

CALIFORNIA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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SERVING THE CATTLE
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April 25, 2016

Dr. Lisa Rossbacher
President
Humboldt State University
1 Harpst Street, Siemens Hall Room 224
Arcata, California 95521

Dear President Rossbacher:

The California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) represents more than 1,700 cattle ranchers throughout the state, including more than 100 ranchers in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. CCA members in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties are staunch supporters of Humboldt State University, and cattle ranchers in those counties and throughout the state benefit from the Rangeland Resource Science program at Humboldt State University, which provides the strong educational foundation for many of California's Certified Rangeland Managers (CRMs) who are an indispensable resource for California's ranchers and other resource managers.

Given the importance of the Rangeland Resource Science program to California's ranchers, CCA strongly urges Humboldt State University to prioritize the hiring of a full-time Soils professor and a full-time Range professor, filling the vacancies left by Donald Hauxwell in 2004 and Kenneth Fulgham in 2014. Additionally, CCA urges Humboldt State to add a new tenure-track faculty position in Rangeland Ecology, as specified in the 2009 Memorandum of Understanding between the College of Natural Resource Sciences and the Range and Soils Program. Filling these faculty positions is vital to continued rangeland management and stewardship throughout California.

CCA members take great pride in their stewardship of the state's land and water resources, and the expertise and advice of CRMs are key to implementing effective stewardship. CRMs are essential for providing management recommendations, developing conservation plans and management plans, and many other activities on rangelands throughout much of California.

Humboldt State University is the only baccalaureate institution in California that offers a Rangeland Resources Science program, completion of which is a pre-requisite to becoming licensed as a CRM. However, without full support of Humboldt State University leadership and full staffing for the program, the continued existence of the Rangeland Resource Science program is in jeopardy, correspondingly jeopardizing the continued existence and effectiveness of the CRM program in California.

The only other university on the West Coast with a Rangeland Resource Science program is Oregon State University (OSU), and reliance on OSU for California's CRMs would be a grim proposition for California's ranchers. Sending California residents to OSU to study Rangeland Resource Science is problematic for a number of reasons: (1) it would force California students

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| BILLY FLOURNOY PRESIDENT LIKELY | ROB VON DER LIETH TREASURER COPPEROPOLIS | BILLY GATLIN EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT HERALD | MIKE WILLIAMS SECOND VICE PRESIDENT ACTON | MARK LACEY SECOND VICE PRESIDENT INDEPENDENCE |
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to pay out-of-state tuition, presenting a strong disincentive to pursuing a rangeland sciences degree, (2) students' field experience would be on Oregon's rangeland, not the California rangeland they would be advising on in the future, (3) sending students out-of-state decreases the likelihood that they will return to work in California, and (4) there is absolutely no assurance that OSU has the resources necessary to service an influx California rangeland science students.

Nor does relying on OSU students to meet the demand for CRMs in California make sense: these students would lack the connection to the land, resources, and people of California that is exhibited by students of Humboldt State University's Rangeland Resource Science program, diminishing their effectiveness in advising ranchers and other land managers.

Finally, CCA urges Humboldt State to fill these faculty positions as a matter of basic fairness. During the five-year probationary period for the Rangeland Resource Science program, a Memorandum of Understanding between the College of Natural Resources and Science and the Rangeland Resource Science Program challenged the program to meet three benchmarks: (1) a minimum of 50 students majoring in the program, (2) a minimum of 12 graduates from the program per year, and (3) a minimum student-to-faculty ratio in classes above 20:1. By all accounts, the Rangeland Resource Science program has met these benchmarks. Program faculty have held up their end of the bargain by meeting (and exceeding) these benchmarks, and the University ought to hold up its end of the bargain by fully staffing the program's faculty. Additionally, fully staffing the Rangeland Resource Science program will ensure the program's continued ability to meet these benchmarks.

CCA appreciates the opportunity to provide input to the University regarding the Rangeland Resource Science program, and we thank you for your consideration of this matter. CCA urges Humboldt State University leadership to act quickly to fill faculty positions within the Rangeland Resource Science program to ensure the continued success of the program, the CRM program, and responsible land management in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Billy A. Flourney".

Billy Flourney
President

CC: Dr. Alex Enyedi, Provost & Vice President of Academic Affairs
Dr. Steven Smith, Dean, College of Natural Resources and Sciences
Dr. David F. Greene, Chair, Department of Forestry and Wildland Resources