



Restoring Native Grasslands

Pepperwood stewards 900-acres of prime grasslands, a globally rare habitat critical to the value of the California Floristic region, one of the world’s 25 “hot spots” for biodiversity. Grasslands support the life cycles of numerous wildlife species and constitute millions of acres of productive agricultural pasture lands across California, and yet are one of the most endangered habitats both in California and worldwide.

At Pepperwood, we have developed a five-year initiative to demonstrate how conservation grazing and prescribed burning can promote both biodiversity and regenerative agriculture in California’s native grasslands. This effort builds on our robust academic and agency partnerships and high-quality data collection conducted since 2011. We are integrating Indigenous science into our adaptive stewardship approach and raising our community’s awareness of the role of grasslands in maintaining a healthy environment. Pepperwood is thus advancing, demonstrating, and sharing methods

NEED	APPROACH	OUTCOMES
<p>Grasslands are critical to carbon sequestration, soil formation and retention, nutrient cycling, water supply and flood control.</p>	<p>Demonstrate science-based adaptive management of our 900-acres of grassland using conservation grazing and prescribed burning practices.</p>	<p>Expand the number of acres of healthy grasslands statewide and improve habitat for wildlife and pollinators.</p>
<p>Grasslands provide critical habitat for 90 percent of California’s rare or endangered species.</p>	<p>Expand ecological monitoring of grasslands, including soil carbon measurements, to support California’s greenhouse gas reduction targets.</p>	<p>Reduce hazardous wildfire fuels and improve strategic access for first responders during wildfire events.</p>
<p>Eighty-eight percent of California’s grasslands are privately owned and just four percent are protected in reserves.</p>	<p>Host and attend gatherings of scientists, land managers, cattle producers, tribes, and agencies to share innovative techniques and best practices and expand public education activities.</p>	<p>Increase soil health, including carbon and water storage, at Pepperwood and beyond.</p>
<p>And yet, native grasslands are one of the most endangered ecosystems in California, with 47,000 acres of habitat per year converted to other uses.</p>		<p>Grow public appreciation and support for active protection and restoration of grasslands.</p>

- PARTNERS**
- CAL FIRE
 - California Climate and Agriculture Network
 - California Native Grasslands Association
 - California Invasive Plant Council
 - Holistic Ag (cattle operator)
 - Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - Pepperwood Native Advisory Council
 - Savory Institute
 - University of California and Cooperative Extension
 - and various Resource Conservation Districts