

# ***Rangeland Soils: They Aren't Just Dirt!***

*Rancher and Rangeland Advisor Perspectives*

## **CENTRAL COAST RANGELAND COALITION**

**Spring Meeting**

**Thursday, April 19**

**9:00 AM - 5:30 PM**

**Work Ranch, near San Miguel**

*www.workranch.com*

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Join the Central Coast Rangelands Coalition for a day of exploring rangeland soils through the rancher and ranch advisor's eyes. The always fascinating mix of researchers, agency personnel, educators, conservationists, ranchers, consultants, and conservation lands managers will convene at the Work Ranch in southern Monterey County for a day of learning and discussion focusing especially on rangeland soils.

*\*\*\$20 registration 'at the door' - helps cover costs\*\**

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## ***AGENDA***

9:00           **Welcome, registration and morning coffee**

9:30           **Preview of the day and orientation**

### **Introductions**

#### **Ranch Host Welcome**

*George and Elaine Work*

#### **Keeping Water on Your Ranch**

*Ken Oster, Area Resource Soil Scientist, NRCS*

**-Break-**

#### **Life in the Soil**

*Rob Rutherford (CalPoly Animal Sciences Dept.) and Marti Rutherford*

#### **Biochar for Soil Fertility and Carbon Sequestration in California: A Student's Pilot Study**

*Emmet Woods, Student, CalPoly*

12:30           **Lunch (provided)**

## AGENDA, Continued – afternoon field session

**NOTE:** *afternoon field sites are in a remote location on the Work Ranch, necessitating travel via carpool on ranch roads (some transport provided). Due to logistical transportation difficulties, please plan on being present through the end of the session.*

### 1:30 **Field-based learning**

*Small group learning at field sites with various presenters*

*Besides the listed individuals, each site will also have ranchers and other rangeland experts as available.*

Site 1: Examining a deep soil profile (grassland with annual grasses) – soil nutrient data, soil carbon data, soil texture, root depth, comparisons with site 2; participants will learn to recognize soil characteristics and to interpret soil analyses. *Bev Harben (NRCS), MRLA Soil Survey Project Leader*

Site 2: Examining a deep soil profile (grassland with perennial grasses) – soil nutrient data, soil carbon data, soil texture, root depth, comparisons with site 1; participants will learn to use a soil health rating system. *Phil Smith (NRCS), Soil Scientist*

Site 3: Vertebrate interactions with rangelands – participants will understand factors related to ‘animal impact’ as well as how to evaluate soil compaction. *Royce Larsen (UC Coop Extension) & Karl Striby (NRCS), Rangeland Advisors*

Site 4: Life in the soil – participants will examine factors influencing soil microbiology to better understand soil ecology. *Rob Rutherford (CalPoly) Professor, Animal Sciences Department; Marti Rutherford; Ken Oster (NRCS) Soils Scientist; Emmet Woods (CalPoly) Student.*

### 5:30 **Program ends**

**REGISTRATION:** Participants must register online at [www.elkhornsloughctp.org](http://www.elkhornsloughctp.org) or by contacting Grey Hayes, below. \$20 registration fee ‘at the door.’

### **Sponsors**

Many thanks to the program sponsors, including the Work Family and the Work Ranch, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, UC Cooperative Extension, Elkhorn Slough Coastal Training Program, and all of the dedicated individuals on the CCRC’s Steering Committee.

### **Directions to The Work Ranch**

Use navigation tools to 75903 Ranchita Canyon Road • San Miguel • California • 93451  
Check out the directions at the website: <http://www.workranch.com/map.html>

**For more information,** contact: Grey Hayes (831) 274-8700 or [grey@elkhornslough.org](mailto:grey@elkhornslough.org)