

Sustaining Ranching for Public Good

Thursday, April 18, 2019

8:30 – 4:30

Location: Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority - Blaire Ranch

Cost: \$40

Central Coast Rangeland Coalition

Description: In spring 2016 the CCRC had a meeting in Sunol focused on rancher economics, specifically the costs to the rancher of conservation-based grazing management on public lands and the costs to the agency of having a grazing program. During the Spring 2019 meeting we will explore an example cost/return analysis for a cow/calf operation; ways agencies can modify lease arrangements to reduce costs to ranchers; how lease modifications can improve viability of the operation; and other ways to improve the rancher's bottom line.

Goal: Improve ranchers' bottom line which will allow for continued rangeland conservation opportunities into the future.

Objectives:

- Understand ranching costs and revenue, especially on public lands.
- Identify practical opportunities for agencies to help to reduce ranchers' costs associated with grazing on public lands.
- Make language from effective leases available on CCRC website.
- Explore other avenues to improve the rancher's bottom line.
- Foster productive discussion between high-level agency managers and ranchers on these topics.

8:30 **Registration and coffee**

9:00 **Welcome, opening remarks**

Small Group Introductions

Introduction to site

Megan Robinson and Justin Fields

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

Reid Johnsen, UC Berkeley

Rangeland Conservation Requires Profitable Ranching Operations: Cost study

Devii Rao, University of Cooperative Extension

BREAK

Panel Discussion: Rancher Panel

Justin Fields - Rancher

Brent Kirk - Rancher

Mike Miller - Rancher

Panel Discussion: Agency Panel

Megan Robinson, Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority

Denise Defreese, EBRPD

TBD, MidPen

Small Group Discussion

12:35

Lunch

1:35

Drive to field site

Orientation to the field site

Megan Robinson and Justin Fields

Agency Support for Water Development

David Tharp, Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority

Predator Habitat and Calf Loss

Justin Fields, Rancher

Cross Fencing for Improved Livestock Management

Andy Burnside, Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority

Small Group Discussion

Closing remarks

Drive back to indoor site

4:30

Program ends