

Biomass reductions reduce fire hazards

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Grazing in California / Ventura County



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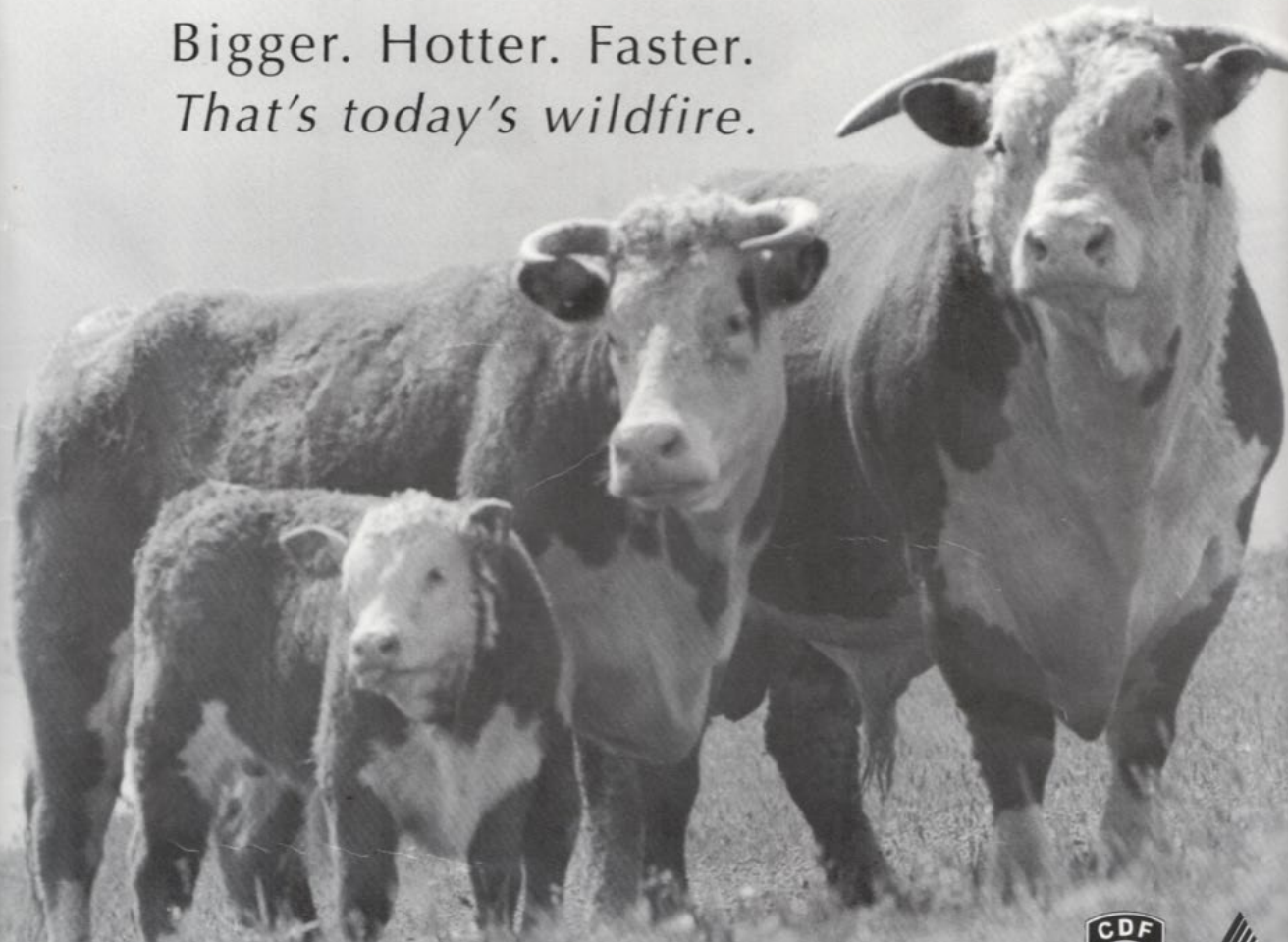


Targeted grazing: old thing, new way



THIS FAMILY COULD SAVE YOUR FAMILY

Bigger. Hotter. Faster.
That's today's wildfire.



“Livestock can help stop fires before they start. They can save your life and property by establishing defensible space...”

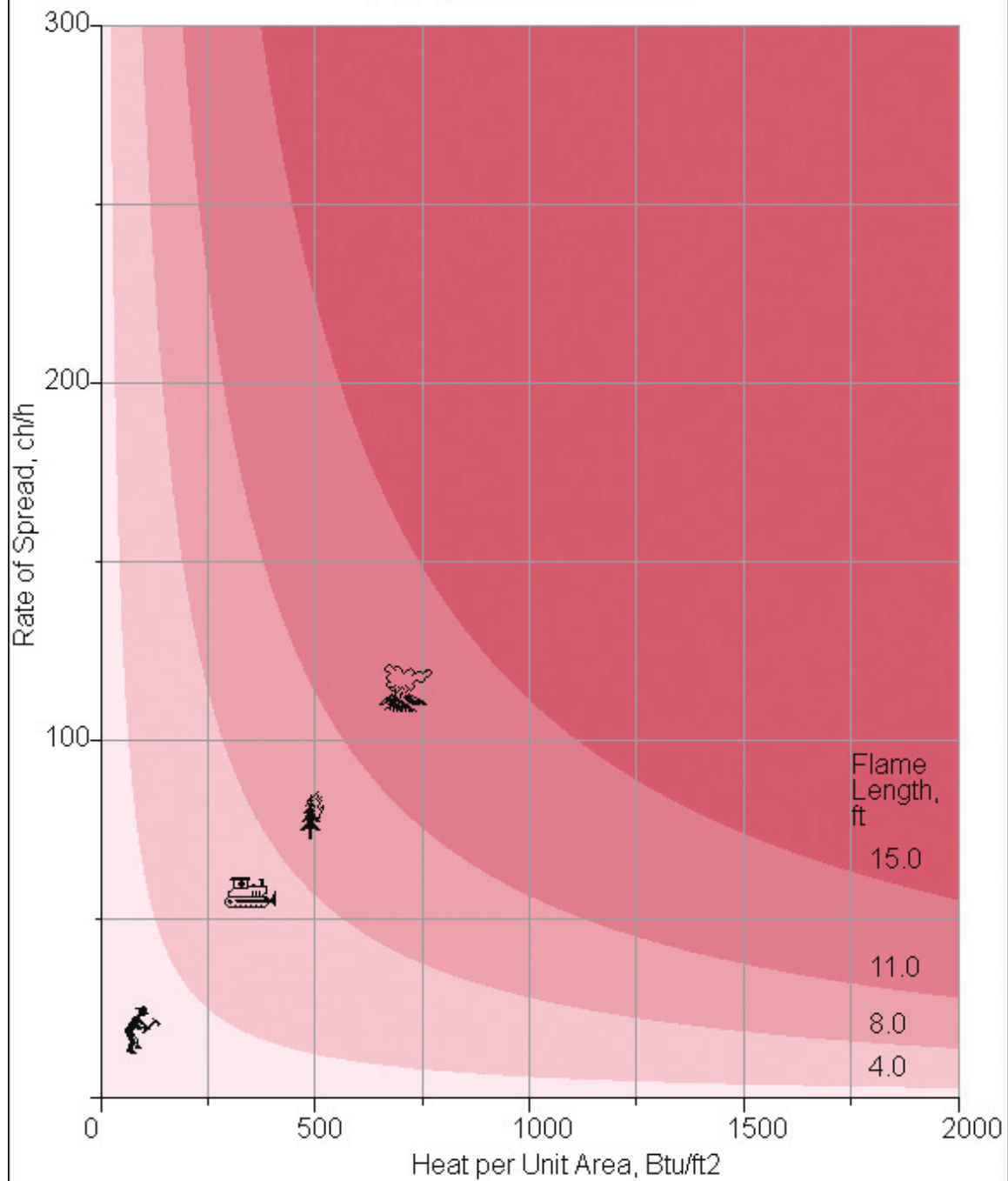
-CDF Director in the 1990s,
Richard Wilson

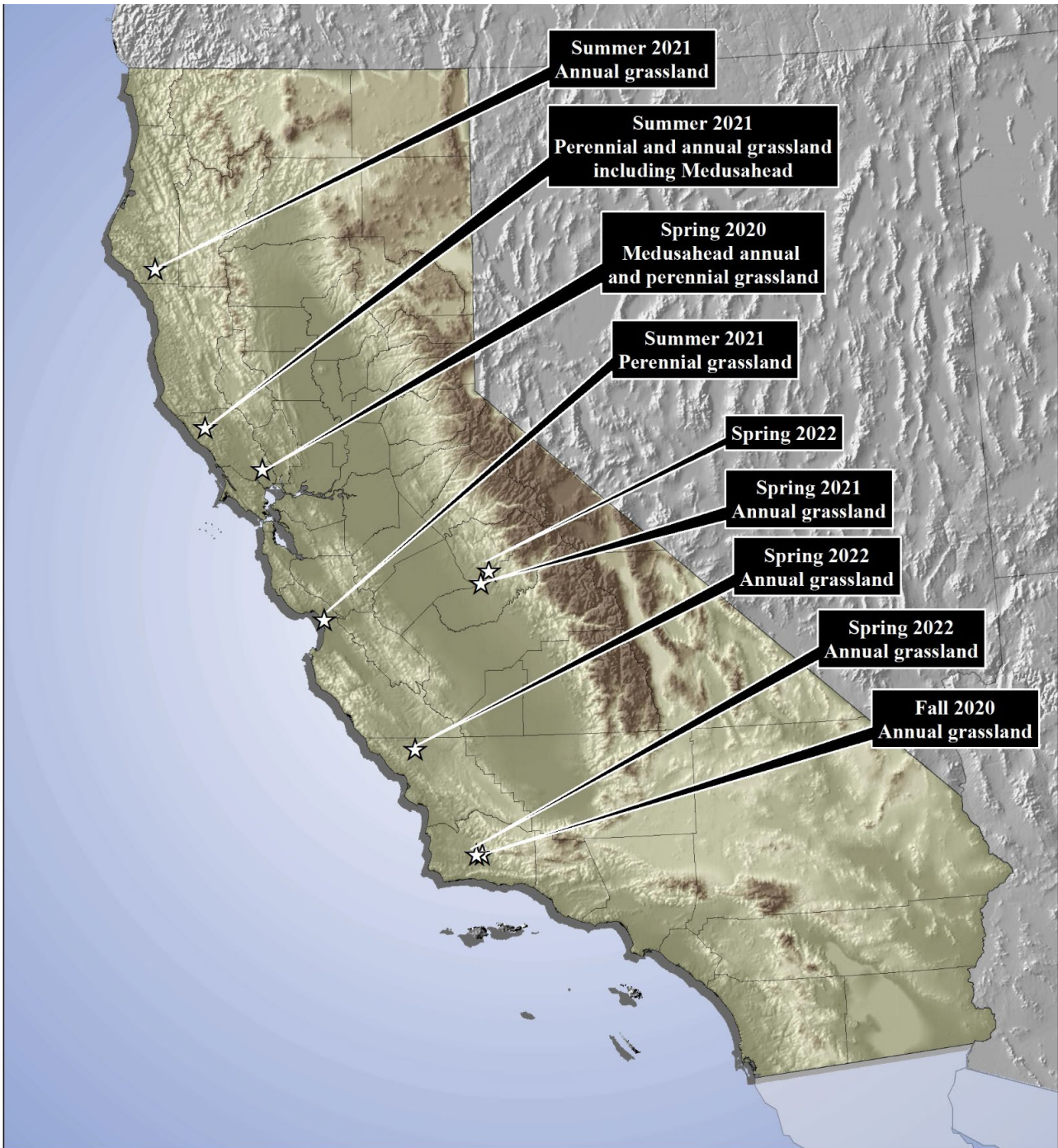
Courtesy of Lynn Huntsinger

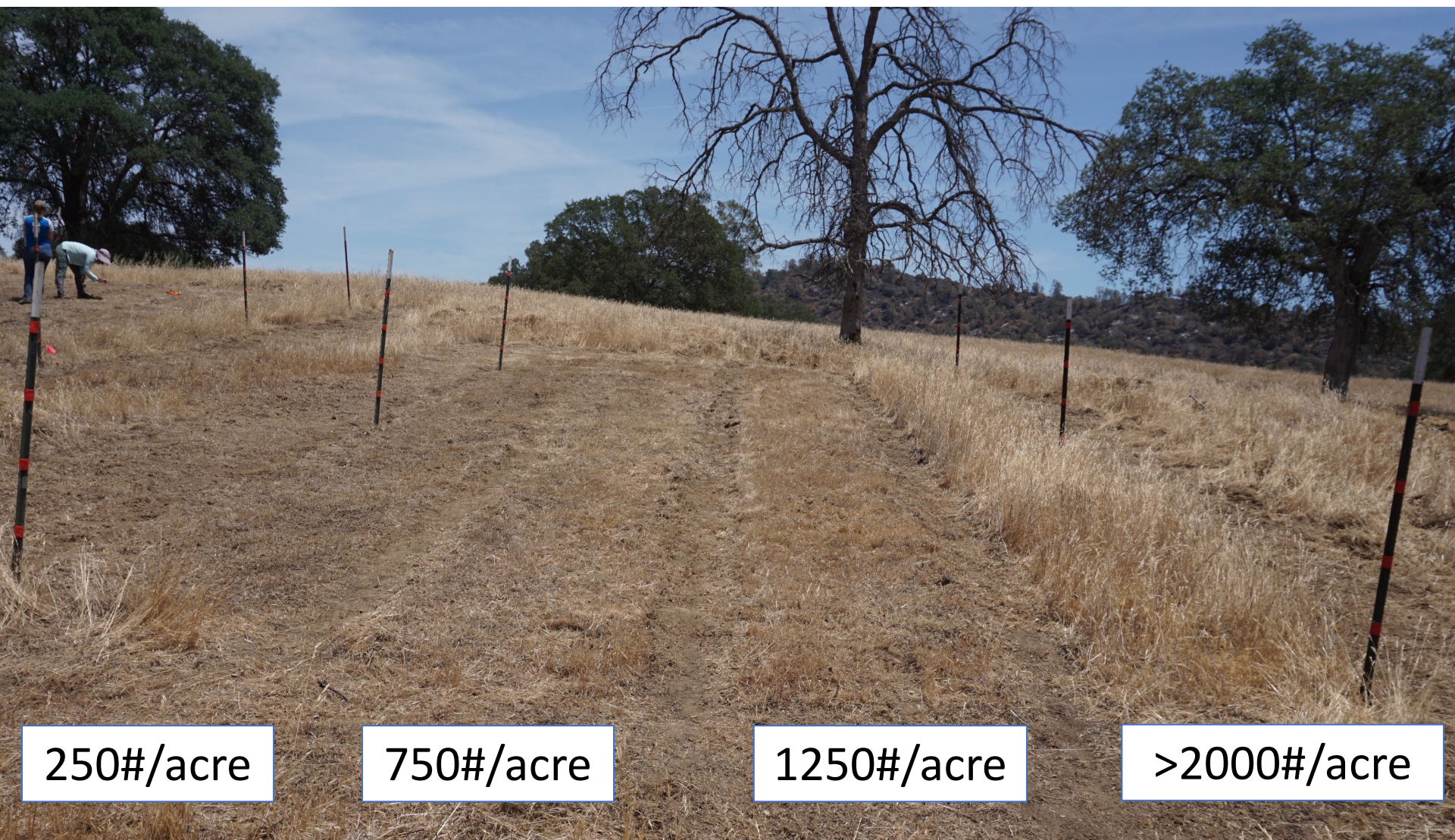


SURFACE FIRE BEHAVIOR

Fire Characteristics Chart





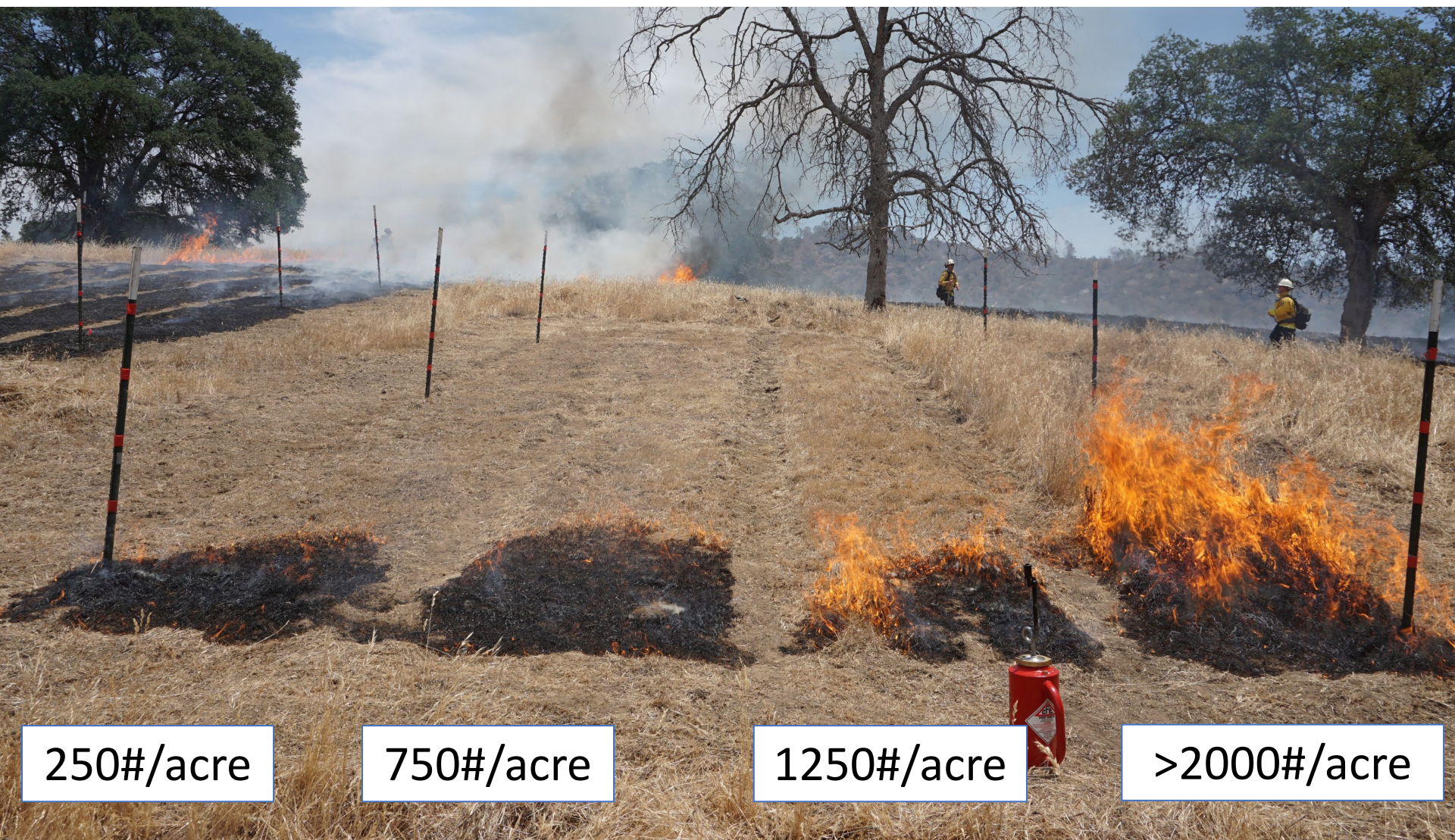


250#/acre

750#/acre

1250#/acre

>2000#/acre

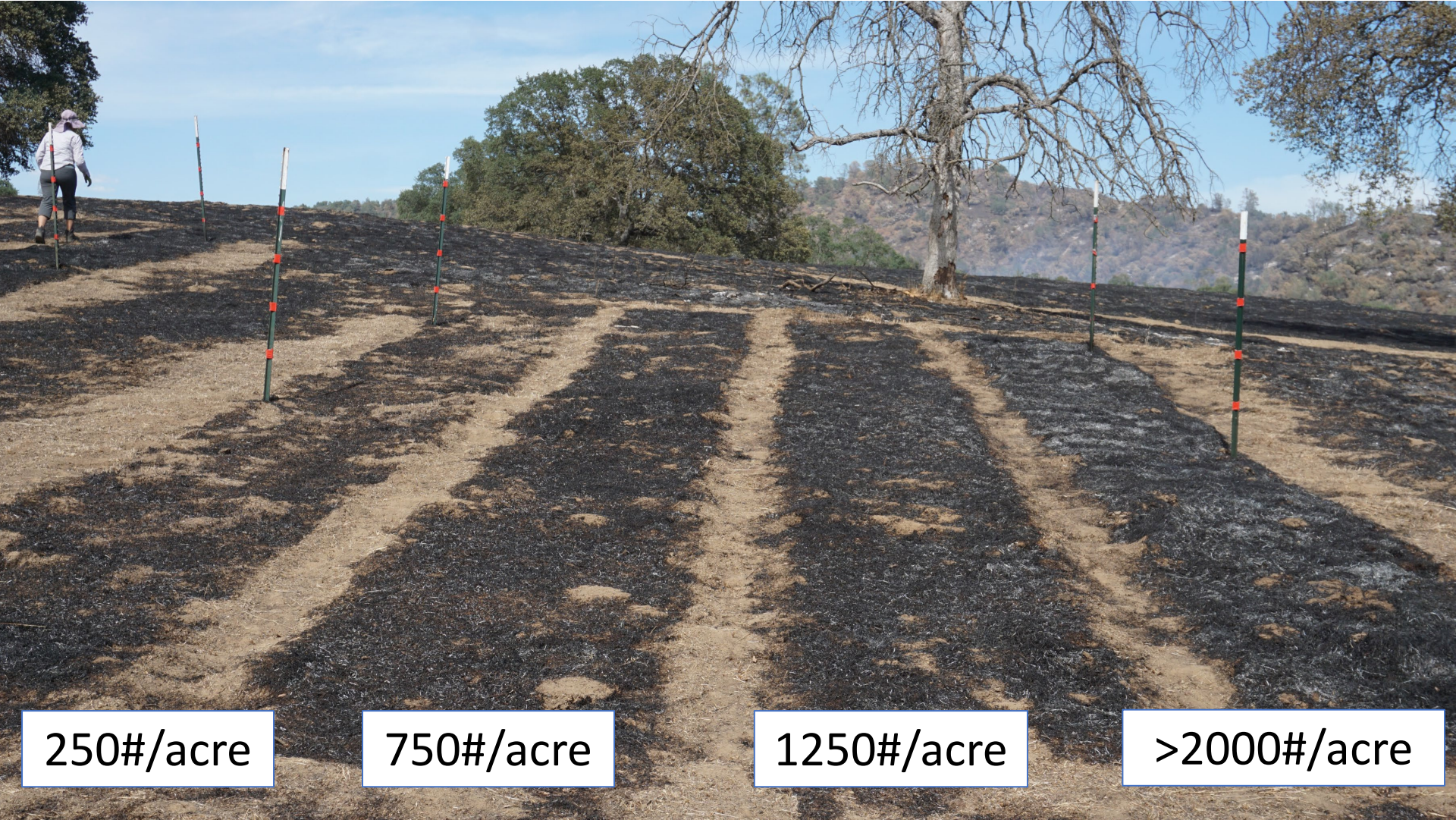


250#/acre

750#/acre

1250#/acre

>2000#/acre



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750#/acre

1250#/acre

>2000#/acre

Pasture Management

Biomass Range (lbs/acre)	Grazing Level	Potential Fire Behavior
>4,000	Ungrazed	Highly likely flames above 4 ft. and all biomass is burned
2,500 to 4,000	Generally ungrazed except productive coastal sites	Possible flames above 4 ft and majority burned
1,250 to 2,500	Light grazing	Flames likely below 4 ft and fire will not be stopped
400 to 1,250	Moderate grazing	Flames below 4 ft and fire may be stopped
<400	Heavy grazing	Flames below 4 ft and highly likely fire stopped

A circular wire mesh enclosure is set up in a field of tall, dry, yellowish-brown grass. The enclosure is made of metal wire supported by several vertical posts. In the background, there are rolling hills with scattered trees under a clear sky.

Ungrazed (more than 4,000 lbs/acre)

Santa Barbara County: 6,258 lbs

Ungrazed or very lightly grazed
(4,000 to 2,500 lbs/acre)

Los Alamos
10/30/20 RDM
Plot 1

Santa Barbara County: 3,140 lbs/acre

Light to moderate (2,500 to 1,250 lbs/acre)



Santa Barbara County: 1,350 lbs/acre

Moderate to heavy (1,250 to 400 lbs/acre)



Ventura County: 1,158.4 lbs/acre

Moderate to heavy (1,250 to 400 lbs/acre)



Ventura County: 946 lbs/acre

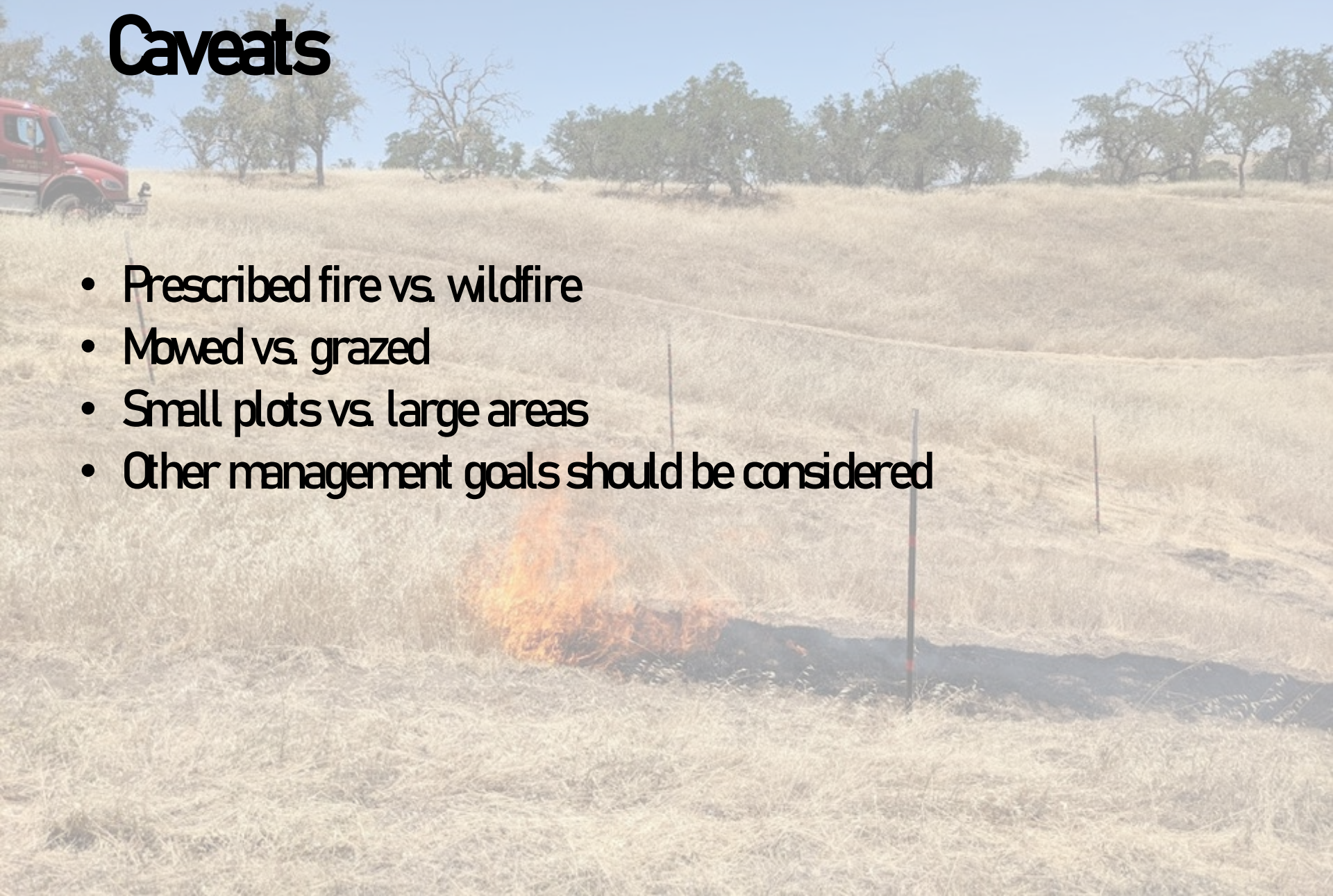
Very heavy grazing (under 400 lbs/acre)

A photograph of a dry, brown hillside under a clear blue sky. The hillside is covered in sparse, dry grass and patches of bare soil, indicating the effects of very heavy grazing. The sky is a solid, clear blue.

San Joaquin County: (315 lbs/acre)

Caveats

- Prescribed fire vs. wildfire
- Mowed vs. grazed
- Small plots vs. large areas
- Other management goals should be considered



Acknowledgements

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