



Ranch Roundup

Greetings from the Farm Advisor,

We concluded our summer in the mountains, collecting biomass data for our longstanding Warner Mountain Meadow grazing study and headed to Reno for the California Cattlemen's Association Convention in December. We presented posters on livestock mortality composting, managed landscapes roll in groundwater sustainability, juniper treatment research, and livestock guardian dogs. As the snow set in to close our field season in the mountains, we partnered with the Forest Service staff at the Double Devil's Corrals to start placing weanling wild horses with youth across California for what will be our third annual Devil's Garden Colt Challenge.

Work on the Big Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan continues, even as it's submission to DWR grows imminent following its unanimous approval by the Modoc and Lassen County Boards of Supervisors. We have continued our monthly excursions out to the Big Valley to sample surface water and collect data from the monitoring well clusters. We will also be helping with the annual report due in April and are planning an outreach meeting this spring.

Sam, the livestock guardian dog previously living in Likely has moved on to greener pastures in the Sierra Foothills, where he will continue his training bonding with a new group of cattle. On a related note, we recently put out a fact sheet about wolves in California and the new state compensation program in partnership with our colleagues around the north state area.

As we welcome the new year, we are looking forward to hosting our second class of Master Food Preservers and working with Modoc Harvest on several workshops to increase local food opportunities. We are also working with Superior California Economic Development on a feasibility study looking at a potential butchering and processing facility for Modoc County. There is never a dull day in the office, we do have a few more red books available if you haven't gotten yours yet!

Sincerely,

Laura K. Snell

Find us on Facebook:
Devil's Garden Research and
Education—UCCE



WOLF COMPENSATION FACT SHEET

California's 2021-22 state budget included \$3 million to develop a pilot program for compensating ranchers for depredations and indirect impacts associated with wolves. These funds must be spent by June 30, 2026. The state budget also includes an additional \$7 million to help reduce wildlife conflict, which could fund on-ranch, non-lethal predator protection tools (for wolves as well as other predators). Funds will be administered by CDFW.

CDFW funding for compensation and deterrence:

- **Interim Program:** CDFW is creating an interim program that will retroactively compensate producers for confirmed direct losses that have occurred since September 23, 2021 (when funding was authorized). This will be replaced with the program developed by the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) Work Group, described below.
- **RCRC Work Group and producer input:** The RCRC is facilitating a Work Group that will develop mechanisms for a more comprehensive pilot compensation program. This Work Group includes representatives from producer organizations (CCA, CWGA, CFBF), individual ranchers, local elected officials, USDA Wildlife Services, UCCE, CDFW, Defenders of Wildlife, and the Center for Biological Diversity. A Drafting Subcommittee is developing a draft compensation program that can include compensation for direct depredation, wolf-presence related impacts, and funding for compensation/reimbursement for non-lethal depredation tools.
- **Local and regional meetings:** We recognize the importance for producers to have additional opportunities for input as these programs are defined. In addition to having direct input into the Work Group process, ranchers have provided priorities and direction via locally organized discussions facilitated by UCCE and county producer organizations. Additionally, UC Davis and producer organizations hosted a joint-regional meeting for producers from currently wolf affected areas to discuss key components of a compensation program.

For the full article, please visit
<https://www.devilsgardenucce.org>

BIG VALLEY GSP UPDATE

For just over two years now, the Big Valley Advisory Committee (BVAC) has been convening to hold monthly public meetings to discuss the development of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for Big Valley, rotating between the towns of Adin and Bieber.

The GSP was unanimously adopted by both the Lassen and Modoc Counties' boards of supervisors at the December 15 public hearing in Adin, CA. This was a major milestone in the development of the GSP, which has received additional technical support from the UC Cooperative Extension offices and county staff of both Modoc and Lassen counties and GEI Consultants. Next, the plan will be submitted to DWR by January 31, 2022. From there, DWR will issue a decision. There are three possible outcomes, as follows.

The plan will be: 1) approved if DWR determines that it has no deficiencies, 2) marked as incomplete and sent back to the GSAs for revision if some deficiencies that can be corrected w/in 180 days are identified; or (Continued page 3)



Save the Date!

Modoc Ag Expo

March 18, 2022

Opening at 10am
 Cedarville Fairgrounds

Speakers on upcoming regulations, diversified crops, hay pests, expanding your garden, get your restricted materials permit and more
 Call now to reserve your booth! \$75 per table
 Cheryl 530-233-6400



BV GSP UPDATE (CONT.)

3) determined to be inadequate, if DWR finds several deficiencies within the plan. The GSAs would then be required to consult with the State Water Resources Control Board for intervention.

The next step will be fulfilling reporting requirements set by DWR, starting with the first annual report for the basin which is due on April 1, 2022. At this time, data has been continuously collected from 5 monitoring well sites throughout Big Valley for over a year, in addition to various projects intended to address existing data gaps and enhance groundwater management for all beneficial users in Big Valley and its surrounding watershed. For more information about the Big Valley Groundwater Basin, please visit bigvalleygsp.org to review GSP documents.

There are still opportunities to become involved with projects outlined in the GSP. Please contact our office if you are interested in participating in the voluntary well metering program or would like to volunteer to host a satellite transducer.

NON-LEAD AMMUNITION

The Role of Non-lead Ammunition in Conservation

By Matthew Parker, Institute for Wildlife Studies
Throughout history, ranchers and hunters alike have been at the forefront of conservation efforts to protect wildlife. Even in today's bustling society, there are many methods to further conservation of the natural environment. Something as simple as using a non-lead bullet to dispatch an animal is a great way to contribute to the conservation of scavenging wildlife.

Often when animals are shot for pest removal or depredation, the carcasses are left behind. Similarly, hunters will often leave the gut pile in the field. All these scenarios result in a healthy food source left behind for scavengers if non-lead ammunition is used. In contrast, when lead ammunition is the bullet used to dispatch an animal whose carcass or remains are left behind, then the healthy food source can become toxic. When an animal ingests lead, it can suffer a myriad of negative health effects including death.



CONSERVATION MEDIA © 2013

NON-LEAD AMMUNITION

Lead has the unfortunate quality of being a toxic heavy metal to humans and wildlife. Lead bullets will fragment when passing through an animal often resulting in hundreds of small pieces, which scavengers can ingest. Scavenging animals such as the turkey vulture or bald eagle have evolved highly acidic stomachs to perpetuate the breakdown of decaying flesh. The acidic environment also perpetuates the breakdown of lead fragments, which become mobilized in the bloodstream resulting in physiological harm. Fortunately, this is a preventable issue and using non-lead ammunition eliminates the risk of lead exposure to scavengers.

Since July of 2019, California requires non-lead ammunition to be used for any take of an animal with a firearm. There are many different types of effective and accurate non-lead ammunition available for everything from air rifles to large caliber hunting rifles. As the name implies, non-lead ammunition uses different materials than lead and many metals are now utilized to manufacture ammunition. Copper is a common metal used for non-lead alternatives in large caliber rifles, as well as rim-fire, and air rifles.

Zinc and tin are also available alternatives for smaller calibers. Amongst the considerable variety of non-lead options include different bullet types such as solids, designed to retain all their weight. If a shooter desires the fragmenting properties of lead, a segmenting copper bullet is a good alternative designed to break apart and create additional wound channels. Frangible bullets are composed of a compressed powder that offer excellent lethality for pest and predator removal. Fortunately, all these non-lead alternatives don't pose a threat to scavengers like lead ammunition will.

Despite the legislation in place, scavenging wildlife are still getting exposed to lead in California from ammunition. Making the choice to use non-lead ammunition whenever taking an animal is the right choice for conservation of wildlife. There are resources that can help shooters better understand the ballistics, biology, and options for non-lead ammunition. Please check out huntingwithnon-lead.org if you would like to know more.

LIVESTOCK GUARDIAN DOG UPDATE

Our research on bonding livestock guardian dogs to cattle has reached a new chapter as Sam has moved on to a new chapter of his training. Sam had spent 7 months working on a ranch in Likely, where he bonded well with calves. It was planned that he would move into a pen with a group of bred heifers to see how he would bond with a new group of cows. However, when the ranch received 10 inches of snow last month, the electronet fencing that had been keeping him contained with his cattle came down under the weight. With more snow in the forecast, it was decided that the best thing for the ranch and for Sam was to move him on to greener pastures.

Dan Macon, the County Director and livestock and natural resources advisor for Placer, Nevada, Sutter and Yuba counties picked Sam up just before the new year. He brought Sam back to his ranch in the



interim before he went on to his new home on a ranch in the Sierra Foothills. At Dan's, Sam was kept with rams and a veteran LGD named Bodie. Although Sam is growing more mature physically, he still occasionally has bouts of

puppy playfulness which he demonstrated upon meeting the rams. This behavior is generally characterized by licking and gently biting livestock on their ears and faces, which is not the submissive behavior desired. Bodie, Sam's de-facto new mentor corrected him when he displayed it in their shared pen, and the use of a dangle stick was used to correct him when no one was around. A dangle stick is a device, often a PVC pipe or piece of wood, that hangs from the dog's collar and encumbers them from running and jumping excessively. Sam wore the dangle stick for several weeks, until it was determined that the tool had served its intended purpose and corrected the unwanted behavior he had demonstrated previously. To read the full blog written by Dan Macon, Laura Snell and Carolyn Whitesell, please visit <https://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=51160>

DG COLT CHALLENGE

This year, 39 youth from 17 counties across California have been selected to compete in the third annual Devil's Garden Colt Challenge. Since 2016, horses have been gathered and offered for placement from the Devil's Garden HMA in an effort to bring their numbers down to the appropriate management level of 206-402 adult horses. The Colt Challenge was developed as a way to place young horses into homes with youth enrolled in either the 4-H or FFA program. This is the first year that the competition has been offered to the entire state. From January until June, participants have 6 months to train their previously-unhandled weanling horses before competing here in Alturas on June 18th for cash and other prizes. Contestants will be expected to have achieved the Trainer Incentive Program (TIP) level of training with their horses by the time the competition is held.

To learn more about the Devil's Garden horses,



please visit the Modoc National Forest's website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/modoc/landmanagement/resourcemanagement/?cid=FSEPRD512471>. Some adult horses from the 2020 and 2021 gathers are still available for adoption or purchase at the Double Devils Corrals near Alturas.

Join us June 18th at the Junior Livestock Showgrounds for the Devil's Garden Colt Challenge!

MODOC COUNTY AG DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Meetings:

- Alturas Grower's Meeting February 23, 2022, @ 10 am at the Brass Rail - Call the office and RSVP 530-233-6401 or
CE Hours for Growers and Applicators (CA, NV, OR)
- Tulelake Grower's Meeting March 2, 2022, TBA
CE Hours for Growers and Applicators (CA), employee training available.
- Ag Expo - March 18, 2022, Cedarville
CE Hours for Growers and Applicators (CA, NV, OR)

Reminders:

- Alturas Restricted Material Permits have expired remember to make an appointment to renew.
- Tulelake Restricted Material Permits will expire at the end of February. The office has temporarily moved to the Newell Migrant Center.
- Certified Producer Certificates have expired in December 2021.

Training is available for agricultural employees through the Ag. Office if needed.

Please call for an appointment to renew permits Jolene Moxon (Ag Inspector) 530-640-0152.



WE'RE HIRING!

UC Cooperative Extension is currently recruiting applications for an Agricultural Engineer Advisor position at the Intermountain Research and Extension Center in Tulelake, as well as a Fire Advisor position to serve the counties of Modoc and Lassen, based out of the Susanville office.

- For more information and to apply about the Ag Engineer advisor position, please visit <https://ucanr.edu/About/Jobs/?jobnum=2013>.
- To apply for the Fire Advisor position, please visit <https://recruit.ucanr.edu/> and choose "applicants" (refer to position #21-43).
- UCANR is hiring several positions around the state including additional positions in Siskiyou and Plumas counties. To see a full list of positions, visit <https://recruit.ucanr.edu/>

YOUTH EVENTS

Join us for the second annual Cloverbud Daycamp February 26th! Registration is Due February 10th.

Also save the date for Ag in the Classroom, this year May 9th at the Alturas JLS Showgrounds

MODOC COUNTY
4-H/FIRST 5
CLOVERBUD
DAYCAMP



TO SIGN UP PLEASE
CONTACT THE 4-H OFFICE
530-233-6400 OR EMAIL:
CMKUNERT@UCANR.EDU



Cloverbud Daycamp

All About Pets

12:30-4:30pm

Veterans Hall, Alturas

Saturday, February 26th 2022

Enrollment \$62 Ages 6-8

Ages 5 \$5

Enrollment includes:

Full afternoon at camp, swag bag,
art supplies and enrollment into
4-H for the year!



WE ARE ON THE WEB
CEMODOC.UCANR.EDU

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Alturas, California
Permit # 22

**COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION**

UCCE Modoc County
202 West 4th Street
Alturas, CA 96101
530-233-6400

Laura Snell
Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor
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FUTURE EVENTS OF INTEREST

February 10, 2022 Winter Ag Meeting
Intermountain Fairgrounds
March 18, 2022 Ag Expo Starting at 10am
Cedarville Fairgrounds
May 9, 2022 Ag in the Classroom
Alturas Junior Livestock Showgrounds
June 14-17 Junior Livestock Show
Alturas Junior Livestock Showgrounds
June 18, 2022 Colt Challenge Starting at Noon
Alturas Junior Livestock Showgrounds