



University of California, RREA Popular Report, FY 2018

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. With UC RREA funding we are bringing 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 UC RREA dollar invested typically \$6 is leveraged from other sources such as state, private, and local government funds. During FY 2018 the UC RREA competitive grants program funded nine extension projects focusing on these RREA goals and issues; *Ensuring Healthy Ecosystems*, Land Conversation, Fragmentation, and Parcelization; *Enhancing Economic Benefits*, Ecosystem Services; and *Enhancing Resource Management on Working Forest & Rangelands*, Rangeland Stewardship and Health. While each of the projects deserves special recognition for their accomplishments only a couple could be highlighted below.



CE advisor Jeff Stackhouse training landowners and volunteer fire departments how to use a drip torch. October 2017.

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

This project continued to build on the success of the previous year's UC RREA funded project, helping to meet California's seemingly endless need for prescribed fire programs among landowners, non-governmental partners, range and forest managers and extension advisors. The work that has been accomplished by this UC RREA project has been groundbreaking, bringing over 1,300 stakeholders unprecedented training and educational opportunities, and informing statewide policy efforts that has resulted in several pieces of legislation passed to further alleviate challenges to prescribed fire on private lands in the state. We believe this UC RREA project has helped to reverse the culture of fear and powerlessness concerning fire and is catalyzing major changes regarding the use of fire as a management tool in California. *"Definitely was a great training exercise. Community members who were unable to attend were glad to hear how safe and successful the burns went, and it helped allay their fears. Thanks for making it all possible."* Humboldt Rancher after participating in a training burn, October 2017.



The student interns playing games and educating locals about wild horses, Alturas farmers market, July 2018.

➤ ***Natural Resource and Economic Impacts of Wild Horses in Northeastern California***

Partially supported with UC RREA funding two student interns provided education to thousands of citizens about wild horses, their impact on the local ecosystem, and the effect they have on landowners. The wild horse herds in Modoc county have increased sustainably over time and the extreme overpopulation is a critical issue of concern for land managers and the local communities. During the summer the two interns coordinated and led several outreach events that included a clean-up and education day on Devil's Garden Plateau, booths at local farmer markets and fairs, and facilitation of a local stakeholder group concerned about wild horses that meet monthly. The interns also initiated a blog, Devil Garden Horses, and the blog's eight posts have received over 3,300 hits. *"The interns brought a new level of energy that was infectious to all they worked with. They were successful at something we've always had trouble with, engaging the missing middle."* K. Sandusky, Public Information Officer, Modoc National Forest.

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