RANGE BULLETIN

Livestock & Natural Resources Newsletter

In this issue:

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2021 Water Diversion and Use Reports Due April 1 for All Diverters

By CCA Vice President of Government Affairs Kirk Wilbur for CCA's Legislative Bulletin

Under the Emergency Regulation for Measuring and Reporting the Diversion of Water adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) in 2016, all water rights holders must annually report their diversion and use of water to the SWRCB. **This year, ALL reports of water diversion and use for January 1 – September 30, 2021 are due April 1.** The reports must be made electronically using the SWRCB's Report Management System, here.

The uniform April 1 due date differs from prior years. The change in reporting dates was occasioned by a 2021 budget trailer bill, SB 155. Beginning with 2023's reports, SB 155 changes the reporting period from the calendar year to the water year (October 1 – September 30) and establishes a uniform reporting deadline for all water rights of February 1.

As the SWRCB implements this transition, SB 155 sets April 1 as the reporting deadline for all diversion and use reports filed in 2022. In filing this year's reports, **diverters will report their diversion and use of water only for the nine month "stub period" of January 1, 2021 – September 30, 2021**. With the transition to water-year reporting, the months of October through December will be reflected in your 2023 report. It is important to note that reporting is still required regardless of if diversion occured or not.

In February, Noah Lopez of the California Cattlemen's Foundation's Rancher Technical Assistance Program (RTAP) hosted an educational webinar to go over these changes to the SWRCB's water diversion and use reporting deadlines and to answer producer questions regarding the change. A recording of that webinar can be viewed here, and any questions may be directed to the RTAP team at (916) 406-6902 or via email at rtap@wrstrat.com. Also be sure to listen to the most recent episode of *Sorting Pen: The California Cattleman Podcast* , "Sorting through the due date changes for water measurement and use reporting."

RTAP provides free regulatory assistance for all cattle ranchers in California with support from the California Cattle Council.

UCCE Presents a FREE Webinar Series:

Managing Land and Livestock on Small Acreages

Wednesdays, April 20, 2022 to June 1, 2022
6:00 – 7:00 PM via Zoom

Register here:

http://ucanr.edu/acreages

Weekly webinars will cover:

- **Irrigated Pasture Planning and Nutrition**
- **Weed ID and Management**
- **Backyard Poultry Production**
- **Outdoor Hog Production**
- **Small Flocks of Sheep and Goats**
- **Marketing Small-Scale Production**
- **Livestock Forensics: Mortality Diagnosis**

Questions? Contact Julie at jafinzel@ucanr.edu

RANGE CAMP 2022

38th Annual Range and Natural Resources Camp

June 19-24, 2022
Half Moon Bay, CA

Presented by University of California Cooperative Extension to give 10th-12th grade students the opportunity to explore the science and management of our natural resources with experienced professionals and university faculty.

Sessions and Activities include:

- Riparian Habitats
- Rangeland Ecology
- Wildlife Management
- Soils
- Forestry
- Plant Identification

- Recreation
- Private & Public Lands
- Watershed Hydrology
- GPS / GIS Technology Applications
- Tour of Working Ranch
- Team Project Planning Competition

Cost: $500

"Top Camper" Contest: Plant ID test, subject matter exam & staff evaluation
Top three placing students* given opportunity to represent California-Pacific Section, SRM at the Society for Range Management's High School Youth Forum, in Boise, ID February 2023 (all expenses paid for top two students). All participants receive t-shirts and camp completion certificates. *Must be a current high school student in Feb '22.

Questions? Contact Theresa Becchetti — (209) 525-6800 or tabecchetti@ucanr.edu or Julie Finzel — (661) 868-6219 or jafinzel@ucanr.edu

More information: ucanr.edu/sites/rangecamp/

Applications due May 1! Apply at:
ucanr.edu/2022rangecampreg

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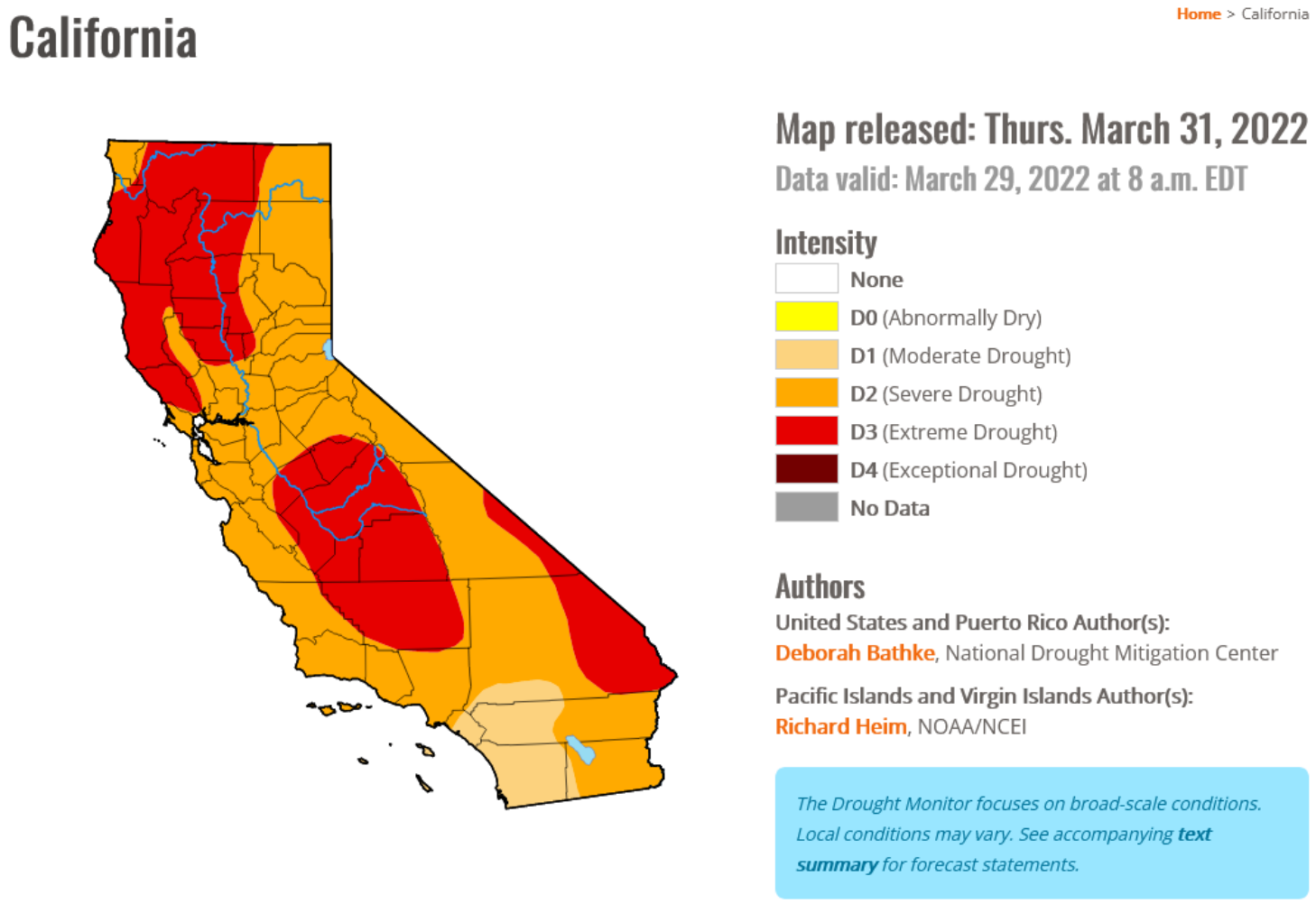
Forage and Drought

It's no wonder that the topic of drought doesn't feel new this year. Last year was a horrible drought year, with most of California reaching D4 (exceptional drought) status for most of the year. We received negligible rainfall in January and February 2021; the same has happened in 2022. We only had a few days of rain in March this year, unfortunately preventing any kind of "Miracle March". Madera and Fresno Counties are both almost entirely designated as D3 (extreme drought) as of this writing (April 1). However, localized impacts are still variable.



Above: the current Drought Monitor map for California, as of March 31, 2022. The most current map of California can be viewed online at **droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?CA**

Current status

I am assisting a team at UC Davis in a remote sensing forage estimation project, which will test how well satellite imagery can predict forage status. If successful, we could get very precise estimates of forage productivity throughout the growing season, without needing people to walk every acre. For the project, this means that I have been out to clip in early February and early March—what should have been early in the growing season, and

This article continues ►

Drought continued

what should have been smack in the middle of it. Looking back, those visits fell more along the lines of "early to mid season" and "nearly the end of the season", considering how dry it is. I will be clipping a third time in early April, but what I saw in March especially ranged from dismal to surprisingly lush.

I have two sites in Fresno County; one in the western hills and the other at the base of the eastern foothills. A third site is at the San Joaquin Experimental Range in Madera County. Below is a series of photos demonstrating some differences among these sites in March. All photos are ungrazed plots.

East Fresno ranch

West Fresno ranch

San Joaquin Experimental Range

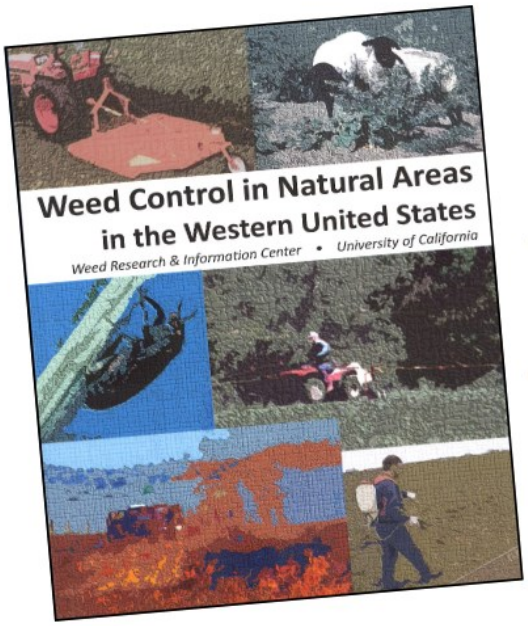
Each photo is of a single square foot, the standard area clipped to easily estimate forage production, converted from grams per square foot to pounds per acre. The western Fresno site is significantly drier and less productive than the eastern Fresno and Madera sites. I attribute this to the rain shadow of the coast range, as well as the frequent high winds that cut across the western part of the valley. It's simply a much drier part of the state. On the east side, the differences between the Experimental Range and the Fresno private ranch can likely be explained by dominant plant species, management history, soil type, and smaller changes in rainfall received. For instance, the Experimental Range had a decent amount of biomass, but a significant portion of that biomass is the standing dead stems of non-forage species, such as fiddleneck and popcorn flower. In contrast, the Fresno ranch has abundant wild oats.

Some of the clipped squares represented over 4000 pounds per acre in east Fresno, while a few squares in west Fresno were less than 300 pounds per acre. The final amounts will be calculated once the dry biomass can be accounted for. The data are shared with the landowners and with FSA to contribute to their decisions about drought payments.

Drought resources

UC has compiled a wealth of resources about current drought status, drought-related economic information, and drought programs, on the UC Rangelands Drought Hub. You can visit the Drought Hub here: **rangelands.ucdavis.edu/drought/**.

USDA FSA and NRCS also offer drought-related programs and services. Find your local USDA Service Center here: **offices.usda.gov/**.



Weed Control in Natural Areas in the Western United States is the first comprehensive book to focus on control options for invasive plants in natural areas.

The book has detailed control methods for 340 species in 13 western states, covering rangelands, grasslands, pastures, riparian and aquatic areas. Each species account includes chemical, mechanical, biological and cultural control options.

Sale Price

$30.00 (includes tax and shipping)

Book is normally $37 plus tax and shipping.

Get your discount today while supplies last.

ucanr.edu/weedbook