**Siskiyou County Livestock Pass Program: 2022 Annual Report**

Prepared by Grace Woodmansee, Livestock Pass Program Coordinator & UCCE Siskiyou Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor, on February 28, 2023*.*

**Background:** Increasing wildfire preparedness for commercial livestock producers has become a pressing need; large-scale operations cannot efficiently evacuate their herds during an emergency and, therefore, must be able to access livestock sheltering in place. The goal of the Siskiyou County Livestock Pass Program is to identify commercial livestock operators to emergency responders so that access to care for livestock sheltering in place may be granted safely and efficiently.

**Program partners:** The Siskiyou County Cattlemen’s Association, UC Cooperative Extension, Agricultural Commissioner, Animal Control, Sheriff’s Office, California Highway Patrol, CALFIRE, Office of Emergency Services, and the US Forest Service (USFS) Klamath National Forest.

**Program Development and Training:** Program partners met throughout winter/spring 2022 to draft the Siskiyou County Livestock Pass program. The Siskiyou County Livestock Pass program is the first in the state to include the USFS as a formal partner, which is critical as many ranchers are USFS permittees that graze remote, federally owned allotments during peak fire season, increasing their risk of being impacted by wildfire. The program was approved by the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors on April 19, 2022. The first Livestock Pass training was hosted on May 10, 2022 at Montague Community Hall. In total, 56 ranchers representing 34 operations were trained and issued a Pass.

**2022 Fire Season:** Siskiyou County experienced two major wildfires in 2022: the McKinney Fire (>60,000 acres; forestlands) and the Mill Fire (>4,000 acres; town of Weed, pasturelands). Throughout both fires, Grace Woodmansee collaborated with program partners by working out of the Emergency Operations Center where she provided briefings at agency meetings (CALFIRE, USFS), supported pass holders, answered questions, and developed/disseminated outreach materials. In total, 4 ranchers requested to use their Pass in 2022 and all did so successfully.

**Year in review meeting, November 29, 2022:** Program partners and ranchers who experienced using the program in 2022 met to discuss lessons learned and opportunities to improve preparedness in 2023. Ranchers who used the program in 2022 reported that the program worked as intended and was a benefit to them. Key problems and proposed solutions were identified (below) and will be prioritized in 2023 programming.

* Problem: Inefficiencies and confusion at roadblocks.

Solution: Create list of Pass holders for agencies staffing roadblocks so that those using a Pass can be crosswalked with list.

* Problem: Difficult to communicate where livestock are located/concentrated throughout county (i.e., high risk areas).

Solution: Create map of livestock throughout the county (i.e., home ranch address and allotments, not necessarily number of head/property). OES staff can assist. \**Mapping was a high priority for all those in attendance at the 2022 program review meeting.*

* Problem: Time-consuming to provide individual updates and reminders to Pass Holders.

Solution: Push notifications. OES staff can assist.