



**Presentation Abstracts**  
**Wildfire Prevention Grants for Prescribed Grazing**  
**Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**8:30am – 3:40pm**

**Allison Rofe:** Rangeland Specialist

**Abstract:** Brush encroachment in coastal prairie grassland communities is a common occurrence in the absence of fire and grazing. In Wildcat Canyon Regional Park, a year-round livestock grazing regime is in effect, yet there are areas present where brush is invading into the grasslands. With support from an NRCS EQIP contract and in partnership with the Park District grazing tenant and staff, and Star Creek Land Stewards, a three-year targeted grazing with goats pilot project was conducted in 5 treatment areas totaling 27 acres. The treatment areas are all within the cow calf operation grazing unit. The goal of using targeted grazing was to see how effective goats would be in reducing woody cover over time and what plants occupy that opened canopy space post treatment. Baseline vegetation data in both the grassland and shrubland were collected at three treatment locations and again sampled after third year of treatment. We will share our experiences, results, and future management plans for the treatment locations.

**Bianca Soares:** Star Creek Land Steward

**Abstract:** Targeted Grazing with sheep & goats is a useful tool in many different environments. The diverse pallets of each of these species allows for successful vegetation management of both native & invasive species. In the East Bay Regional Park System, we work with two different parks departments to achieve their separate goals of vegetation management. Both are looking to reduce dense brush overgrowth in areas within the parks district. One is to specifically reduce dense coyote brush that works its way into fully invading the surrounding grasslands, heavily focusing on the success of the livestock on reducing coyote brush, and also, what new plant species are taking root, in its absence. The other project aims to create fire-breaks at specific areas around fire roads, or up against neighborhoods. The goal of these projects is to be as effective as possible in reducing dry vegetation in zones deemed most critical to fire-prevention. The actions of the livestock are the same, regardless of the end goal, the difference is the way we, as land stewards, construct these projects and manage the animals within.

**Steve Keller:** Fuels Reduction Coordinator, Fire Dept, East Bay Regional Park District

**Abstract:** The East Bay Regional Park District has been utilizing targeted goat/sheep grazing for decades to manage flashy fuels during fire season. Currently, the Fire Department grazes 900

acres throughout Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. The grazing units target large inaccessible areas within the wildland-urban interface (WUI), that would otherwise be very difficult to maintain. The field tour will highlight a variety of fuel breaks, managed via targeting grazing within Tilden Park. By the end of the day the participants should have a good understanding of what is required to manage a grazing contract on a day-day basis.