Targeted and Prescribed Grazing on California’s Central Coast

Erin Campbell-Craven
CAFES Graduate Student, California Polytechnic State University
Project goals

- Review the scientific literature
- Interview ranchers and agency managers
- Collect feedback at CCRC annual meeting
- Amass summary report presenting
  - A comprehensive literature review
  - Rancher/manager feedback and perspectives
  - Recommendations on targeted grazing in Central Coast rangelands

Photo from [http://www.villamarinelifestylecalifornia.com/page/Regions_Maps_Northern_Southern_California](http://www.villamarinelifestylecalifornia.com/page/Regions_Maps_Northern_Southern_California)

About 6 million acres of rangeland
Would you be interested in learning more about targeted/prescribed grazing practices?

- I am already familiar with targeted/prescribed grazing practices: 81%
- I am already familiar with targeted/prescribed grazing practices, but would like to learn more: 6%
- I am not familiar with targeted/prescribed grazing practices and would like to learn more: 4%
- I am not interested in learning more about targeted/prescribed grazing practices: 9%

Online survey of CCRC members, March 2017
TARGETED GRAZING

- “the application of a specific kind of livestock at a determined season, duration, and intensity to accomplish defined vegetation or landscape goals” (Launchbaugh and Walker, 2006)
- “Through managed grazing, livestock animals are used as a vegetation management tool, either with the goal of changing the plant community (e.g., converting scrub brush to pasture) or managing specific weed populations” (NCAT-ATTRA, 2014)

PRESCRIBED GRAZING

- “provide(s) adequate nutrition to animals while maintaining or achieving the desired vegetative community on the grazed site” (Butler et al., 2003)
- “the controlled harvest of vegetation with grazing animals, managed with the intent to achieve a certain objective” (NRCS, 2010)
DEFERRED GRAZING/STOCKING

- “the postponement or delay of grazing or harvesting to achieve a specific management objective”, (The Forage and Grazing Terminology Committee, 1991)
- “The delay of grazing to achieve a specific management objective” (Society for Range Management, 1998)

ROTATIONAL GRAZING/STOCKING

- A grazing system that moves animals from one pasture division to another over the course of time, allowing previously grazed areas to rest and recover before animals are allowed to graze them again.” (NCAT-ATTRA)
- A grazing method that utilizes recurring periods of grazing and rest…” (The Forage and Grazing Terminology Committee, 1991)
- “only one portion of pasture is grazed at a time while the remainder of the pasture ‘rests’” (Undersander et al., 2002)
- “…also called prescribed or managed grazing, is a management-intensive system of raising livestock on subdivided pastures called paddocks.” (Minnesota Department of Agriculture)
Questions to answer

- How do the CCRC and practitioners on the Central Coast define targeted or prescribed grazing?
- Which conservation goals on the Central Coast would be most served by the application of targeted grazing?
- What are the main barriers preventing implication?
- How do we document success?
How would you define “targeted” or “prescribed” grazing?

- 63 grazing
- 25 specific
- 19 management
- 14 livestock
- 14 achieve
- 24 goals
- 10 species
- 10 animals
- 9 area
- 8 vegetation
- 8 uses
- 7 cattle
- 7 areas
- 6 accomplish
- 6 landscape
- 6 duration
- 6 certain
- 6 reduce
- 6 plants
- 6 e.g
- 5 objectives
- 5 ecosystem
- 5 intensity
- 5 habitat
- 5 timing
- 5 Using
- 5 land
- 5 used
- 5 fire

Online survey of CCRC members, March 2017
How would you define “targeted” or “prescribed” grazing?
What topics would you be most interested in learning more about in hopes of using, advising others on their use, or providing effective supervision of lands where others use these practices? (select all that apply)

- Other (please specify)
- Grazing to increase the presence of native forbs
- Grazing to create/maintain riparian areas
- Grazing to increase the presence of native grasses
- Grazing to restore damaged/degraded land
- Grazing with multiple livestock species
- Grazing to benefit endangered species habitat
- Grazing to benefit wildlife habitat
- Grazing for noxious weed control
- Grazing for fire suppression

Online survey of CCRC members, March 2017
Grazing to create/maintain riparian areas
Grazing to increase the presence of native grasses/forbs

USFWS, NPS - public domain
Grazing for noxious weed control

https://www.sccgov.org/sites/ag/mgmt/Pages/weeds.aspx

Photo by Jane Mangold, MSU Extension
Grazing to benefit wildlife/endangered species habitat

Photo by Geoff Holroyd
Objectives that you have accomplished or hope to accomplish

- 17 habitat
- 15 species
- 14 plants
- 14 grasslands
- 12 reduce
- 12 native
- 10 use
- 10 fire
- 9 grasses
- 9 control
- 9 areas
- 8 soil
- 8 annual
- 7 suppression
- 7 invasive
- 7 endangered
- 6 weed
- 6 vegetation
- 6 targeted
- 6 perennial
- 6 increase
- 6 cover
- 5 water
- 5 used
- 5 thatch
- 5 successful
- 5 reduced
- 5 quality
- 5 management
- 5 improve
- 5 grass

Online survey of CCRC members, March 2017
Objectives that you have accomplished or hope to accomplish
Tools to accomplish targeted/prescribed grazing objectives

- A good grazing plan contains:
  - Goals to accomplish
  - Grazing methods to accomplish goals
    - Species
    - Grazing intensity
      - Stocking rate
      - Grazing capacity
    - Timing
  - Monitoring systems to measure whether goals were met
Written grazing plan including objectives/goals and ways to measure progress toward goals

Online survey of CCRC members, March 2017
Major obstacles to implementing targeted/prescribed grazing practices on an operation

- 8 land
- 8 ranchers
- 7 can
- 7 cost
- 7 herd
- 7 lack
- 7 water
- 6 field
- 6 impacts
- 6 infrastructure
- 6 labor
- 6 managers
- 6 use
- 5 animals
- 5 fencing
- 5 operations
- 5 public
- 5 resources
- 4 cattle
- 4 goals
- 4 management
- 4 needs
- 4 pay
- 4 time
- 3 benefits
- 3 challenges
- 3 change
- 3 effort
- 3 funding
- 3 increased
- 3 lessees
- 3 move
- 3 property
- 3 rotational
- 3 targeted
- 3 targeted/prescribed

Online survey of CCRC members, March 2017
Major obstacles to implementing targeted/prescribed grazing practices on an operation
Questions to answer

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