

University of California: RREA Popular Report, FY 2022

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. Eight UC RREA projects were funded focusing on these RREA Critical Issues; Invasive Species, Wildfire Prevention and Management, Public Awareness and Youth Engagement, Fish and Wildlife Habitat, and Water and Wetlands. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, several of these projects were extended from the previous year and/or have been adapted to allow for safer implementation as the pandemic continues.

❖ Grasshopper Control Prevents Forage and Economic Loss

Grasshoppers are a sporadic pest, with boom-and-bust population dynamics. In 2019, ranchers identified grasshopper outbreaks as a problem, and as ongoing drought conditions in California have favored grasshopper populations, the pests have devoured massive amounts of forage intended for livestock. This outreach and education effort provided livestock producers with the tools to prevent damage that had occurred in the previous years from happening again. With educational seminars, demonstrations, and site visits, the project encouraged producers to come together to treat larger acreages. Some areas treated were as large as 500 acres, a change from previous years when spot treatments were used less successfully. This integrated pest management strategy that livestock producers have adopted will save them from economic hardship in future years.



Grasshopper impact demonstration site

❖ Preparing Future Leaders and Conserving Water



Student collects and identifies specimens from a lake at a field camp

The Water Education and Stewardship Project (WESP) created a comprehensive educational curriculum that targeted 4th through 6th grade youth and involved hands-on, inquiry-based environmental science to improve knowledge, awareness, and engagement about water and aquatic ecosystems. WESP aims to help young people understand, care about, and manage water wisely and sustainably. As future leaders, it is important for youth to gain appreciation for and knowledge of renewable resources early in life. Participants of WESP demonstrated statistically significant improvements in understanding water properties and water's role and importance in the environment, and 35% percent of participants indicated they were conserving water because of the project.

“I have become a better leader and a better teacher.” – Water Education and Stewardship Project teen teacher

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