

Building more resilient and sustainable food systems:

1. Evaluating the role of non-crop areas as habitat for insect pests and natural enemies
2. Modelling the effect of climatic factors on pest populations

Protecting and restoring ecosystems:

1. Assessing prescribed burning for invasive species control

Maripaula Valdes-Berriz, SRA III

PI: Oleg Daugovish

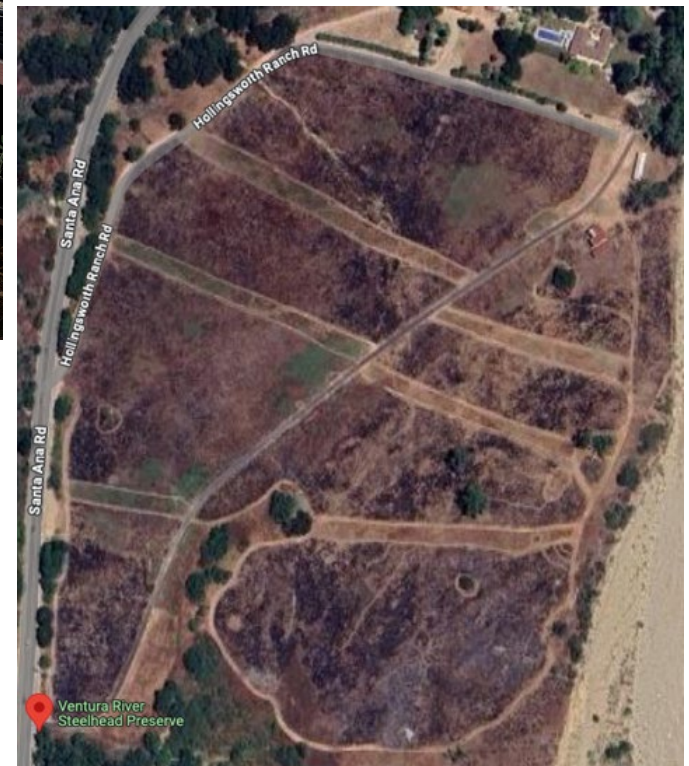
In collaboration of UCCE Ventura County advisors and staff

Supported by the Thelma Hansen Fund Competitive Grant Program

 **UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Assessing Consecutive Applications of Prescribed Fire and Seeding for Reducing *Centaurea spp.* Cover for Habitat Restoration in the Ventura River Watershed

- Assesses the effectiveness of burning and broadcast seeding for decreasing the density of yellow star thistle and increasing native species cover
- Ventura River Steelhead Preserve
- Target species: yellow star thistle and other invasives
- Burning and seeding treatments
- Present at field days and stakeholder meetings on the effectiveness and challenges of using prescribed fire.
- Partners: Ojai Valley Land Conservancy, VC Resource Conservation District, CALFIRE, VC Fire Dept.

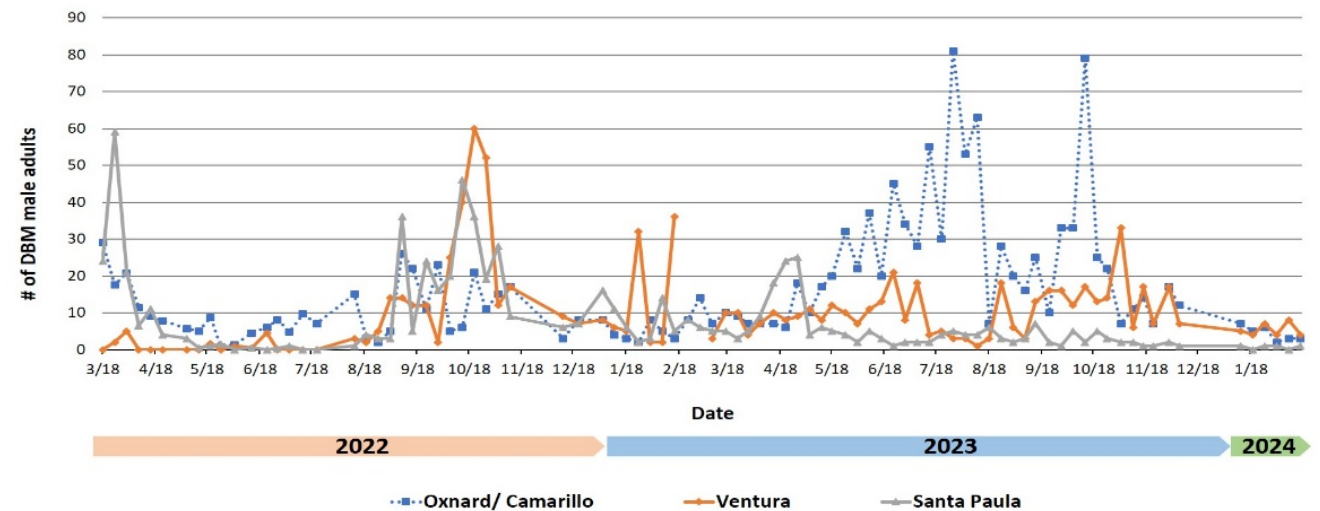


Uncovering the climatic, seasonal, and landscape factors that affect abundance and management of Diamondback Moth (*Plutella xylostella*) in Ventura County

- New! Investigates how climatic and environmental conditions affect DBM abundance (counts of adult males) in Ventura County
- Assess sources of climatic data for modelling DBM abundance
- 2 years of weekly DBM counts (10-12 traps) from 3 VC regions
- Share finding with PCAs and growers through presentations, articles and an interactive web tool
- Partners: Local PCAs supported monitoring efforts, UC IGIS



Average Counts of Diamondback Moth Adult Males in 3 Areas of Ventura County



Results and Outcomes


Ditch project

- ESA Conference (Aug. 2024)
- PAPA (September 2024)
- CAPCA (Feb. 2025)
- Other meetings and conferences
- Industry and peer-reviewed articles
- Bilingual recommendations for ditch veg. management



Rx burning for YST

- Coordinated a workshop/field day in Ventura County for Rx burning and grazing (April 2024)
- Presentation at CA Wildfire Conference 2023 field day
- Newsletters/ posts and presentations by OVLC and VCRCD



FIELD DAY
PRESCRIBED GRAZING AND BURNING FOR FUEL MANAGEMENT AND INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL

VENTURA AND SANTA BARBARA COUNTIES
APRIL 26, 2024 9:00AM - 12:30PM

Location: Oak Grove School, 220 W. Lomita Ave. Ojai
Register [here](#) or go to bit.ly/fieldday26

9:00am Meet and introduce speakers.

9:10am Michael Leicht (Ventura Brush Goats) – The role of grazing for fuels and weed management.

9:50am Monica Matthews (VCRCD) – The Ventura Prescribe Burn Association and considerations for planning prescribed burns.

10:30am Maripaula Valdes-Berriz (UCCE Ventura) – Consecutive prescribed burning for invasive plant species management at the Steelhead Preserve by the Ventura River.

11:15am Anne-Marie Parkinson (SBFSC) – Building Resilience: Regional Wildfire Mitigation Program.

12:00pm Discussion

12:30 END



DBM modelling

- Improved understanding of DBM dynamics in VC - recommendations for management
- Extend this knowledge to stakeholders through presentations, publications, and an interactive web tool (through Shiny app)
- Industry and peer-reviewed publications

