so is UCCE research. We have hired a crew of students to work in Northeastern California on post-fire grazing, water quality, meadow monitoring, wild horse use, and other projects throughout the summer. If you see them around, don't be afraid to stop by and introduce yourself!

I would like to invite you to the Summer Rancher Social on **June 27th** from 6-8pm at the Alturas Elks Lodge (619 N Main St). This social corresponds with a public lands policy discussion and tour and is a great opportunity for local and regional public land managers to meet ranchers and put faces with the policy decisions that are being made. The evening will include dinner, drinks, and entertainment for \$15. Please RSVP by June 23rd to Cheryl Kunert 530-233-6400. I hope you can all join me for this fun event.

We need to update the livestock portion of the **Modoc County Crop Report** and are interested in all varieties of livestock being grown in Modoc. Please take a minute to delegate a person from your operation to anonymously fill out the survey so we can have accurate numbers. More information available on page 3.

I hope you all have a great summer!

Cheers,

Laura Kay Snell

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: Cassie Roeder (USFWS Partners Biolo-
: gist) and I at the June 3rd Goose Lake
: Fisheries Spring Tour. We were looking
: at a restoration project on Lassen Creek
: in the north Warner Mountains.
:



UCCE RESEARCH UPDATE

WILD HORSES

Due to wet conditions on the Devil's Garden, spring wild horse monitoring was conducted in May and early June this year. Cameras have recently been taken off the garden and the pictures as well as vegetation monitoring will be analyzed for horse, wildlife, and livestock use. We plan to collect summer data in late July and again in the fall after cattle have been removed.

Pictures showing a large number of horses on the garden as well as interactions with wildlife and livestock have been shown to public land managers across the country as the Modoc National Forest prepares for a gather in early September. Research findings show the destruction of rangeland due to overpopulation and year long grazing of horses on the Devil's Garden. There is also evidence of wildlife and livestock intimidation by horses. This research will continue through 2016.

POST-FIRE GRAZING

Funded by a grant from the Rustici Rangeland Endowment, UCCE began research on post-fire grazing strategies in early 2016. Research will be conducted on fires occurring over the past 10 years in Northeastern California in which different grazing management strategies were used. The AIM protocol developed by BLM will be used to determine range readiness after fire therefore hopefully ending the mandatory two year rest time after all fires for BLM and guide land managers to better assess the land. This may also provide possible targeted grazing opportunities after fire as well as a change in wording for post fire management plans. New fires occurring in 2016 and 2017 will have long term plots established and test more specific grazing management strategies for long term effectiveness. Some of the fires being surveyed in this area include the Blue Fire, Frog Fire, Dodge Fire, and Bald Fire.

JUNIPER TREATMENTS

We have started a juniper research project near Likely and plan to continue adding sites as funding becomes available. Juniper is a problem that is not going away in Modoc County. Besides killing juniper, we plan to field test the resilience and resistance protocol that Rick Miller has designed for juniper treatments. This protocol can aid producers in deciding which sites are going to have the best return investment in perennial grasses for both livestock and wildlife. Little field testing has been done in this area but it appears promising to both private and public land managers. After specifying the protocol to Northeastern California, we plan to hold a series of demonstrations and workshops. Getting private and public land managers on the same page will increase effectiveness and efficiency of these juniper projects.

LONG TERM RANGE TRENDS

The Rangeland Watershed Lab at UC Davis and the US Forest Service have been monitoring meadows on public rangelands across California since 1999. This spring we have added additional sites in the Warner Mountain Ranger District and Lassen National Forest bringing our total to 30 sites. We have collected production data, stream-bank alteration, stubble height, and cow pat data. This research project aims to produce long term trend data for meadow conditions, grazing, and riparian health to test the current riparian standards and guidelines and provides support for grazing as an essential management tool. Livestock are essential to decreasing fuels and creating heterogeneity in the landscape.

On the Devil's Garden, we are looking at rereading Parker 3-step range monitoring plots that were developed in the 1950's to see long term trends.

MODOC COUNTY LIVESTOCK SURVEY

The Modoc County Department of Agriculture has requested help with updating the Crop Report for 2016. This includes a section on Livestock. The livestock numbers haven't been tallied for over five years and could use an update. There have been changes in numbers of livestock and species of livestock over the past decade due to market, personal interest, and drought. The questions are straight to the point and anonymous. Please delegate one person from your operation to report overall livestock numbers for 2015 in the survey by **July 28**. The numbers provided in the survey will be compiled and used in the 2016 livestock report section of the crop report and also used to develop new UCCE projects depending on producer needs. These numbers impact economic estimates for the county and show long term trends in livestock production.

Please complete the survey here:

<http://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=18235>

Surveys can also be filled out in person at the Farm Advisor office, 202 W 4th St. Alturas

NEW UC RANGELANDS WEBSITE

Visit the new University of California Rangelands website created by Leslie Roche, Ken Tate and many others to learn about important new research happening on rangelands across California. Some of the current features include how to manage for drought, public lands grazing, and water quality. This will continue to be a great resource in the future for anyone interested in what UCCE is doing on Rangelands.

rangelands.ucdavis.edu



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 : Tom Getts (Modoc Weed Advisor) and I had a :
 : great time talking to producers about UCCE :
 : projects at the Modoc County Cattlemen's tour :
 : June 5th at SL ranch. Thank you for inviting us! :
 :
 :

Please Join Us For the
**UC
CE**
**RANCHER SUMMER
SOCIAL**

Dinner • Drinks • Cowboy Poetry

MONDAY ■
 June ■ **6-8 PM**
27 ■ **ALTURAS**
 ■ **ELKS LODGE**

\$15 Dinner with all the fixings!

University of California Cooperative Extension Livestock and Natural Resources Advisors Laura Snell and David Lile invite you to join other ranchers and rangeland stakeholders for an informal evening of socializing, networking, delicious food and entertainment.

RYSF CMKUNERT@UCANR.EDU OR (530) 233-6400

WE ARE ON THE WEB
CEMODOC.UCDAVIS.EDU

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**COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION**

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FUTURE EVENTS OF INTEREST

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Summer Rancher Social	June 27, 6-8pm Alturas Elks Lodge
Independence Day	July 4
Livestock Survey Deadline	July 28