



Grazing Management

Southern California Adaptation Implementation Plan

Overview

During a two-day workshop in January 2016, southern California resource managers and regional stakeholders discussed grazing management goals and core activities, highlighted priority climate change vulnerabilities that could affect the ability to achieve goals, and identified adaptation strategies and actions that reduced highlighted vulnerabilities. Adaptation strategies and actions identified included those currently being implemented as well as new actions prioritized for future implementation. Managers and stakeholders then developed implementation action plans for some adaptation strategies identified as future priorities.

Grazing Management Goals and Core Activities¹

1. Retain residual forage
2. Provide forage for ranching community to allow ranchers to stay in business and to preserve historic ranching way of life
3. Reduce thatch and invasive species
4. Revise grazing plans
5. Manage grazing to protect/prevent damage to rare and endangered species, encourage regeneration of other species (e.g., oaks, willows), and provide co-benefits for ecosystem services and ecological resources
6. Practice prescribed grazing for ecological benefits
7. Install water trough escape ramps for wildlife
8. Protect riparian habitats using fencing and enclosures
9. Manage vernal pools, enhance springs, and restore meadow gullies
10. Control erosion associated with headcuts and bare soil

Managers and stakeholders identified how these grazing management goals and core activities may be vulnerable to climate change or other factors, and then identified potential adaptation responses. Climate and non-climate vulnerabilities and corresponding adaptation strategies and actions for these management goals are described below in Table 1.

¹ The management goals and core activities listed are not comprehensive.

Adaptation Implementation Action Plan

Managers and stakeholders developed implementation action plans for some of the identified priority adaptation strategies in Table 1. These plans include a list of sequential steps needed to successfully implement the adaptation strategy, and identification of potential implementation barriers and potential solutions.

Adaptation Strategy #1

Create regional strategy to help steer naturalized/native forage species.

Implementation Plan (actions listed in order of occurrence)

1. Generate maps of current invasive species distribution.
2. Model climate and habitat suitability for unfamiliar invasive species; create map of where new invasive species may appear.
3. In order to best maintain native forage species, prioritize which non-forage plants to manage using knowledge of current, known invasive species that lack any economic/ecological/social benefit as well as mapping and modeling information for where new invasive species may occur.

Challenges/Barriers to Implementation and Possible Solutions

No challenges/barriers identified.

Adaptation Strategy #2

Ensure stock water sources are wildlife-friendly and prioritize water location on landscape to enhance wildlife corridors/movement.

Implementation Plan (actions listed in order of occurrence)

1. Conduct an inventory and spatial analysis of existing stock water sources.
2. Assess which springs and troughs will dry up if water availability declines due to projected climate changes.
3. In areas projected to lose water supply in the future, make sure water sources are available for grazing and wildlife; some areas may still be able to be grazed if there is no water available.

Challenges/Barriers to Implementation and Possible Solutions

No challenges/barriers identified.