

PRESCRIBED GRAZING: A FLEXIBLE TOOL FOR FIRE & FUELS MANAGEMENT IN CALIFORNIA

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CHALLENGES IN CALIFORNIA AND BEYOND

FOR PRACTITIONERS

- Insurance, Liability
- Permitting and CEQA
- Inflexible grazing agreements
- Wage and labor challenges
- Climate change
- Unpredictable weather
- Institutional resistance to grazing as a tool
- Short turnaround time to monitor and address rapidly changing conditions
- OWN animals, require feed source and home base
- Social perceptions and community support, prior lessor experiences with poor outcomes
- Low state agency or institutional buy-in
- Lack of consistent guidance or policies across regions
- Animal movement among small, isolated parcels
- Permanent and temporary Infrastructure

FOR AGENCY & LAND MANAGERS

- Insurance, Liability
- Permitting and CEQA
- Rigid contract terms
- Wage and labor challenges
- Climate change
- Unpredictable weather
- Contractor and personnel coordination with grazing
- Short turnaround times to monitor and address dynamic conditions
- DO NOT own animals, less flexibility to respond quickly
- Social perceptions, community support, history of poor grazing management outcomes
- Lack of internal grazing and livestock management expertise
- Lack of consistent guidance or policies across regions

CHALLENGES

OPPORTUNITIES

SUCSESSES

LIMITATIONS

SOLUTIONS

HISTORY

OUTLOOK

CHALLENGES
<i>OPPORTUNITIES</i>
SUCCESSSES
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*ALTERNATIVE TREATMENT
 CONSTRAINTS*

- Air quality restrictions vs. prescribed fire
- Noise pollution vs. mechanical and some manual treatments
- Topographic limitations in steep or rocky terrain
- Adjacency to structures, especially with prescribed fire
- Herbicide restrictions in some areas and ecosystems
- Proximity to protected resources (riparian areas, sensitive floral and faunal resources)

- Graze > Fire to reduce risk of spotting and uncontrolled spread
- Fire > Graze and/or Machinery for long term maintenance of fuel breaks and ladder fuels

ECOSYSTEMS AND AREAS

- Oak Woodland to control ladder fuels and invasive plants
- Recently Burned Forest or Chaparral to control invasive plant recruitment
- Grassland to manage fine fuels and control invasive plants
- Riparian Areas to manage understory and decadent vegetation
- Wildland-Urban Interface to manage fuels in high-risk zones

TREATMENT INTEGRATION

- Graze > Herbicide and/or Machinery for spot treatment of invasive plants and resprouts

DEMONSTRATED SUCCESSES

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SOLUTIONS

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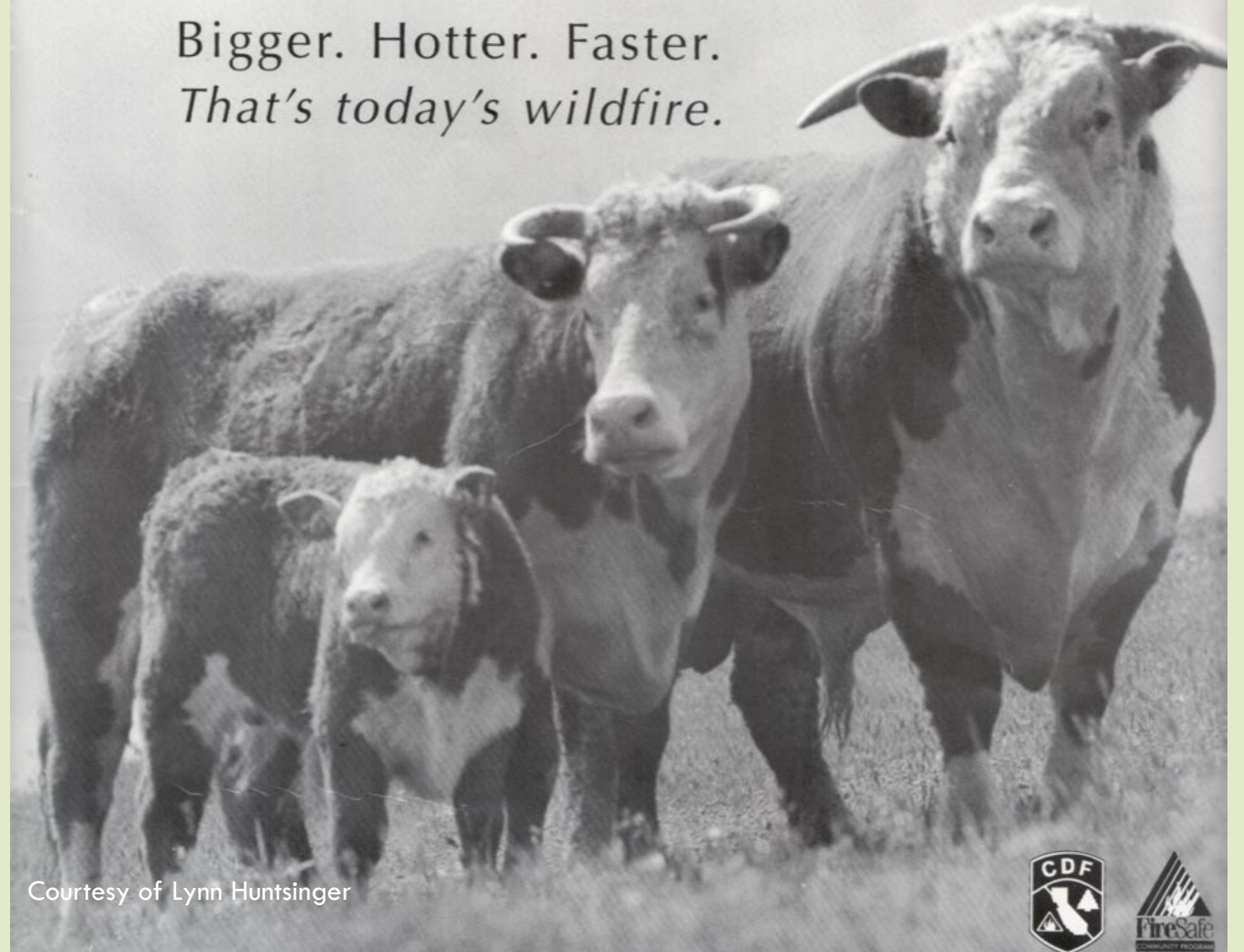
- LOCAL, GRASSROOTS EFFORTS
- COORDINATED PARTNERSHIPS across segmented landscapes with multiple land ownership types
- COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED GRAZING PROGRAMS
- Streamlined PERMITTING and state- or locally-represented TOOL KITS and RESOURCE ADVISORS
 - CaIVTP
 - UCANR/UCCE Advisors
- WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
 - Grazing School of the West
 - Internships, Woofing, Scholarships
 - Coordinated efforts to streamline and improve education and certification processes in California and federally
 - CRMs, CRM-RPF Collaborative Cross-Training
- LEGISLATION
 - SB 675 (Limon, inactive): Prescribed grazing: local assistance grant program: Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force.
 - AB 297 (Fong, Chaptered): Wildfires: local assistance grant program: prescribed grazing: advance payments.

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THIS FAMILY COULD SAVE YOUR FAMILY

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



Courtesy of Lynn Huntsinger



HISTORY IN CALIFORNIA

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- **Production-focused livestock grazing ≠ Prescribed Grazing**
 - Historically extractive in nature
 - Crash and burn trials – ‘proof’ of failure
- **Shift in focus to working landscapes and multiple ecosystem services and uses:**
 - Recreation
 - Food, Fiber
 - Physical, Mental, and Social Benefits
 - Invasive Species Management
 - Fuels Management and Community Safety
 - Air Quality, Soil Quality, Habitat Types
- **Environmental understanding: soil cover, soil compaction, impacts of ‘overgrazing’, grazing around water bodies, native plants, wildlife**
 - Permitting and monitoring requirements
 - Performance and Compliance Criteria
 - Grazing Management Plans, Adaptively Managed landscapes

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

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- RMAC **Prescribed Herbivory White Paper**
- RMAC **Prescribed Herbivory Technical Guide** for Integrated Fuels Treatments and Wildfire Management and Mitigation
- Continued streamlining and guidance for development of **Grazing Agreements** and **Grazing Management Plans**
- RMAC **Grazing Agreement sample template** development in partnership with DGS
- **Continued legislative** efforts to encourage use of prescribed grazing at agency level and/or increase educational resources and outreach to public and other land management agencies
- Ongoing **dialogues with state agencies** to increase understanding
- **Local and regional fuel reduction grazing projects:** Project demonstrations and case studies
- Ongoing **Workshops and Symposia**
 - **Oak Woodland Management spring 2024 workshop** – partnership between RMAC and CA Licensed Foresters Association
 - Society for Range Management symposium on **Prescribed Grazing Alone or in Combination with Integrated Fuels Treatments**

SELECTED RESOURCES

WHO IS USING PRESCRIBED GRAZING?

- East Bay Regional Parks District
- Ojai Valley Community Supported Grazing Program
- Resource Conservation Districts
- CalTrans
- Santa Clara County Parks & Recreation
- Midpeninsula Open Space District
- Paso Robles Fire Department
- ... and more!

- **FINDING MORE INFORMATION**
Range Management Advisory Committee
<https://bof.fire.ca.gov/board-committees/range-management-advisory-committee/>
- **FINDING A PRESCRIBED GRAZIER**
California Wool Growers Association
http://www.woolgrowers.org/targeted_grazing/producer.html
Match.Graze
<https://matchgraze.com/>
- **FINDING FUNDING**
Wildfire Prevention Grants
<https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/grants/wildfire-prevention-grants>
- **FINDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**
Natural Resources Conservation Service
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/about>
Resource Conservation Districts
<https://carcd.org/>
U.C. Cooperative Extension Area Advisors
<https://ucanr.edu/About/>

THANK YOU

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