

## California Rangeland Education (CRED) Project Summary - May 24, 2022

Need area: Curriculum Development, Instructional Delivery Systems and Expanding Student Career Opportunities

Rangeland Management Specialists (OPM Job Series -0454) are scarce yet are needed to fulfill Mission-Critical Occupations for the federal workforce. In California, a Certified Range Manager (CRM) or someone supervised by a CRM may be required for planning activities on forested landscapes pursuant to Public Resources Code §§ 762 and 772 and 14 CCR §§ 1650 and 1651. These require specific, minimum university-level coursework. Demand for grazing and conservation planning is expected to increase as initiatives to conserve wildlife habitat, connectivity, and carbon sequestration expands on private and public rangelands.

Our goal is to join the University of California, the California State University system and Audubon California to enable prospective students, ranchers, and land managers to obtain the necessary academic qualifications to become consultants and federal specialists. We will accomplish this through recruitment, academic prescription, experiential education, and mentorship. The Planning Activity will develop the following objectives:

- a. Identify strengths and weaknesses in existing curricula.
- b. Create a comprehensive CRM study guide to be posted as a curated collection on “RangeDocs” (<https://docs.rangelandsgateway.org/>).
- c. Suggest integrative new courses for contemporary challenges in ecosystem stewardship.
- d. Develop a “learning outcomes diagnostic panel” and “prescription” to assess participant skills and to accomplish participant goals.
- e. Frame a pilot place-based learning cohort in partnership with a working ranch. The objective here will be to position learning outcomes in a meaningful, integrated context, in service to the goals of the collaborating landowner.

