

Society for Range Management



CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC SECTION

PROCEEDINGS

California-Pacific Section Society for Range Management Symposium

Grazing for Biological Conservation

Lessons Learned from Grazing Studies

Edited by

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Introduction

This symposium addressed a new paradigm in regards to grazing and conservation of western grasslands and associated species.

It has been well established that grazing by domestic livestock modifies plant and animal communities. The assumption is often that this modification degrades habitat for native plants and animals. But as more threatened and endangered species are recognized in the west, an increasing number of these species occur in habitats grazed by domestic livestock. Researchers are no longer simply looking at grazing versus rest; instead they are evaluating grazing strategies that vary intensity, timing and/or species of domestic herbivore to achieve specific habitat conservation objectives. They are also identifying management tradeoffs: the positive versus negative impacts of grazing strategies on various conservation objectives.



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The fact that properly managed livestock grazing and conservation can be mutually compatible is significant and completely changes the way conservationists frame and solve grassland conservation issues. Livestock grazing not only becomes another tool that can be used against the threats that degrade habitat, but is also an important strategy for conserving large landscapes across public and private lands.

This symposium featured researchers from various disciplines and affiliations who have been studying the impact of grazing on specific conservation issues in the western United States. Their research provided valuable insight for the design of future of grazing/conservation studies, and called attention to management considerations for conserving grasslands worldwide.

Speakers and Presentation Titles

Opening presentation Dr. James Bartolome, University of California, Berkeley
Components of managed grazing and complexity of conducting grazing studies

Dr. Fred Provenza, Utah State University
Using our knowledge of livestock behavior towards conservation efforts

Dr. Grey Hayes, Elkhorn Slough Coastal Training Program
Cattle grazing and California coastal prairie annual wildflowers conservation

Dr. Jaymee Marty, The Nature Conservancy
Grazing impacts on California vernal pool grasslands

Dr. David Germano, California State University, Bakersfield
Managing exotic grasses and conserving declining species

Dr. Barbara Allen-Diaz, University of California, Berkeley
Long-term grazing study in spring-fed wetlands reveals tradeoffs

Theresa Becchetti, University of California Cooperative Extension
Riparian grazing strategies and their impact on riparian health

Dr. Doug Bell, East Bay Regional Park District
Lizard abundance in managed California grassland

Joe DiDonato, East Bay Regional Park District
Endangered amphibian research on grazed lands

Dr. Barbara Allen-Diaz, University of California, Berkeley
Grazing impacts to Yosemite Toads on the Stanislaus and Sierra National Forest

Sasha Gennet, University of California, Berkeley
Effects of vegetation structure as a result of grazing on grassland songbirds

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Dr. Larry Ford, Rangeland Management and Conservation Science Consultant
The Central Coast Rangeland Coalition's rangeland ecosystem health indicators project

Stephanie Larson, Oregon State University
Grazing sinuosity - determining where cattle will graze based on where they have been

Dr. Wolfgang Pittroff, University of California, Davis
Prescribing herbivory for fire fuels management

Dr. Susan Marshall, Humboldt State University
Soil compaction and strength; measurement methods and influences on perennial native grasses

Dan Macon, Nevada County Land Trust
Grazing for change: highlighting Californian ranchers grazing for conservation

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