

# Creating a Multi-Site Community of Practice for Research and Extension

Background



Hopland and Sierra Foothills Research and Extension Centers (RECs) each have decades of history as successful research sites, serving their local stakeholders, UCANR, the broader UC system, and a strong global network of scientists. To ensure these sites continue to provide the best possible support for researchers seeking answers to today's most pressing environmental challenges, staff have teamed up to create and nurture a multi-site community of practice. A new program manager (me! 🤖) has been tasked with devising strategies for the successful growth of this community. Here, I outline some of our progress and plans for the future. Join me in conceptualizing this collaborative and interdisciplinary path forward for the RECs!

Objectives and Goals

Short term

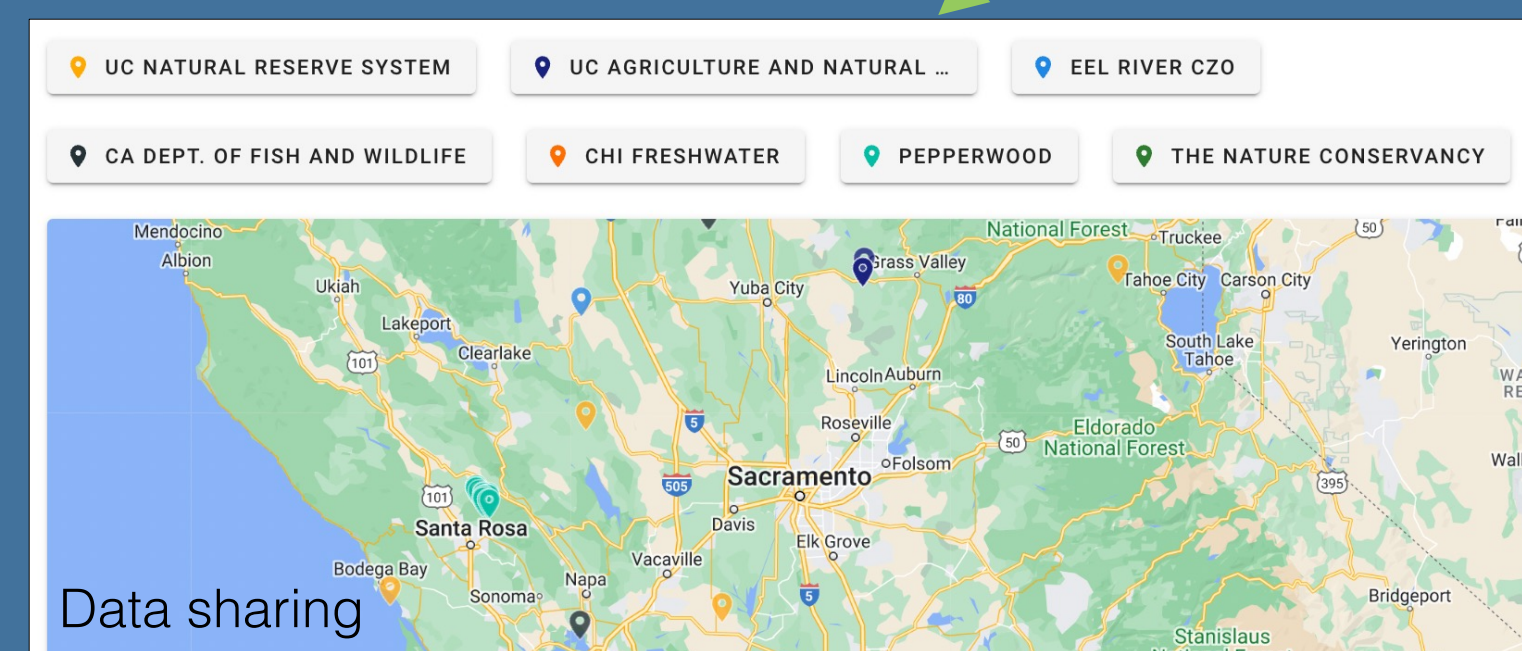
- Website overhaul
  - Researcher biographies to highlight diverse collaborators
  - New links to scientific articles, researchers' webpages, interactive media, and more
- Increased social media engagement
- Improved communication
- Updated bibliography
- Promotion of public values



Scan here to check out one of our updated webpages 🗨️

Mid term

- Annual research symposium
- Presentations of site-specific research
- Iteratively discuss and refine community values
- Build and strengthen personal and professional relationships; encourage new partnerships
- Share REC updates
- Multi-REC partnerships
- Paired and comparative studies
- Working Group-style networking
- Enhanced data sharing
- Official data sharing agreement for new projects
- Statewide big data



HREC will soon join SFREC as a member of the Dendra network which shares weather and climatic data across UCANR, TNC, private partners, and more, so that our scientists have access to information being collected statewide. Collaborative relationships lead to better science!

Long term

- New and expanded campus collaborations
- High school – undergrad – UC Pipeline
- System-wide REC research and extension collaborations
- Shared solutions-oriented mission

Collaborators gather at HREC to discuss the feasibility of a new cattle lease which would help establish multi-site research agendas with SFREC.

