UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Agriculture and Natural Resources



University of California: RREA Popular Report, FY 2021

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. UC ANR's goal areas for FY2021 included Ensuring Healthy Ecosystems, Enhancing Economic Benefits, and Enhancing Resource Management on Working Forests and Rangelands. Two of the six UC RREA extension projects funded in FFY2021 are highlighted below.

California Rancher Sustainability Assessment (CRSA) Tool Supports Ranch Management and Resource Sustainability

Cartoon used in the California Rancher Assessment



This project piloted a self-assessment tool for California's ranching community. The CRSA allows ranchers to reflect on their practices and opportunities to improve land stewardship. The tool includes a clearinghouse of resources to support improved practices and a tailored report with recommendations. Over time, these data can document progress and establish a generational record. Furthermore, UC Cooperative Extension views the tool as a means for sharing aggregated, de-identified data with key stakeholders such as water quality control boards and elected officials to identify new supports and increase understanding of how California ranchers benefit the larger community by protecting resources, such as clean water, wildlife, and producing healthy food. Currently, over half the rangelands in California are grazed by livestock and the industry accounts for \$3.4 billion annually.

"If we can teach the public what ranchers do, why they do it, and how ranching benefits the larger community, we can increase the sustainability of ranches and rangelands."

-V-6 Ranch Monterey County, CA

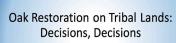
Improving management of oak woodlands on tribal lands in Southern California through virtual workshops

UCCE partnered with the Pala Band of Mission Indians and tribal-serving organizations to develop a series of 13 virtual seminars (270 participants), online resources for managing oak woodlands on tribal lands, and a virtual restoration workshop on oak management (140 participants). Eighty percent of attendees reported learning valuable information about oak woodlands, oak species, invasive pest threats, and drought and fire. Survey respondents from the restoration workshop (n=62) intended to adopt practices learned at the session. While COVID-19 restrictions prevented in-person gatherings, participants learned about practical information on harvesting, processing, and planting acorns for restoration, post-planting protection for seedlings, and appropriate species and site selection for plantings. Tribal communities across California have relied on acorns as a staple of their diet for generations.

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Slide from Oak Restoration Workshop Presentation



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"That was very invigorating! Very streamlined knowledge sharing."

-Oak Restoration Workshop Participant August 2021