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Recreation and  
Conservation Office



# Developing a Strategic Approach to Support Conservation Grazing in Western, WA



ECOSTUDIES INSTITUTE  
conserving birds and their habitats through science, restoration, and outreach



*Regional livestock farms and ranches*

*WSU Extension*

*Thurston Conservation District*

*Ecostudies Institute*

*USFWS Partners Program*

*USDA NRCS*





# What is Conservation Grazing?

## ***Combination of***

1. Habitat management
2. Grass/forage based rotational grazing systems
3. Animal health and welfare
4. Environmental sustainability
5. Value proposition for market



## *A sampling of organizations working in this area...*

- California Rangeland Trust
- Ranchers Stewardship Alliance
- Partnerscapes (nationwide)
- Audubon: Conservation Ranching
- Santa Lucia Conservancy  
Conservation Grazing
- SW WA Grazing Association







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All program funding

Field  
Research

Western SARE

Community  
Outreach

Grazing  
Association

SARE Research to  
Grassroots

Washington Coastal Restoration  
& Resilience Initiative

New  
Farmer  
Training

Market  
Development

Readiness & Environmental  
Protection Initiative (REPI)

REPI Outreach

Regulatory  
Education

Conservation  
Easements

*Conservation  
grazing requires  
multi-pronged  
support*

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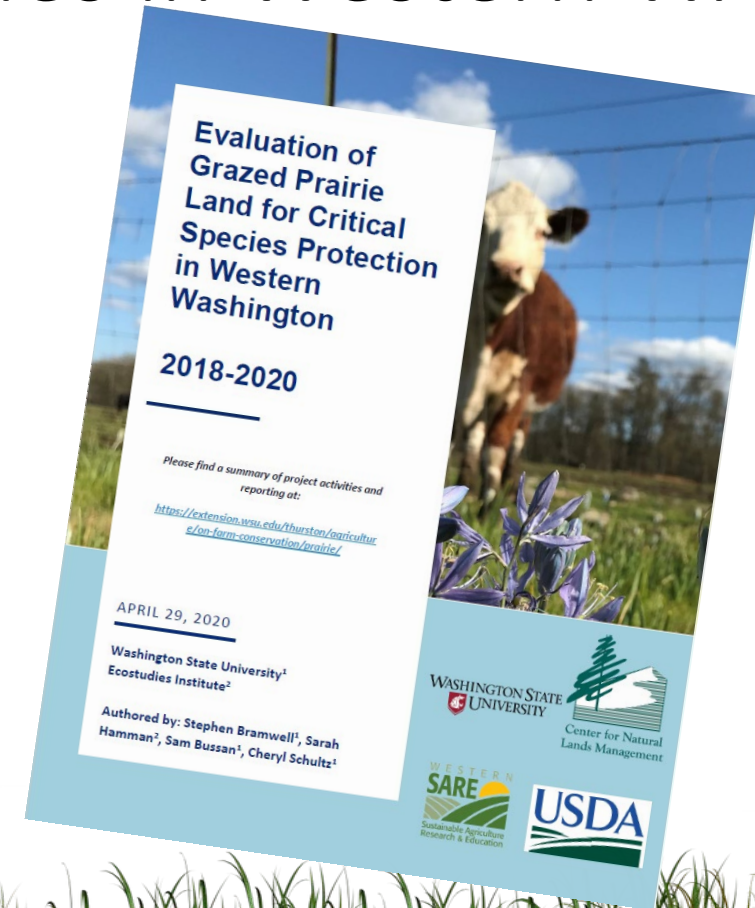
# Maintaining Rangeland Productivity, Protecting Rare Native Prairies in Western WA



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*To what extent can conservation  
grazing contribute to prairie habitat  
and species protection?*



USDA WSARE project  
#SW18-103

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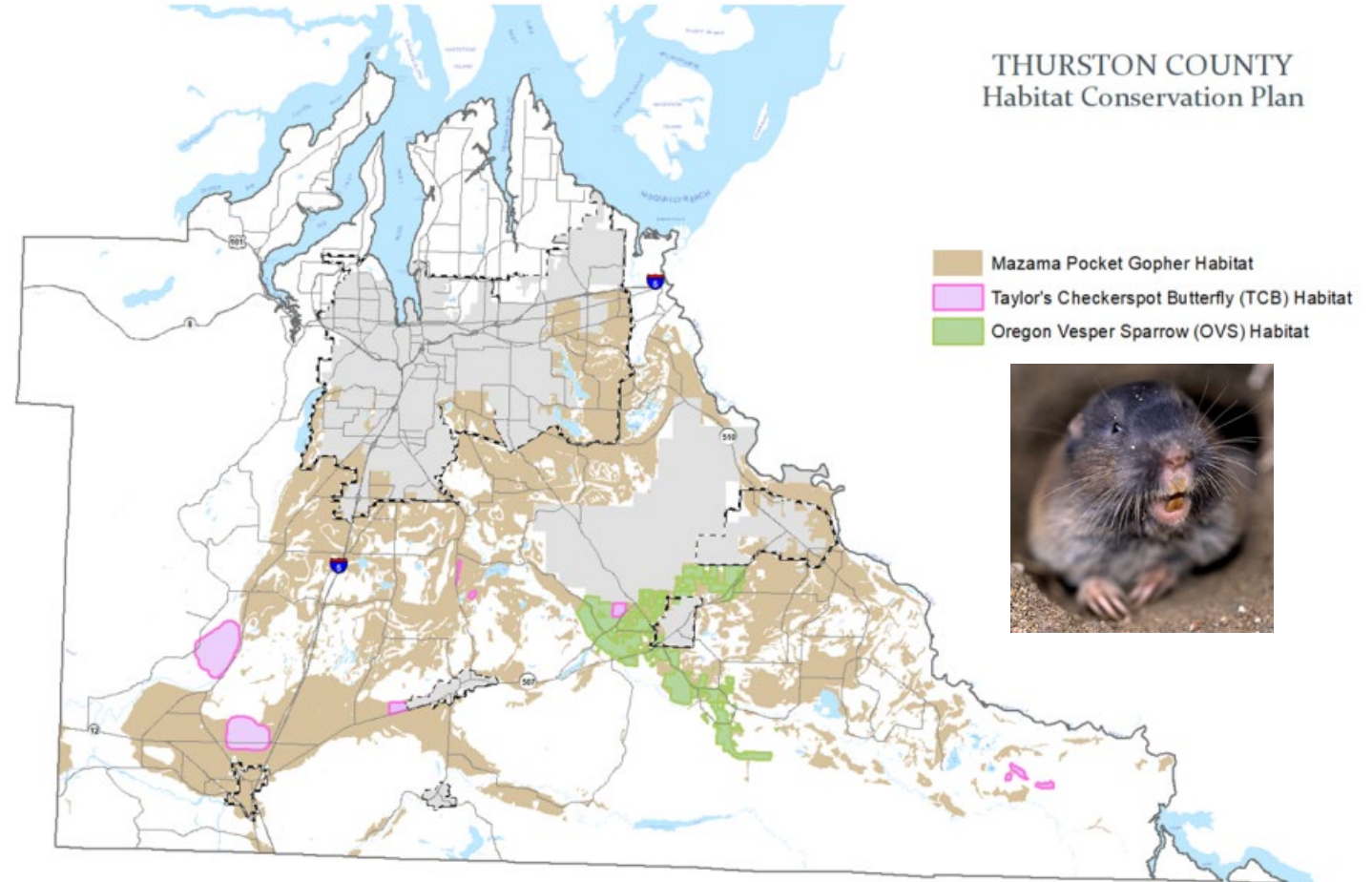
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# Recruiting Private Land for Habitat Protection

- 6 listed species
- Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) - 3,469 acres needed



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# Habitat Conservation Plan Community Meetings for Rural Landowners



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# Building a grassland grazing association

*This project is aimed at developing a grazing association to support the ecological, economic and social sustainability of ranching in western Washington.*

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# *...programs that support sustainable grazing businesses*



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- Webinars
- Pasture Walks
- On-farm Demonstrations
- Workshops
- Annual Grazing Association Meeting
- ...networking

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# Grazing Association Pasture Walk

## Fagerness Dairy, Flying Cow Creamery



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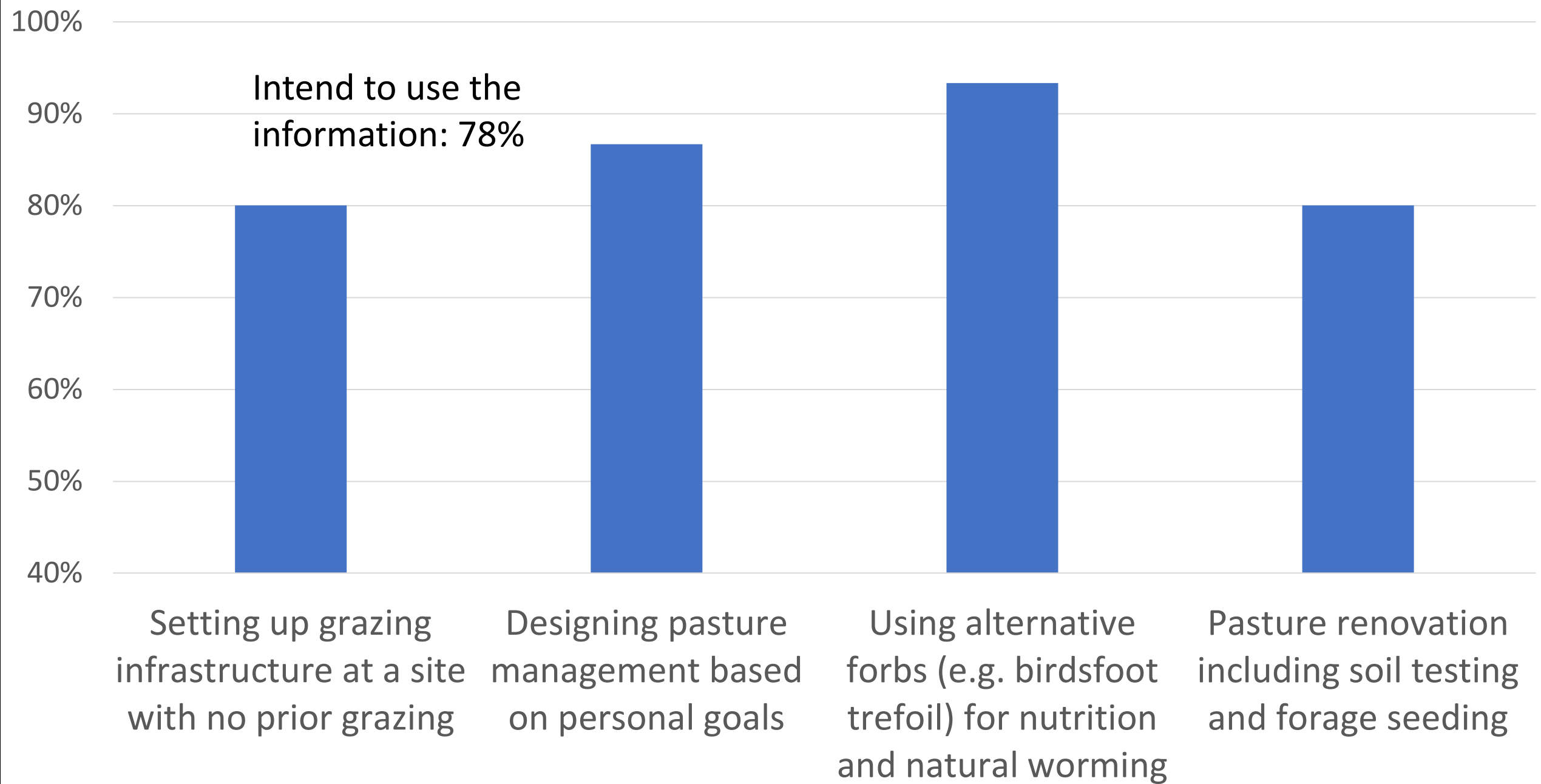
- Pasture establishment
- Species selection
- Integrating forbs for ecosystem and animal health services



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# Rotational Grazing Treatments





# Market Access



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# Grazing Land Access



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Land leasing support: Western Coastal Restoration and Resiliency grant



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## TEACHING STAFF:

The Southwest Washington Grazing School was developed by faculty at Washington State University Extension and resource conservationists at the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Several personnel at both will be your instructors, including Marty Chaney, Steve Fransen, Stephen Bramwell, Sierra Smith, and Rebecca Anderson. The training also utilizes the extensive experience of regional livestock producers.



WSU EXTENSION  
**Thurston County**

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Stephen Bramwell, WSU Extension  
Thurston County at 360-790-9308

[bramwell@wsu.edu](mailto:bramwell@wsu.edu)

Sierra Smith, WSU Extension  
Thurston County at 360-943-9871

[sierra.smith@wsu.edu](mailto:sierra.smith@wsu.edu)

# Train New Conservation Graziers



Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication or program information or reasonable accommodations need to contact Stephen Bramwell at [bramwell@wsu.edu](mailto:bramwell@wsu.edu) or (360) 790-9308.

## PARTICIPATION COSTS:

- Cost Per Person: \$400
  - Please inquire about scholarships
- Cost Per Family/Ranch Team: \$400 for the first person, and \$250 for each subsequent person.
  - One set of materials per team

## WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Continental Breakfast
- Full catered lunch and dinner
- One set of materials per registrant or family/team
- Supplies for hands-on learning activities

## SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON GRAZING SCHOOL

Mid April 2023 - Tenino, WA

Multi-Day Intensive  
Dates TBD



# Project Partners



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