DRAFT Grazing Management Plan
Santa Teresa County Park,
San Jose, CA

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• County of Santa Clara, Parks and Recreation Department: Don Rocha and Dan Clark
Primary Challenges to Develop the Grazing Management Plan for STCP:

- Improve and maintain habitat quality for numerous special-status animals, plants, and natural communities using cattle grazing as primary management tool;
- Especially habitat for the threatened Bay Checkerspot Butterfly and other serpentine grassland species;
- Determine requirements and locations for new infrastructure to support viable cattle grazing operation;
- Minimize conflicts with existing transportation and recreational uses, and neighbors.
• 1700 acres, 790 grazable
• Serpentine outcrops and soils
• Riparian areas and wetlands
• Ravines and excluded areas
• No grazing infrastructure
Planning Approach:

• Based on best-available science—scholarship and reliance on experts, including rancher;

• Maximize benefits to special resources, minimize impacts, and maintain sustainable livestock operation;

• Defines objectives and performance standards, not tactics or specific practices;

• Must be feasible and flexible for livestock operation, with incentives for cooperation;

• Plan will be a comprehensive reference document for managers;

• Plan will be adaptable based on efficient monitoring.
• Bisected by roads and recreational trails
• Neighboring high-density residential areas, private inholdings, and golf course
• Opportunity for cooperation with neighboring grazed rangelands
DRAFT STCP Grazing Management Plan Outline:

1. Introduction
2. Summary of Current Conditions Affected by Livestock Grazing
3. Management Goals, Objectives, and Performance Standards
4. Predicted Effects and Desired Conditions
5. Grazing Management Specifications
6. Operations Guidelines, Incentives, and Contingencies
7. Monitoring of Conditions and Planned Effects on Resources Related to Grazing
8. Assumptions and Recommended Supplementary Planning
9. References Cited
DRAFT STCP Primary Grazing Management
Goals:

1. Maintain rangeland conditions for persistence of special habitat;
2. Maintain health of the rangeland ecosystem;
3. Reduce fire hazards;
4. Minimize the impacts of “pest” plants;
5. Maintain recreational opportunities;
6. Maintain conditions to sustain a cattle operation;
7. Provide for a cooperative and productive relationship between County and Cattle Operator.
303/304--Serpentine soils
Soils with High Risk of Compaction
• Serpentine Grassland
• Annual Grassland
• Riparian Woodland
• Oak Woodland
1948-2009 Shrubs Expanded 110%
Santa Teresa County Park
Grazing Opportunities on Areas with Serpentine Soils and Vegetation

BCB and Serpentine Grassland Special Plants

Santa Teresa Co Park

Serpentine Rock Outcrop Areas
- SRO #1
- SRO #2
- SRO #3
- SRO #4

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Entomological Consulting Services, Ltd.
Causes of Endangerment:

- Small population size and narrow niche in marginal habitat;
- Habitat loss due to land use conversion to agriculture, then development;
- Habitat degradation due to ecological conversion to aggressive non-native annual grasses, exclusion of fire and grazing, shrub encroachment, pest plant infestations, pollution
Bay Checkerspot Butterfly
(Euphydryas editha bayensis)

- Serpentine soil and rock outcrops, plus associated native-dominated grassland;
- Presence of host plants at appropriate densities;
- Cool to moderate micro-climates (warmer hilltops and slopes; sufficient winter-spring precipitation).
Bay Checkerspot Butterfly

- Host plants are typically out-competed (for sunlight, nutrients, moisture) by aggressive non-native grassland plants, particularly at weaker serpentine sites;

- Rec’d--flexible grazing management (timing and numbers), based on growing-season grazing of serpentine habitat
- Calif. Red-Legged Frog
- Calif. Tiger Salamander
- Western Pond Turtle
- Golden Eagle
- Northern Harrier
• Springs
• Ponds
• Perennial creeks
- 4 “habitat” fields
- 3 “auxiliary” fields
- 790 grazable acres
- Ponds
- Springs / Creeks
- Well / Tie-ins
- Storage tanks