

Abstract

Join us in this symposium to explore management of prescribed grazing in range and forestlands in the Western US. Experts and practitioners from private industry, state agencies, and academic research institutions from across California, Idaho, Minnesota, and Canada will delve into the history, purpose, and goals of prescribed grazing for fuels management, emphasizing the synergy between this and other fuels reduction methods and implications for managing diverse landscapes. The symposium will be presented in four parts: 1) History of the Range Management Advisory Committee and California State Programs including Prescribed Herbivory, 2) Scientific Foundations and Applications of Prescribed Grazing, 3) In Practice Integration of Prescribed Grazing into Management Projects for Fuel Reduction, and 4) Prescribed Herbivory Beyond California. Sessions will be followed by a moderated panel discussion with the audience to encourage dialogue and exchange of ideas among speakers and attendees, providing a platform for participants to delve deeper into specific topics. Topics of discussion will include application of prescribed grazing for the reduction of fuel hazards, wildfire mitigation, community resilience, and multiple ecosystem benefits, as well as trade-offs, policy and permitting hurdles, constraints, and lessons learned. New and trending topics to be covered will include collaborative planning and land management by state-certified foresters and rangeland professionals to enhance landscape-level management, with applications to private and public lands and entities; new and upcoming tools to assist graziers and agency personnel in creating, implementing, and monitoring Grazing Agreements and Grazing Management Plans; and matching graziers with grazing lands, writing applications for grazing proposals, and navigating permitting. Educational and technical resources will be provided to the audience, including where to find information, useful publications and guides, and training videos and webinars. Participants will gain practical insights into this vegetation management tool and contribute to the collective knowledge driving sustainable land management practices.

Confirmed Speakers:

- Dr. Marc Horney, Associate Professor, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo; Certified Range Manager
- Cole Bush, Prescribed Grazier and Owner-Operator, Shepherdess Land and Livestock, Grazing School of the West
- Dr. Kristina Wolf (remote zoom) – Environmental Scientist, California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
- Dr. Stephanie Larson, Marin and Sonoma County Director and Livestock Range Management Advisor, U.C. Cooperative Extension; Match.Graze
- Bianca Artadi Soares – Prescribed Grazier and Owner-Operator, Star Creek Land Stewards
- Matt Gabica – Prescribed Grazier and Owner-Operator, We Rent Goats
- Lee Sexton – Prescribed Grazier and Owner-Operator, Sexton Grazing and Consulting
- Kelly Anderson – Livestock and Grazing Specialist, Minnesota Department of Agriculture