

# Building Partnerships THAT LAST

**Carissa Koopmann Rivers**

Rancher: Owner Rivers Red Angus

UC Davis Rangeland Watershed Specialist

Audubon California: Ranch Manager

# Challenges as a young rancher



- Finding available land
- Competing with larger operations economically
- Land available to us generally has water, noxious weed and infrastructure concerns

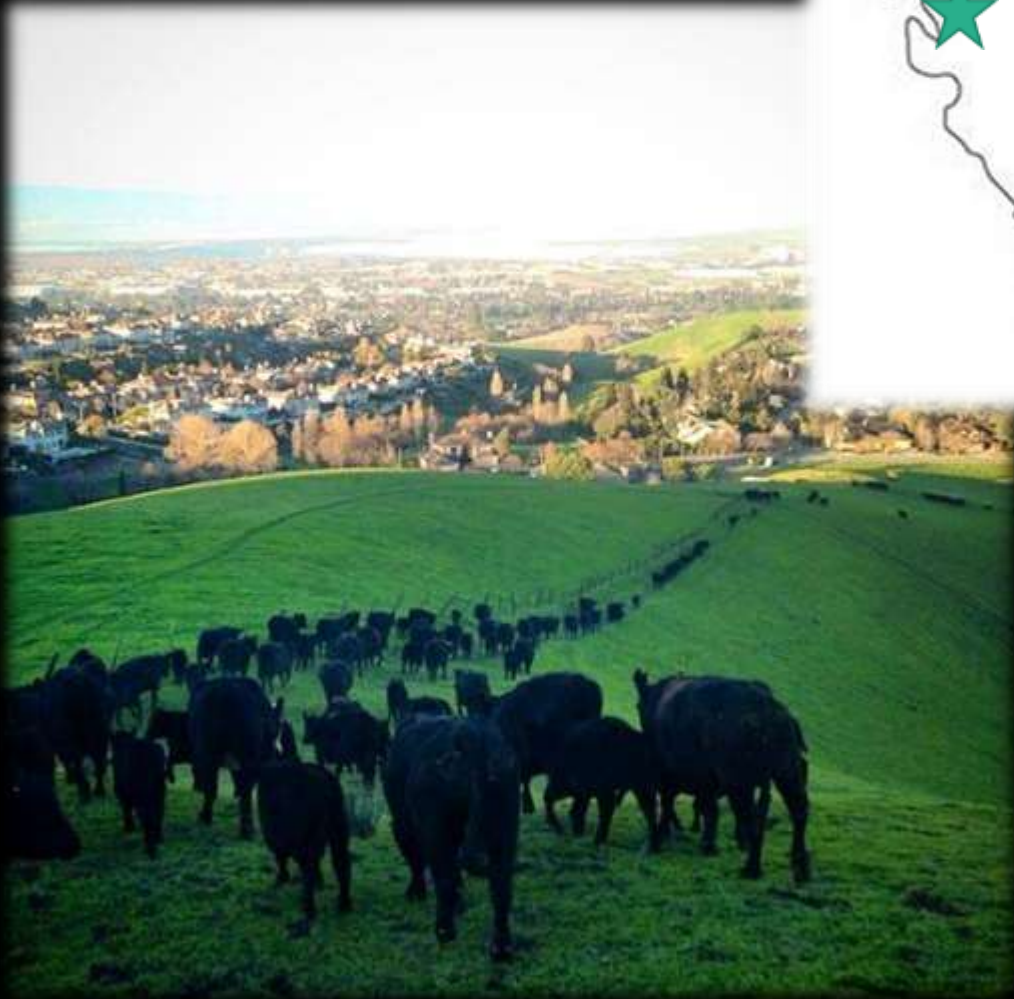


## PLUS...

- We have full time jobs and are trying to follow our passion and keep the hope of our family operations afloat for us and with any luck, the next generation.



**Where we are...**







**Preserve - Defend - Restore - Enjoy**



# Grazing Strategies



- Utilize cattle as a management tool to:
  - Reduce fuel load
  - Increase plant and wildlife diversity
  - Maintain healthy riparian areas
  - Help educate the public



# Implementing A Program



- **Selecting a tenant**
- **Rent credits or not**
- **Lease Duration**
- **Year round or seasonal**

# Challenges as a Land Manager

- Staff resources
- Operating funds
- Managing volunteers
- Trespassing and vandalism
- Landowner/neighbor relations
- Understanding ranching\*





# Land Managers Challenges



- Security
- Fencing
- Neighbor Relations
- Water
- Invasive species



# Ranchers Challenges

- Water availability
- Fence
- Difficult Neighbor
- Invasive species
  - Feral pigs
  - Purple star thistle
- Public trespass





# Opportunities

## Rent credits:

- Motivation to make improvements

## Working with the younger generation

- Motivation to work hard to stay in the game and keep the family in ranching
- Raised in this time of learning that working with land managers is the most productive way to accomplish goals

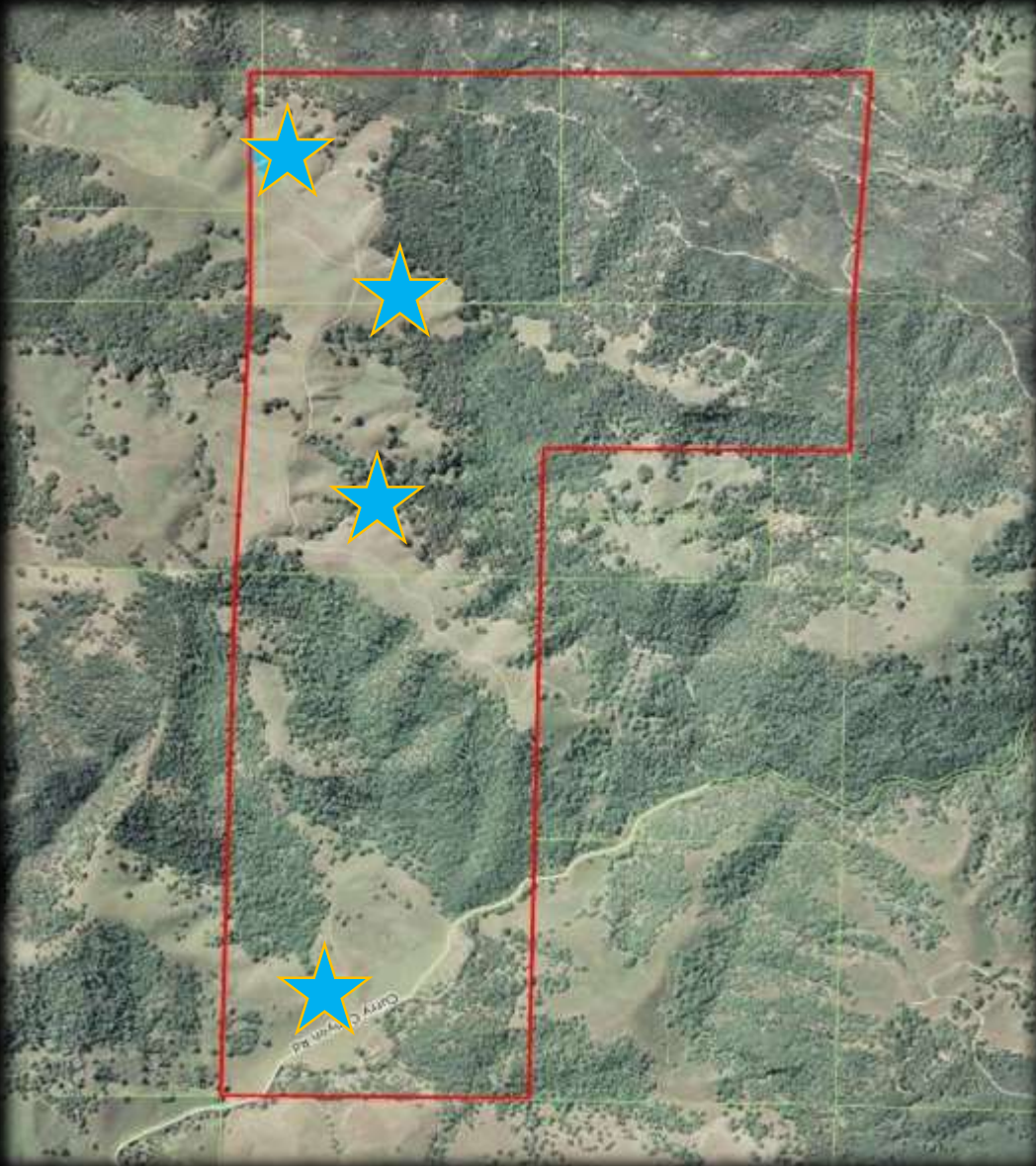
## Good relationship between landowner and rancher:

- Motivation to work together on common goals/projects





# Things you can do to start **Working Together**



- EFFORT
- Spring Restoration/development
- Boundary Fencing
- NRCS Projects
  - Cross Fence
  - Solar Pump, pipe, water storage
  - Pond Cleanout







# Biggest Concerns as lessee



- Length of lease
- Fate of ranch
- New land manager



# Communication/Transparency



**Talk about:**

- **Needs**  
(physical/economical)
- **Goals**
- **The future**
- **Concerns**
- **Ideas**
- **Everything**

**You do not have to  
agree on everything,  
but work to  
understand each  
other... listen**



# Take Home

- Give the younger generation a chance, think about us when you create your RFP- we have a lot to offer
- Communication between lessee and landowner is key
- Determine common goals, develop a management plan with those in mind
- Create a long term partnership



# Questions?

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