

**Central Coast Rangeland Coalition
Rancher, Manager, and Scientist Forum on Rangeland Conservation**

2018-2019 Call for Inquiries

Due: August 15, 2018

This is a Call for Inquiries from student/professor teams to interact with the Central Coast Rangeland Coalition (CCRC) in its 2018-2019 Rancher, Manager, and Scientist Forum on Rangeland Conservation. Inquiries are due by August 15, 2018.

Topic: Improving ranchers' economic bottom line, including: (a) balancing livestock production (calf crop) and conservation; (b) opportunities to be paid for rangeland ecosystem services;

Inquiry. In a brief letter to the CCRC, identify the Graduate Student and the Faculty Supervisor with contact information, your technical approach, and commitments. Supervision by the Faculty Supervisor is essential. Attach the Graduate Student's curriculum vitae. At this inquiry stage, tell us the basics of your interest and availability. We will develop a more detailed proposal and contract with the selected candidate team.

Scope. CCRC seeks a Graduate Student and Faculty Supervisor to develop a presentation and publishable paper on the topic identified above. This topic is one of five determined in a recent CCRC Needs Assessment to be most timely and relevant to California rangeland conservation. For the presentation and publishable paper, we want a review of the current scientific literature, description of results of interviews of ranchers and agency managers in our region, and incorporation of revisions based on feedback from CCRC members on the presentation. We expect the Graduate Student to present at least preliminary results at the April 18, 2019 meeting of the CCRC (at a venue TBD in the Monterey Bay Area), and to participate in the leadership and organization of that meeting. No other topics may be proposed for this project, but it might be conducted in association with related work on topics of the student's current research.

The Graduate Student will be supervised by his or her Faculty Supervisor, who will assure academic quality and completion of the project. The CCRC will provide mentoring and guidance to the student as they conduct interviews and develop the presentation and paper, and reimbursement for travel expenses up to \$100.

Other Terms:

- Work will commence no later than summer 2018.
- The focus of the literature review will be California Central Coast rangelands, both public and private.

The student will earn a \$2500 stipend, learn about working with a coalition of ranchers, agency managers, and scientists such as the CCRC, and get feedback and support in the process from CCRC leaders. A professional editor will review the draft final report (paid by CCRC). Prior

participants in the CCRC Forum have reported this opportunity has enriched their research, provided important connections, and improved their careers.

Background. Since 2009, the Central Coast Rangeland Coalition has conducted the annual Rancher, Manager, and Scientist Forum on Rangeland Conservation. We initially had a 5-year grant from the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, and completed five forums. Starting in 2016, we have been sponsored by East Bay Regional Park District and The Nature Conservancy of California. We've completed 2 projects so far. All completed projects and resulting final papers are listed on the CCRC website-

http://www.elkhornsloughctp.org/training/show_train_detail.php?TRAIN_ID=CeY2KCY .

Contract and Payments. After selection of the project team, we will ask the Graduate Student to submit a professional-quality contract proposal to our fiscal sponsor, the Elkhorn Slough Coastal Training Program (CTP). This will identify the Graduate Student and the Faculty Supervisor, project title, objectives, work plans, products, and schedule of product delivery and stipend payments. The student may ask for a sample from previous Forum projects.

Usual Schedule--

- First 1/2 stipend payment- upon completion of the first draft report, and delivery of the presentation at the CCRC spring meeting (invoice to CTP)
- Second 1/2 stipend payment- upon completion of the final draft report, 2-3 months after the CCRC spring meeting (invoice to CTP)

Payment for this project will not exceed \$2500 with an additional \$100 available to support travel expenses (mileage).

Products. The expected order of products has usually been--

- Literature review draft
- CCRC presentation of literature review and initial analyses and results
- First draft analytical paper (to be reviewed by CCRC)
- Draft final paper
- Professional editing
- Final paper

The first step is a review of the scientific literature on the topic, focusing as much as possible on references and expert opinions from the Central Coast. The analyses will include a survey through interviews of CCRC members or others (ranchers, managers, and scientists) involved in rangeland management as well as regional experts in the topic. The CCRC will facilitate any such interviews as needed, as well as subsequent review of the draft paper.

Partnership. This is an investigative partnership of the Graduate Student, Faculty Supervisor, and CCRC to complete the following objectives:

- Examine the management context and the scientific literature on the topic
- Integrate scholarship and practical knowledge of the topic
- Identify priority experimental hypotheses to be tested in the future (not to conduct the research in this project)

- Present the literature review and preliminary analyses at the CCRC spring meeting
- Prepare a final report incorporating significant comments (suitable for publication by the authors)
- Explore peer-review publication of the report's findings

Supervision. The Graduate Student must have a good working relationship with a Faculty Supervisor who will provide advice and guidance in the conduct of the project at every step. The Faculty Supervisor may become a co-author of the final paper, and must be willing to take over completion of the final paper if the Graduate Student cannot complete it.

The project will also assign a CCRC Forum Co-Principal Investigator to assist as needed, and to provide guidance about CCRC procedures, meetings, interviews of members, and other needs.

The Elkhorn Slough Foundation (through the CTP) will administer the project, including funding. The CTP will provide overall coordination, compiling and posting of reports, and surveys for member input and project evaluation.

Editing. The CCRC will make available a professional editor for limited editing of the final draft paper. If time allows, this may include direct discussion with the editor, but is most likely to be limited to edits in track-changes for consideration by the authors.

Publication. We want the Graduate Student to aim toward formal publication of the final paper in a professional or academic journal. Concurrently, we will post the final version of the paper (pre-publication) on the CCRC website hosted by the Coastal Training Program. So this might result in two papers--the second paper crafted from the first paper.

We have two distinct (and possibly separate) objectives regarding the final report—(1) making the paper accessible to the varied audiences of the CCRC and (2) making the paper appropriate for publication. We assume the journals chosen for submission of the paper will be those (such as SRM's *Rangelands*) interested in the accessibility provided by the first approach. This must be worked out between the Graduate Student and Faculty Supervisor.

If interested, please contact me to discuss ASAP. Please forward this request to other faculty or graduate students who you think might be interested.

Thank you,

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