

Conservation Easements to Keep Ranches Working
Thursday, April 19, 2018
8:30 – 4:00
*Location: Koopmann Ranch,
9406 Koopman Rd, Sunol, California
Cost: \$35*

*Joint Meeting of the California-Pacific Section of the Society for Range Management and
Central Coast Rangeland Coalition*

Description: The use of mitigation easements on both private and public land has dramatically increased on rangeland sites throughout California. Easements are not only an opportunity to keep ranches working but many easements need ranching to continue. Livestock grazing contributes to the conservation of habitat for numerous special status species in California by managing non-native vegetation, minimizing thatch and maintaining grasslands.

The goal of this meeting will be to improve understanding of the opportunities and challenges that conservation easements provide in conserving working rangelands -- from the perspectives of ranchers, agencies, and other rangeland owners. We will consider current conservation threats, types of conservation easements, the effectiveness of easements across generations, landowner and rancher opportunities to participate in mitigation easements and easement monitoring and management.

Goal: Improve the opportunity for conservation easements to sustain working rangelands and conservation.

Objectives:

- Identify and understand the threats to sustaining working rangelands and the conservation values associated with these lands.
- Improve the understanding of the role of various types of conservation easements in sustaining working rangelands, with a focus on mitigation easements.
- Provide information to ranchers, landowners, consultants and land trusts to work towards improved mitigation policy, creation of easements and planning for sustaining working rangelands.
- Foster productive discussion of these topics.

Agenda

8:30 Registration and coffee

9:00 - 9:15 Welcome, opening remarks

9:15 - 9:35 Group introductions

**9:35 –10:00 Introduction to Conservation Easements: Purchased, Donated or Mitigation.
Long-term Viability for Ranching and Conservation
*Michael Delbar, California Rangeland Trust***

- 10:00 - 10:30** **Barriers and Opportunities for Conservation on Central Coast Rangeland**
Lina Aoyama, UC Berkeley, CCRC Forum Scholar
- 10:30 – 10:45** **Break**
- 10:45 - 11:15** **In Perpetuity: Long Term Views of Conservation Easements and Payment Structures**
Reid Johnson, UC Berkeley
- 11:15 - 12:00** **Panel Discussion: Can Conservation Easements Work to Sustain Ranching and Conservation? What do permitting agencies, ranchers and easement holders need to make them work?**
Matt Wacker, Ecologist, HT Harvey & Associates
Erik Gantenbein, Preserve Manager, Center for Natural Lands Management
Darrel Sweet, Rancher, Landowner
Janice Gan, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- 12:00 - 12:20** **Group Discussion**
- 12:20 - 1:20** **Lunch**
- 1:20 – 1:40** **Drive to field site**
- 1:40 - 1:50** **Orientation to the field site**
- 1:50 -2:20** **Habitat Creation and Enhancement**
Robin Dakin, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
- 2:20-2:40** **Easement Management, Rancher's Perspective**
Tim Koopmann, Rancher
- 2:40 – 3:10** **Easement Monitoring and Informing Management**
Sheila Barry, University of California Cooperative Extension
Larry Ford, LD Ford Rangeland Conservation Science
- 3:10 - 3:30** **Group Discussion**
- 3:30 – 3:45** **Closing remarks**
- 4:00** **Program ends**