



University of California, RREA Popular Report, FY 2017

The University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources administers the Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) Program of California. It uses limited RREA federal funds allocated annually to implement a competitive grants program that requests proposals to develop and support projects and activities that address the educational and extension needs in the management of California's valuable renewable resources on forests and rangelands. 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 \$6 is leveraged from other sources such as state, private, and local government funds. During FY 2017 the California RREA competitive grants program funded ten extension projects focusing on these RREA goals and issues; *Ensuring Healthy Ecosystems*, Invasive Species and Land Conversation, Fragmentation, and Parcelization; *Enhancing Economic Benefits*, Economic Opportunities for Individuals and Communities; and *Enhancing Resource Management on Working Forest & Rangelands*, Forest Stewardship & Health and Rangeland Stewardship and Health. While each of the projects deserves special recognition for their accomplishments only a couple could be highlighted below.



Humboldt County Rancher on a landowner prescribed burn March 2017

➤ ***Building Capacity for Prescribed Fire on Private Lands***

RREA provided funding to build the capacity of California's private forest and range landowners to use prescribed fire as a cost-effective, ecologically appropriate land management tool. Landowners and community groups had shown significant interest in prescribed burning leading the project team to develop written and digital educational resources on using prescribed fire as a land management tool. The team hosted several informational workshops and live prescribed fire trainings to extend the information and education to Northern California private forest and range landowners and managers. A major result of the project is that California's first landowner-led cooperative Prescribed Burn Association (PBA) has been formed in Humboldt County. *"I'm now looking at hillsides in my neighborhood with a different eye and see places that we could burn successfully."* Workshop attendee Will Emerson, local fire department volunteer & landowner



Livestock and Predator Conflict Management Workshop, Lassen County February 2017

➤ ***Livestock-Predator Conflict Management Extension & Education***

There is widespread concern about the adverse effects of California's expanding wolf population on rangeland production systems and this RREA project developed extensive educational materials and a workshop, *Livestock and Predator Conflict Management*, for rangeland owners and managers held throughout Northern California. During the workshops 80 representatives of cattle, sheep and goat operations volunteered to begin documenting the impacts of predators on their operations; the team has developed a policy brief overview to share with state agencies who deal with wildlife and a website, *Livestock-Predator Conflict Management Information Hub*, showcasing the outreach material developed and several videos of *Livestock and Predator Conflict Management* rancher workshops. *"This meeting has had the best and most knowledgeable presentation on the wolf issue, thank you so much."* Participant, Lassen County Workshop

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