



University of California, RREA Popular Report, FY 2016

The University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources administers the Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) Program of California. It uses the limited RREA federal funds allocated annually to implement a competitive grants program that requests proposals to develop and/or support projects/activities that address the educational and extension needs in the management of California's valuable renewable resources on forests and rangelands. This RREA funding brings valuable Extension programs and materials to a wide range of Californians including range and forest landowners and managers, local and state policy makers, and natural resource professionals. For each RREA dollar invested typically \$8 is leveraged from other sources such as state, private, and local government funds. During FY 2016 the California RREA competitive grants program funded ten Extension projects and while each of these deserves special recognition for their accomplishments only a couple of the projects are highlighted below.

- ***Wildfire and Rangeland Management: Mediating Impacts to Conservation and Ranching***



*Summit attendees on the Butte Fire tour listen to a rancher talk about how the wildfire impacted his property
January 2016*

The 2016 California Rangeland Summit addressed the challenges and opportunities to improve rangeland management aimed at reducing the scope and severity of catastrophic wildfire on rangeland. RREA funds supported a live webinar broadcast to allow off-premise participation and produced a video of the summit and field tours for interested parties to view on the web. As a result of the summit, the over 300 diverse stakeholders who attended reached consensus that livestock grazing is valuable as a management tool for pre-fire management to reduce wildfire severity. Over 150 landowners and managers have implemented at least one new range management practice, and close to 100,000 acres have improved range management. *"On my property: the changes I now plan are to keep the roads graded, open and mapped, have water trucks and tanks FULL, and build more firebreaks."* Rangeland Summit Attendee

- ***Biomass Utilization: A Renewable Resource for Energy Production in California***



*Attendees at the "Future of Humboldt's Biomass Infrastructure" workshop listen to a speaker from the biomass industry
Eureka, CA
March 2016*

This RREA project evaluated and informed a public dialogue on the merits of renewable resources in energy production. The project created a survey to gauge knowledge of and interest in woody biomass and bioenergy, developed educational content that is applicable and available for use throughout California, created a biomass fact sheet, and developed and led 9 workshops that focused on biomass to produce energy. As a result the project increased awareness of biomass and bioenergy. In addition, the project provided science-based information to California state legislators to address policy barriers to bioenergy viability in California and inform state bill AB1923, which was signed into law in September 2016. Due to the passage of AB1923 two new bioenergy enterprises are under development based on biomass from forest or rangelands. *"Thank you for your diligence bringing the important issue of renewable biomass power to the forefront. The workshops were very informative, well-balanced with multiple perspectives, and a great opportunity to network and share ideas."* A. Steinbeck, Mendocino Forest Products

Federal partnerships, like those supported through Cooperative Extension and RREA continue to make a difference at the local level and expand our impacts. RREA Contact: Wendy Powers, Associate Vice President, UC Agriculture and Natural Resources, 1111 Franklin St., 10th Floor, Oakland, CA 94607, (510) 987-9033, wendy.powers@ucop.edu