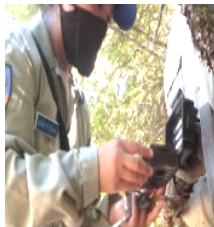


University of California: RREA Popular Report, FY 2020

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. Over the past 3 years for every RREA dollar invested an average of \$5 has been leveraged from other sources such as state and local governments and private organizations. In FY 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic ongoing public health orders restricting on-site work and in-person gatherings, only four of eleven UC RREA funded projects were completed; the remaining seven projects have been extended for a year to allow for changes to adapt the project documents and delivery from in-person to web-based. The FY 2020 UC RREA projects funded focused RREA Critical Issues; *Ecosystem Services, Invasive Species, Public Awareness & Youth Engagement, Rural Communities and Wildfire Prevention & Management*. While each project completed during this challenging and unprecedented year deserves special recognition for their impact and outcomes, we can only highlight two.

- **Building Capacity and Expanding the Reach of UC ANR Through Collaboration with the California Conservation Corp**

CCC CalNat class member deploying camera traps & analyzing data to monitor wildlife. August 2020



This pilot project established a formal relationship between the UC California Naturalist Program (CalNat) and the California Conservation Corps (CCC). This project increased the capacity of natural resource extension educators to deliver a research-based program in collaboration with the country's oldest and largest conservation-oriented workforce development program, the California Conservation Corps. The project designed, developed, and delivered a CalNat course tailored to the needs of the CCC; data shows 43% of CCC enrollees have not graduated high school. Due to conditions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic the size of the group was reduced and 17 CCC members successfully completed the California Naturalist course and requirements for certification. The CCC members certified were provided with a critical missing link and deeper understanding of the science and research that unpins their conservation work projects that serve landowner and managers.

..very informative and hands-on, it was a real good experience all the way around." Edison Rodriguez Marte, Course participant

- **Preparing Ranchers for the Next Drought: Lessons from California's 1000-year Drought**

Ranchers are more likely to adopt new practices when they know these practices have been successful for their peers. Combining this on-the ground perspective with rigorous analysis of survey data collected the project provided ranchers and policy makers with relevant and applied strategies for coping with future climate uncertainty. When COVID-19 public health orders restricted in-person meetings the project quickly pivoted to create a bi-weekly webinar series "*Working Rangelands Wednesdays*." The seven webinars focused on drought and climate-adaptation topics and also offered rancher-to-rancher learning opportunities engaging a significant number of stakeholders with over 1,000 registrants and YouTube views.

"..well put together on an important topic and the delivery allowed me to learn" Anonymous webinar participant, May 2020



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