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# Keeping Landscapes Working

## *A Newsletter for Managers of Bay Area Rangelands*

### **Winter 2016 IN THIS ISSUE:**

- [From Drought to El Nino: Working Towards Better Outcomes from Tomorrow's Wildfires](#)
- [CRCC 2016 Summit and Tours](#)
- [Grazing and Conservation Part II: Cooperating with Ranchers](#)

#### **From Drought to El Nino: Working Towards Better Outcomes from Tomorrow's Wildfires**

Although it is difficult to think about wildfire while we are benefiting from much needed rainfall, US Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced this week that wildfires burned a record **10.1 MILLION acres** across the United States in 2015. There were more than 50 fires that exceeded 50,000 acres each; of those, 20 fires exceeded more than 100,000 acres each. While there is no doubt that wildland fire can have environmental benefits and is even necessary for some ecosystem functions, many of this past year's wildland fires were so big, and burned so hot and fast that they resulted in devastating consequences.

In 2015, more than 4,500 homes and other structures were destroyed by wildfires and a total of 13 wildland firefighters, including 7 U.S. Forest Service firefighters, lost their lives in the line of duty. In addition to loss of life and property, these deadly fires have negative conservation outcomes including vegetation change, habitat loss, carbon emissions, loss of endemic species. Fires also impact the sustainability of working rangelands and forest, putting additional pressure on conservation efforts.

The 11<sup>th</sup> annual California Rangeland Conservation Coalition Summit and Tours will address challenges and opportunities to improve rangeland management to reduce the incidence (scope and severity) of catastrophic wildfire. Group discussions during the summit will consider lessons learned from recent fires and where we go from here.

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## 2016 TOURS AND SUMMIT

### REGISTRATION



### **Thursday, January 21 - Choice of Tours**

[Butte Fire \(Calaveras County\)](#)

[Rim Fire \(Tuolumne County\)](#)

[Tesla Fire \(San Joaquin County\)](#)

### **Friday, January 22 - Summit Meeting**

Robert Cabral Agricultural Ctr, 2101 E Earhart Ave #100, Stockton [DIRECTIONS](#)

[PRINT AGENDA](#)

[REGISTRATION](#)



## 2016 SUMMIT

### Wildfire and Rangeland Management



### Mediating Impacts to Conservation and Ranching

Friday, January 22, Ag Center in Stockton

[Robert Cabral Agricultural Center, 2101 E Earhart Ave #100, Stockton](#)

- 8:30** Gathering, Light Breakfast, Conversation, and Viewing of Photographs, Posters and Booths
- 9:00** **Welcome**  
Bre Owens, Chair, California Rangeland Conservation Coalition  
Sheila Barry, University of California Cooperative Extension
- 9:15** **Bill Stewart, UC Berkeley**  
– Framing California's Working Landscapes as Solutions Rather than Problems
- 9:45** **Anne Yost, US Forest Service, retired**  
– Barriers and Opportunities on Public Land to manage vegetation to reduce wildfire risk  
– Impacts of catastrophic wildfire to California's forest lands
- 10:15** **Justin Oldfield, California Cattlemen's Association**  
– A Beef Industry Perspective: Economic, social and range management impacts caused by wildlife
- 10:45** **Break**
- 11:00** Ranchers' perspective on Wildfire - Impacts to ranching and lessons learned  
**Doug Jones**, Calaveras County  
**Shaun Crook**, Tuolumne County
- 11:30** **Larry Forero, UCCE**  
– Economic Impact of wildfire, historical perspective on rangeland vegetation management as it relates to wildfire risk
- Noon** **LUNCH - Hamburgers with all the fixins' by San Joaquin-Stanislaus CattleWomen**
- 1:00** **Mary Marsh, High School Youth Delegate**  
– Fire Management: Barriers and Opportunities
- 1:10** **Tony Mediati, Cal Fire**  
– Wildland Fire Fighting, Ranching and Vegetation Management: Opportunities to Reduce Fire Damage and Increase Wildfire Suppression Effectiveness
- 1:40** **Tom Scott, UC Berkeley**  
– Wildfires and conservation: the dangers of objectively assessing the virtues of something that isn't an object
- 2:10** **Leslie Roche, UC Davis**  
– Grazing management after wildfire: State of the science
- 2:40** **GROUP ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS**
- 3:30** **Adjourn**

### Grazing and Conservation Part II: Cooperating with Ranchers

Jan 28, 2016 9:30AM-1:00PM

David Brower Center in downtown Berkeley

In March 2011, an overwhelming number of people from a variety of fields attended the Open Space Council's Gathering entitled Grazing and Conservation. The Gathering provided an overview of Bay Area rangelands and the art and science of grazing management to achieve

conservation purposes.

The Open Space Council – in partnership with UC Cooperative Extension, Elkhorn Slough Coastal Training Program, California Rangeland Conservation Coalition, Central Coast Rangeland Coalition, and California Rangeland Trust – is building on the 2011 meeting with Grazing and Conservation Part II: Cooperating with Ranchers. This Gathering will take the conversation further and continue to explore this complex and important topic.

Join us for our Rainy Season Gathering on January 28, 2016 to hear perspectives on the benefits and challenges of working with ranchers for grazing to benefit conservation on public and/or private conservation lands in the Bay Area. The speakers include:

- Robert Doyle, General Manager, East Bay Regional Park District
- Justin Fields, 5th generation rancher, Santa Clara County
- Nancy Schaefer, Program Manager, California Rangeland Trust

The Gathering will be held January 28, 2016 from 9:30am-1pm at the David Brower Center in downtown Berkeley. Program starts at 10am but no beverages are permitted in the theater. Join us at 9:30 for coffee and tea, and lunch will be served at 12pm.

[TICKETS](#)

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