



April 16, 2012

Barbara Allen-Diaz
Vice President
University of California
1111 Franklin St.
Franklin 10201
Oakland, CA 94607-5200

Dear Barbara:

The California Rangeland Conservation Coalition (Rangeland Coalition) Steering Committee would like to express our support for the **position of Animal Grazing Systems Extension Specialist housed in the Animal Science Department at UC Davis.**

The Rangeland Coalition is an unprecedented group of ranchers, environmental organizations, scientists and government agencies who are major California rangeland stakeholders. Together, signatories strive to enhance and preserve private working landscapes. Having scientific information available is essential to our mission. We feel strongly a need for this position that working across disciplines will play an essential role in the development and application of science-based grazing recommendations to maximize the provision of ecosystem services such as forage productivity, wildlife habitat, invasive species control and an adequate and reliable water supply for California. This position will provide critical insights to guide rangeland management, policy, and outreach, along with playing a pivotal role in meeting the objectives stated in the Rangeland Coalition Strategic Plan.

The Rangeland Coalition is excited to see the potential new position that will focus on rangeland ecosystem services. We sincerely hope that representatives from our Steering Committee would be asked to sit on a selection committee if funding for the position is approved. In addition, we hope that you would direct the new hire to guidance from the Rangeland Coalition Steering Committee to define their scope of work and in establishing relationships with ranchers, land managers and organizations and groups that are focused on rangeland ecosystem services. Again, the Rangeland Coalition supports the creation of the Animal Grazing Systems Extension Position. If you have any questions regarding our support or engagement of the Rangeland Coalition, please contact Tracy Schohr at (916) 716-2643 or tracy@carangeland.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracy K. Schohr".

Tracy K. Schohr
Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pelayo Alvarez".

Pelayo Alvarez
Director