

## Grazing Collaboratives, Service Providers, & More



Stephanie Larson, PhD UC Cooperative Extension Livestock & Range Management Advisor Sonoma & Marin Counties, California slarson@ucanr.edu

## **Grazing- Overall Goals & Objectives**

# Grazing Range & Pasture Lands

#### Reduce the use of chemicals

Herbicide applications can reduce quality of groundwater

#### **Reduce mechanical vegetation control**

Reduce fuel costs Use of tractors dependent on weather Reduce atmospheric carbon emissions

#### **Reduce labor costs**

#### **Improve Animal Production**

#### **Improve Soil Quality**

Deeper rooting perennial grasses Increase Biodiversity Manure / Compost Applications



## Grazing- from a Carbon / GHG Perspective

#### Why Graze?

- Livestock/grazing emissions are part of a process (biogenic carbon cycle) where CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere is converted to carbohydrates, then grazed by cattle, and they release methane.
- Well managed grazing improves the water-holding capacity of lands; improves the soil microbiome health and increases biodiversity, enhance carbon sequestration in the soil, and can thus act as long-term solution to reducing GHG emissions.
- Grazing reduces fire fuels; thus reducing the severity of wildland fires.
- Grazing aids in weed management; reduces need for mechanical (fossil fuels) & chemical (herbicides) control methods.

## Match.Graze





#### https://matchgraze.com



## **3-Grazing Tiers - Multiple Scales**

#### Community

Small-scale livestock grazers use their animals to graze a community of small-scale properties. Properties can range from ¼ acre to several acres, animals graze one parcel then are moved to a neighboring parcel. Usually no money is exchanged; grazers received free forage.

### **Contract / Targeted Grazing**

Targeted or contract grazing is the application of a specific kind of livestock at a determined season, duration and intensity to accomplish defined vegetation or landscape goals. Usually, the grazer is paid for their service, or no money is exchanged.

#### **Commercial Grazing**

Commercial / Traditional grazing is where livestock producers pay landowners to graze their properties, seasonally or yearround; to meet nutritional and production goals of the livestock.

### Match.Graze- An Overview

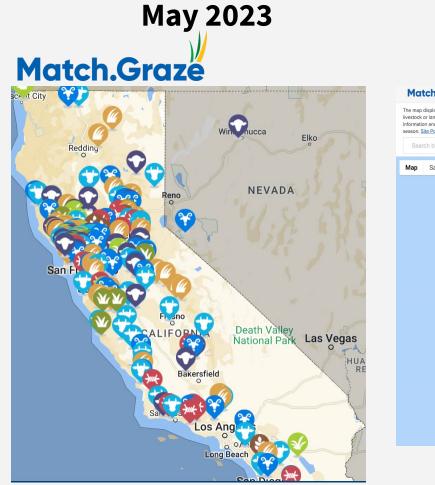
Match.Graze is a *FREE* online platform that connects livestock producers and landowners throughout the state of California. Match.Graze can help you pair up with the animals or land base that you need! With this service, University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) aims to support the expanded use of grazing to achieve California's collective habitat enhancement and fuels reduction goals.



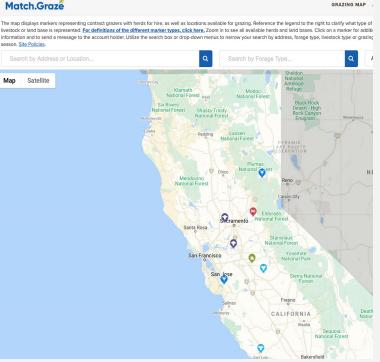
### MatchGraze.com-Features

Match.Graze offers users tools which can help them find their best grazing match some of which include:

- Interactive Grazing Map
- Customizable Pins
- About Page
- Resources
- How-To Video



#### February 2021



#### Screenshots from MatchGraze.com

### **Other Grazing Exchanges:**

Minnesota, Midwest Grazing Exchange, <u>https://www.midestgrazingexchange.co</u> <u>m</u>

South Dakota, <u>https://sdgrazingexchange.com</u>

Florida, <u>https://SoutheastGrazingExchange.com</u>





## Community Prescribed Grazing Program

## **Create Grazing Collaboratives to Scale Up Grazing**

Working with local grazers:

Expand grazing to neighboring properties;

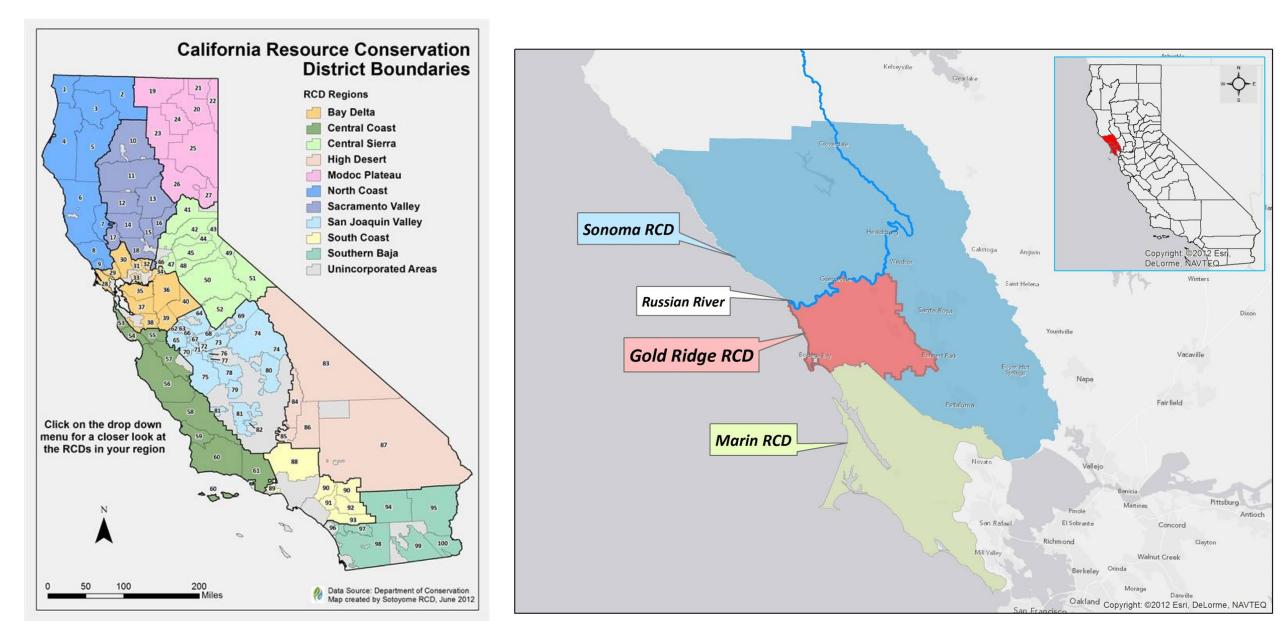
b. Work with interested landowners on methods to manage vegetation;

c. Reduce fire risks and severity;

d. Create resilient communities.



## Using Agencies – Resource Conservation District (RCDs)



# **Collaborative Overview**

### What will the Agencies do to help you?

- Technical assistance.
  - Extension, NRCS, RCDs, others
- Financial assistance.
- Connect you with contract grazers.
- CEQA Notice of Exemption
- Manage Contracts + Agreements
- Public interface.
  - Signage, website, RCD Project Tracker, social media, handouts, contact info.
- On the ground.
  - Photo Monitoring.

## **Final Thoughts**

Every property is *different* and requires thoughtful consideration of how it should best be managed for fire fuels, carbon sequestration, biodiversity or whatever the resource goals. Partnerships with community groups to help manage our local, state and national rangelands to help landowners, communities, grazers understand their importance and future management.

**Thank you!** Stephanie Larson, PhD slarson@ucanr.edu





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