



Working Landscapes

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Topics to be covered

- What is a working landscape?
- What are the benefits of a working landscape?
- The challenge of overcoming negative perception
- Grazing impacts and current conservation research- references
- Challenges and opportunities



Productive Lands in Harmony With A Healthy Environment



The *Working Landscape* is the **management** of the soil, water, air, plants, animals and humans to **produce** food, feed, fiber, habitat, recreation and open space in a way that is sustainable and beneficial to each.

Working landscapes provide..
fire fuel management





Only Ewe Can Prevent Forest Fires

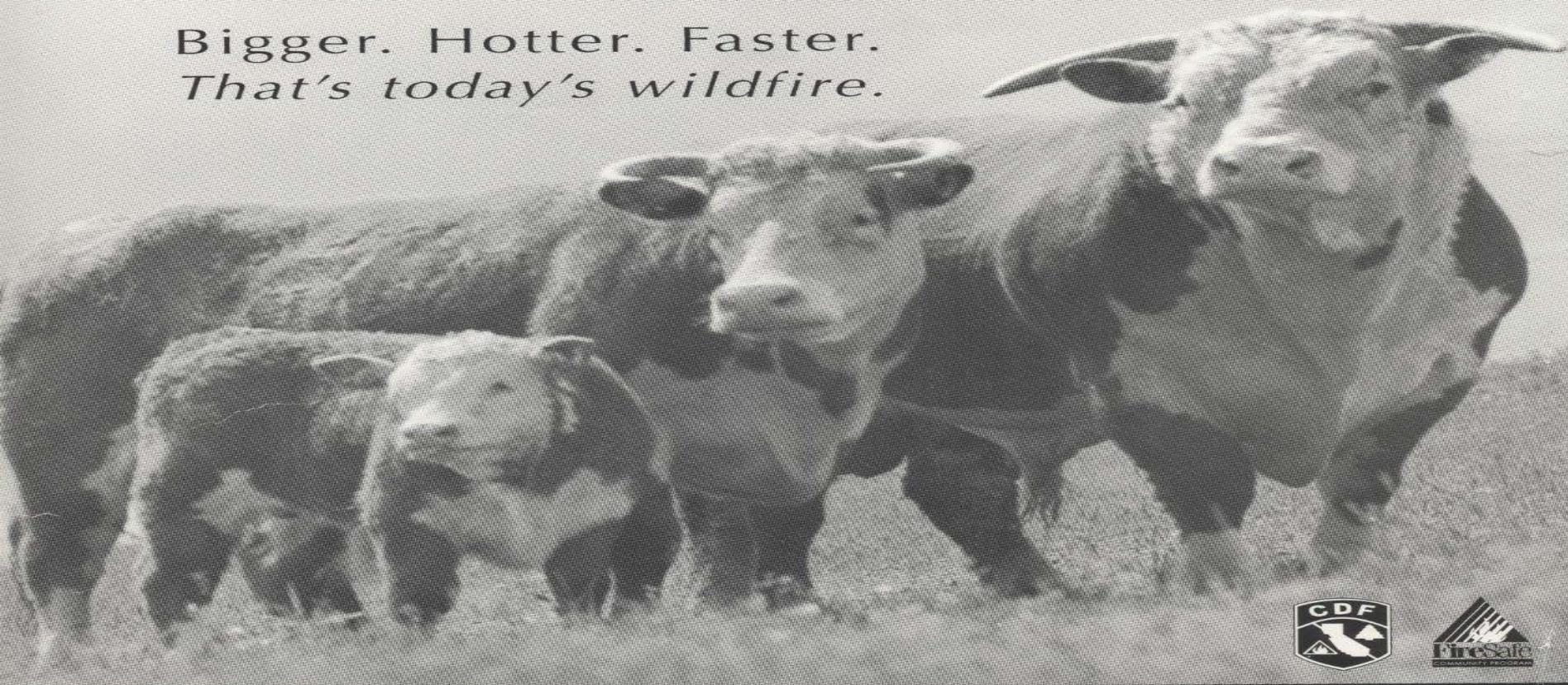
Cheatgrass Areas

Grazed

Ungrazed

THIS FAMILY COULD SAVE YOUR FAMILY

Bigger. Hotter. Faster.
That's today's wildfire.



The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) reports that in the last five years, over 35,000 wildfires have burned more than 670,000 acres causing more than \$250 million in damage.

CDF Director Richard Wilson says that grazing livestock will thin overgrown vegetation that can ignite and fuel a wildfire. "Livestock can help stop fires before they start. They can save your life and property by establishing defensible space. Protect yourself from dangerous wildfires. Establish your defensible space. Help make California fire safe."

A scenic landscape featuring a large body of water, likely a reservoir, surrounded by rolling green hills and mountains under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds.

Working landscapes provide...
watershed protection



Working landscapes provide...
open space

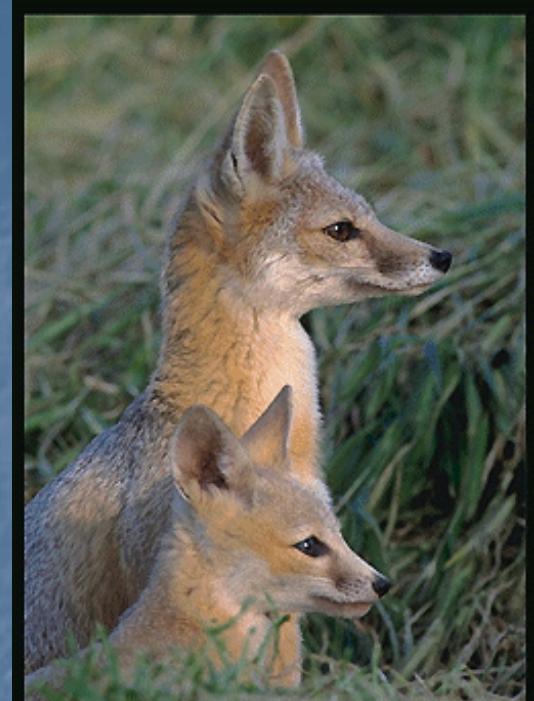
A photograph showing several Gambel's quail perched on a pile of dry brushwood and logs. The birds have mottled brown and grey plumage. One bird is clearly visible in the center, facing towards the right. Another is partially visible behind it. A third is on the far left, and a fourth is on the far right. The brushwood consists of many thin, bare branches and some larger, broken logs. The background is a soft-focus view of a grassy hillside.

Working landscapes provide
wildlife habitat

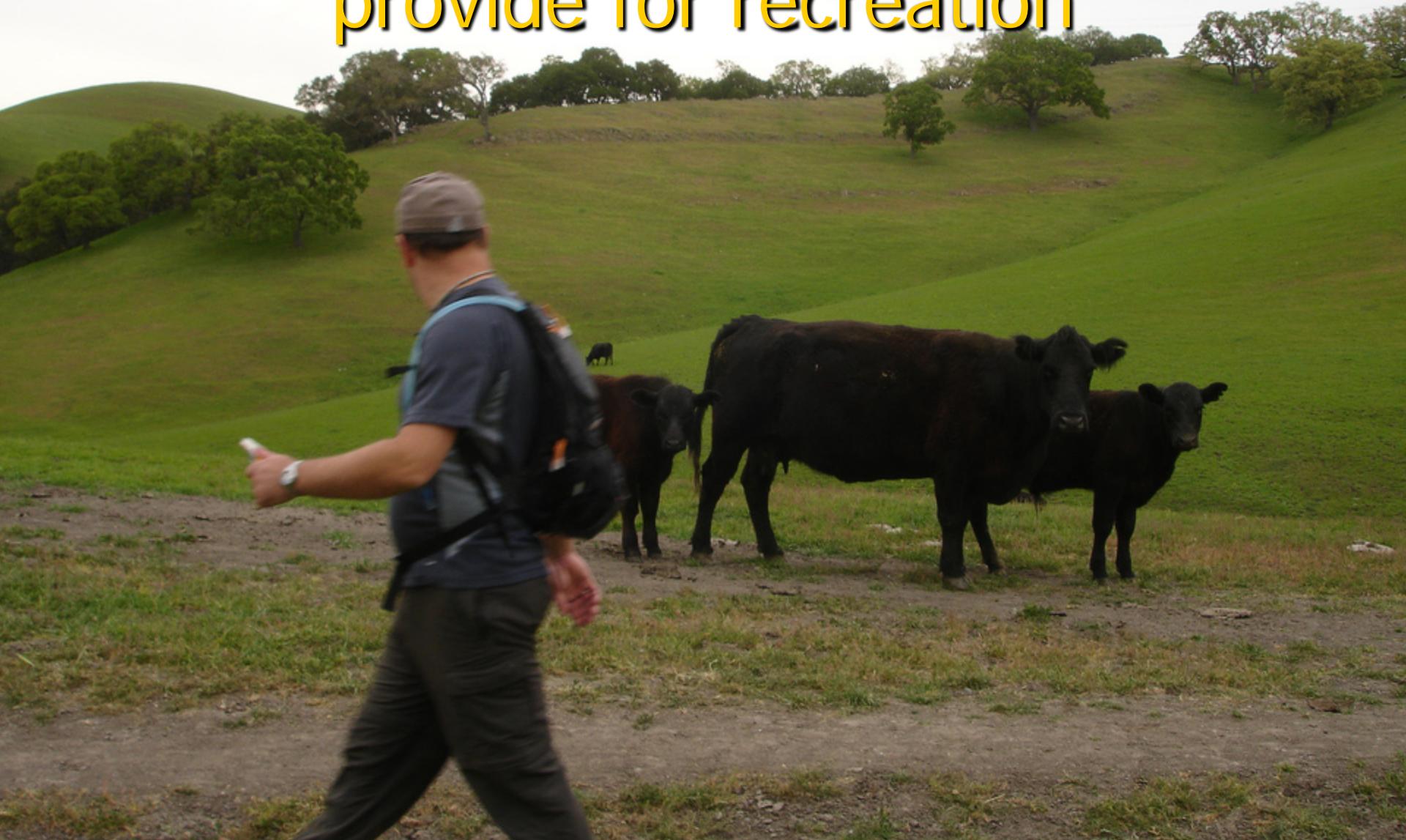


Working landscapes provide...
critical endangered species
habitat

Working landscapes for... biodiversity & special status species management



Working landscapes
provide for recreation



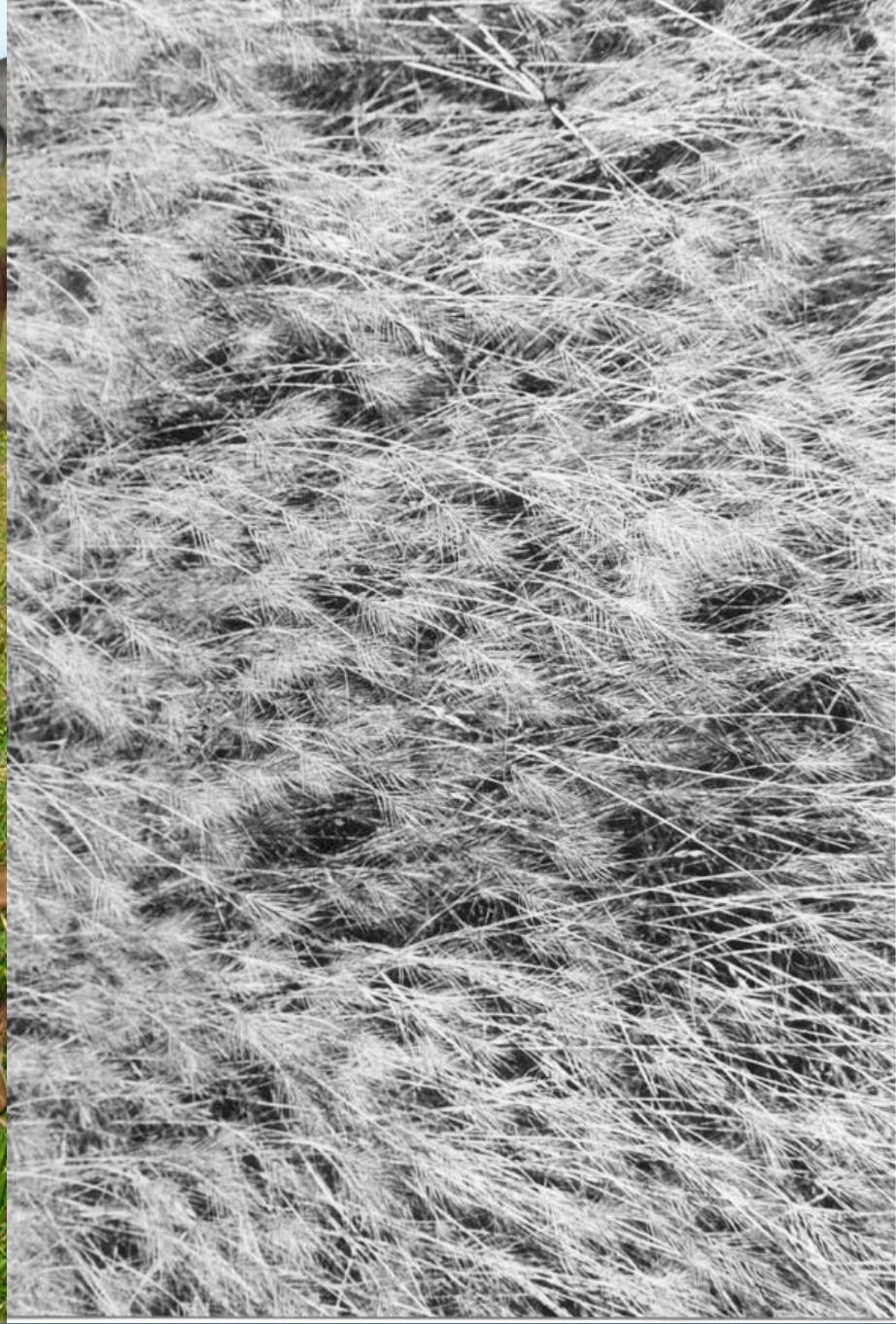
Working landscapes
provide **on-going stewards**



• Why are the negative perceptions of working landscapes (grazing) so difficult to overcome?







- Change in outlook of USFWS in regards to working landscapes and grazing's impact

For example, 4(d) rule exempting ranching practices from incidental take of the California Tiger Salamander and Red Legged-Frog



Grazing Impacts

- Controls annual grasses to promote native floral diversity and associated species



Grazing Impacts



- Controls noxious and/or invasive species





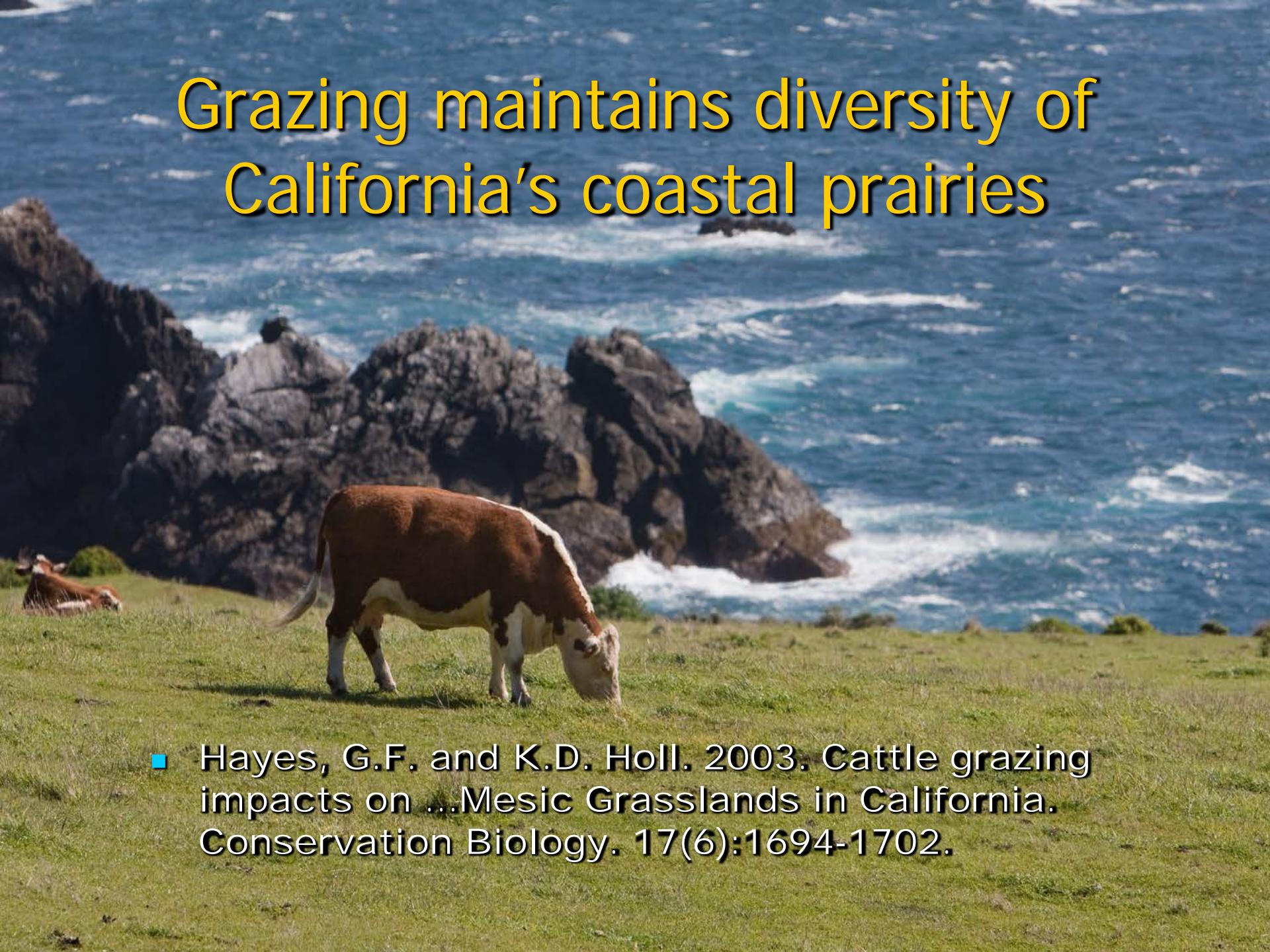
Weiss, S.B. 1999. Cars, Cows, and Checkerspot Butterflies: Nitrogen Deposition and Management of Nutrient-poor Grasslands for a Threatened Species. Conservation Biology. 13(6):1476-1486.

- Grazing maintains herbaceous and invertebrate native diversity in ephemeral wetlands

Marty, JT. 2005. Effects of cattle grazing on diversity in ephemeral wetlands. *Conservation Biology* 19:1626-1632



Grazing maintains diversity of California's coastal prairies



- Hayes, G.F. and K.D. Holl. 2003. Cattle grazing impacts on ...Mesic Grasslands in California. *Conservation Biology*. 17(6):1694-1702.

“Cessation of grazing is a threat”

Hayes, G. 1998. The Saga of the Santa Cruz Tarplant. Four Seasons. 10 (4):18-21.





“Decisions to decrease or eliminate grazing may result in species decline and local extinctions”

Germano, D.J. et. al. 2001.
Managing exotic grasses
and conserving declining
species. Wildlife Society
Bulletin. (2): 551-559.



Grazing Impacts

- Creates a "patchy" grassland, with a variety of structure



Grazing Impacts

- Creates open ground to improve wildlife habitat for foraging, thermoregulation, and movement



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Grazing Impacts

- Tramples encroaching brush, open dense canopies to promote wildlife corridors and habitat and maintain grasslands.



Grazing Impacts

- Maintains hydrologic function of ephemeral wetlands



Pyke, CR and J. Marty.
2005. Cattle grazing
mediates climate change
impacts on ephemeral
wetlands. *Conservation
Biology* 19:1619-1625.



Planned Herbivory & Livestock Impact



Challenges

- Defining site objectives
- Overcoming perceptions of “Naturalness”, “Wilderness”
- Economic challenges of the livestock industry
- Invasive, unpalatable species
- Monitoring
- Bad Apples



Opportunities

- Support working landscapes
- Sustainable conservation
- Invasive, palatable and unpalatable species
- Good stewards
- Growing number of special status species
- Declining amount of habitat available
- Monitoring

The biggest challenge and opportunity is working together towards shared goals.....

