

# Managing Rangelands in Increasingly Uncertain Times

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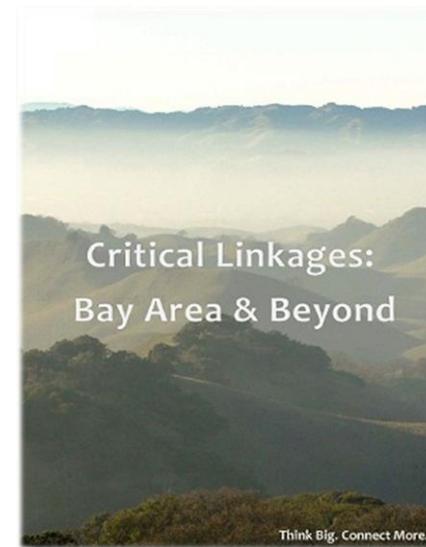
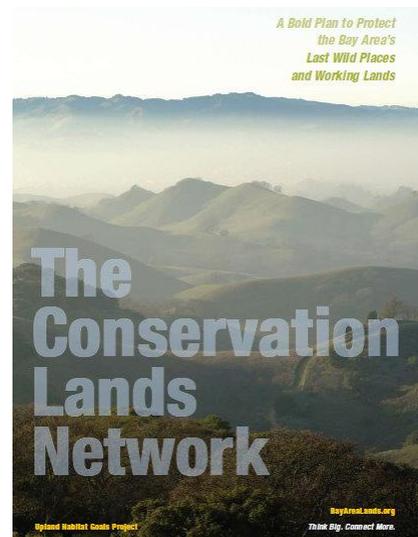
# Workshop Goal

- ▶ Bring together ranchers, public rangeland managers, and rangeland experts to begin to identify conservation strategies to sustain the numerous ecosystem benefits of rangelands, support the needs of public land managers, and those of the Bay Area ranching economy, which could be at risk in an increasingly uncertain environment.



# Why rangelands and ranching matter

- ▶ Just under half of the Bay Area's 4.5 million acres are rangelands.
- ▶ Both the Conservation Lands Network and the Critical Linkages: The Bay Area and Beyond emphasize the importance of rangelands and ranching to sustaining biological diversity.



# Why rangelands and ranching matter

- ▶ Rangeland management practices provide numerous benefits:
  - ▶ food production
  - ▶ management for biodiversity
  - ▶ water quality and supply
  - ▶ clean air
  - ▶ crop pollinator habitat
  - ▶ “ecosystem services”



# Why rangelands and ranching matter

- ▶ Grazing is an important tool for vegetation management.
- ▶ Impacts predicted from a changing climate include increased fire frequency and intensity, and drought.
- ▶ Both increase opportunity for invasives to spread.



# Why rangelands and ranching matter

- ▶ Ranchers depend on public grazing leases.
- ▶ Public land managers depend on ranchers to control invasives, manage fuel loads and reduce thatch.
- ▶ But ranching has become an increasingly difficult endeavor in the Bay Area.

# Why rangelands and ranching matters

- ▶ What are conservation strategies that can help us adapt to and/or mitigate some of the predicted impacts of a changing climate?
- ▶ How do we work together on common goals to maintain the benefits provided by private ranchers?