Annual Report
2018

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We are pleased to share this report highlighting programs from the past year. We’re so excited to bring Ryan Tompkins on board as our new Forestry Advisor. Ryan replaces Mike DeLasaux, who retired in June 2018. By adding Ryan we now have a full staff who covers the diversity of agricultural and natural resource issues in Plumas and Sierra counties. Tracy Schohr continues as our Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor where she has initiated new research, rancher workshops, and has been the communication liaison for wolf issues. Kari O’Reilly provides effective leadership to our 4-H program that exposes youth to agricultural production, science and technology, and local youth educational gardening support. Kari also hosts the annual 4-H Summer Camp for youth in Plumas and Sierra counties. Tom Getts, provides technical assistance to Plumas and Sierra farmers and land managers from Susanville, and continues his research on irrigation technology helping local farmers stay productive and viable. Finally, Barbara Goulet, serves as our Administrative Assistant who provides support not only to our staff, but our local Master Gardener Volunteers and 4-H Volunteers. Please feel free to give us a call or come by and see us any time!

- David Lile, County Director

The Plumas/Sierra group of Master Gardeners is an enthusiastic cadre of volunteers, trained by UCCE, who advise and provide technical support to backyard gardeners throughout both counties!
Ryan Tompkins comes to UC Cooperative Extension from the Plumas National Forest where he’s practiced nearly all aspects of forest management for the past 16 ½ years. His heart was first drawn to the northern Sierra Nevada after spending a summer at the University of California (UC) Berkeley Forestry Camp in Meadow Valley nearly 25 years ago.

Ryan completed a Bachelor in Science in Forestry (1996) and a Master of Forestry (2001) at UC Berkeley and completed post-graduate extension courses at Utah State University (2005-2007) as part of his silvicultural certification with the US Forest Service. Most recently he’s worked for the Plumas National Forest as the Forest Silviculturist and Vegetation Management Program Manager, though he’s also worked with the National Park Service and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Ryan looks forward to his new role and is excited to continue to work with the county board of supervisors and local partners on wildfire resilience, forest health, and forest restoration challenges in the northeastern California forests and communities that he cherishes the most.
Weed Ecology and Cropping Systems Advisor, Tom Gets, has been working with local agricultural producers for two years. His research and extension programs focus on providing insight to agronomic challenges and helping solve invasive weed problems wherever they grow.

**Outreach**

Updates on activities and research are distributed in newsletters and reports on the website.

Farm calls allow on-site visits with farmers to provide technical information to increase crop performance and control invasive weeds.

Getts and Schohr spoke at the 2018 Plumas-Sierra Ag Commissioner’s Grower Day, providing technical training to ranchers, farmers and foresters.

**Research**

Weed control trials demonstrating effectiveness of newly registered herbicides are conducted regionally to provide non biased information to hay growers.

Low Elevation Sprinkler Packages for center pivots are being tested in Sierra Valley for increased efficiency and reduced pumping cost.

Invasive weeds are problematic for all land owners. Research is being conducted to better control tall whitetop, medusahead, thistles and other species in the region!
Tracy Schohr is the Livestock and Natural Resources advisor. Schohr is conducting extension, education and applied research focusing on livestock production, economics, and sustainable range and pasture management. She is developing solutions to the complex issues facing commercial livestock producers in the region.

Continued research on irrigated pasture sites, assessing forage production and efficiency. Gathered final year of data on grazing meadows health project on US Forest Service lands.

Provided resources to ranchers impacted by the Camp Fire. Investigated forage and water quality impacts of fire in relation to cattle health.

Launched research project, equipping cattle with GPS collars to investigate livestock distribution and utilization on the Plumas National Forest.

Hosted multiple tours for ranchers and government officials regarding natural resources and livestock grazing in the region.

Supported ranchers operating with predators. Hosted a wolf community meeting with CA Department of Fish and Wildlife. Continued research on predator impacts to livestock production locally.

Provided technical assistance to ranchers on land management, regulatory compliance, animal health, and business planning.
4-H Community Education Specialist, Kari O’Reilly has been working with youth in Plumas and Sierra Counties for four years. Through community club programs, camps and in-school experiences, 4-H continues to extend it’s reach and benefit youth with impactful, hands-on, community service focused programming.

**Club Programs**
Plumas-Sierra 4-H boasts eight Community Club Programs in Loyalton, Sierra Valley, Portola, Quincy, Indian Valley and Chester. Enrollment is increasing!

**STEM Projects**
This Electrical Engineering project is one example of new STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) projects being offered by local clubs.

**Livestock Projects**
Traditional 4-H livestock projects benefit from new educational events geared towards deepening their experience.

**In-School Programs**
Traditional Collaborations between in-school garden programs and 4-H has led to exciting new projects like the new Seed Lending Library at the Quincy Public Library!

**Community Service**
4-Hers pledge their “hands to larger service” which means they continually participate in community service activities, like this 4-H member coloring Easter eggs with a resident of the long term care facility in Chester.

**Camp**
Our sleep away 4-H summer camp continues to thrive and grow! We are proud to offer an affordable, nature based camp for local youth ages 9-18! Where teens learn leadership skills as counselors.