

University of California, RREA Popular Report, FY 2023

The University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources administers the Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) Program of California and uses limited RREA funds allocated annually to implement a competitive grants program for proposals that address the educational and outreach needs in the management of California's valuable renewable resources on forests and rangelands. For each UC RREA dollar invested, an average of \$6 is leveraged from other sources such as state, private, and local government funds. Five UC RREA projects were funded focusing on these RREA Critical Issues; Landowner Engagement, Invasive Species, and Wildfire Prevention and Management.

❖ Extending information about Virtual Fencing

This project disseminated evidence-based knowledge and resources on the new Virtual Fencing (VF) technology, which contains livestock within user-defined boundaries and reduces the need for physical fences. The project targeted a diverse audience, including livestock producers, policymakers, land managers, and the public. The educational content focused on VF's potential to transform livestock grazing practices, addressing critical concerns like wildfire risks, drought, invasive weeds, and habitat fragmentation. Activities involved creating a dedicated webpage, publishing a comprehensive VF reference guide, and hosting workshops and events, reaching nearly 1,000 people. Insights from surveys showed that all prospective users would adopt a VF system into their livestock operations, but highlighted cost as a significant barrier. To address this, UCCE is exploring collaboration with entities like the Natural Resource Conservation Service to expand cost-share programs.



UCCE presenting VF technology at a community event

❖ Controlling invasive species and restoring habitat for native amphibians



Volunteers capturing bullfrogs at night

This project aimed at restoring wetlands at the Hopland Research and Extension Center in California's oak woodlands, addressing habitat degradation caused by changes in land management practices and invasive species like bullfrogs. Through interventions like thinning non-native plants and relocating native plants, UCCE aimed to enhance pond habitats for native amphibians, particularly the endangered red-legged frog. Using educational workshops, field days, and presentations, UCCE engaged conservationists, landowners, and volunteer community members in wetland restoration activities and invasive bullfrog removal. Additionally, monitoring initiatives employed acoustic devices and volunteer observations to assess bullfrog populations, which were less frequently detected after warm summer months.

"[The UCCE Advisor, along with many partners,] helped attendees understand creek restoration and maintenance in ways that allowed them to implement best practices on their own land." – Project Coordinator at a partnering university

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