

Project Summary

“Environmental Benefits of Grazing” Regional Educational Tour and Video Project

This educational project is a multi-effort, multi-regional educational workshop tour in the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Region designed to increase awareness and support of our working landscapes (ranches) and their associated environmental watershed benefits. By increasing awareness and support of working landscapes, diverse groups can collaboratively start working together to achieve common goals for protecting watershed health. Ranchers hold the key to the remaining “open space”. These large parcels of privately owned land support vegetation that prevents soil erosion and protects water quality, support large numbers of plant and wildlife including imperiled species, allow for better water infiltration as well as providing social and economic benefits. This project will build capacity, education and understanding of how grazing supports and helps protect the natural resources and watersheds, and provides fuel reduction benefits for communities.

These rangelands, and the species that rely on these habitats, largely persist today due to experienced grazing management techniques and other positive land stewardship practices of the ranchers and they are committed to a healthy future for their working landscapes. Oak rangelands are a critical foundation of California’s ranching industry and rural communities, and are often located in the fastest growing counties. As a result, rangelands are at significant risk of conversion to development and other uses, leaving these natural resources in the Sierra Nevada lost forever.

The Nevada County Resource Conservation District will plan, coordinate and advertise ten multi-regional educational workshops, develop the workshop materials and binders, coordinate production of a professional video, coordinate speakers and travel arrangements, and provide a final report on the success of the project. Local Resource Conservation Districts will also provide planning, coordination and advertising for the workshops that will be strategically located throughout the Sierra Nevada Conservancy region. Planning efforts will be coordinated with the Outreach Committee of the California Rangeland Coalition and its many partners. The tangible products from this project will be the workshop binders and the professional video. We anticipate these products will have far reaching applications and they will be available on multiple websites.

This project meets Prop 84 goals of contributing to the protection of watersheds and associated lands, water and other natural resources in addition to meeting five of the seven Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s goals. The project has numerous supporters and its many partners are signatories to the California Rangeland Resolution. (see attached)