

California Ranches



- Ranches or range livestock production systems are complex and individualistic

Range Livestock Production Systems



- Each ranch has a different mix of forage sources
- Most forage sources are seasonal
- Seasonal availability and lease agreements control season of use

Seasonal Forage Sources



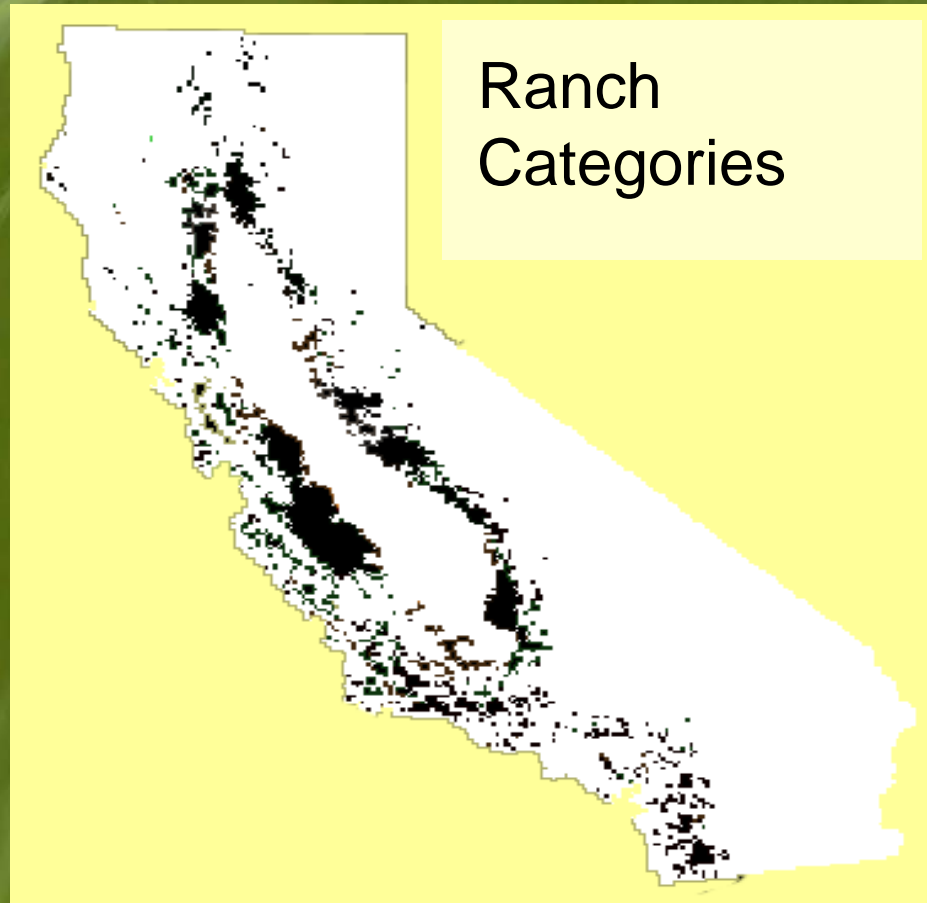
- Annual Rangelands
- Mountain Meadows
- Great Basin
- Irrigated Pasture

Seasonal Forage Sources

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Annual Range	Grazing Season			Dry Season (low quality grazing)								
Public Land	not accessible			Grazing Season (FS permit)								
Irrigated Pasture	Grazing Season (almost all year)											
Great Basin	Winter Season			Grazing Season (private land)								

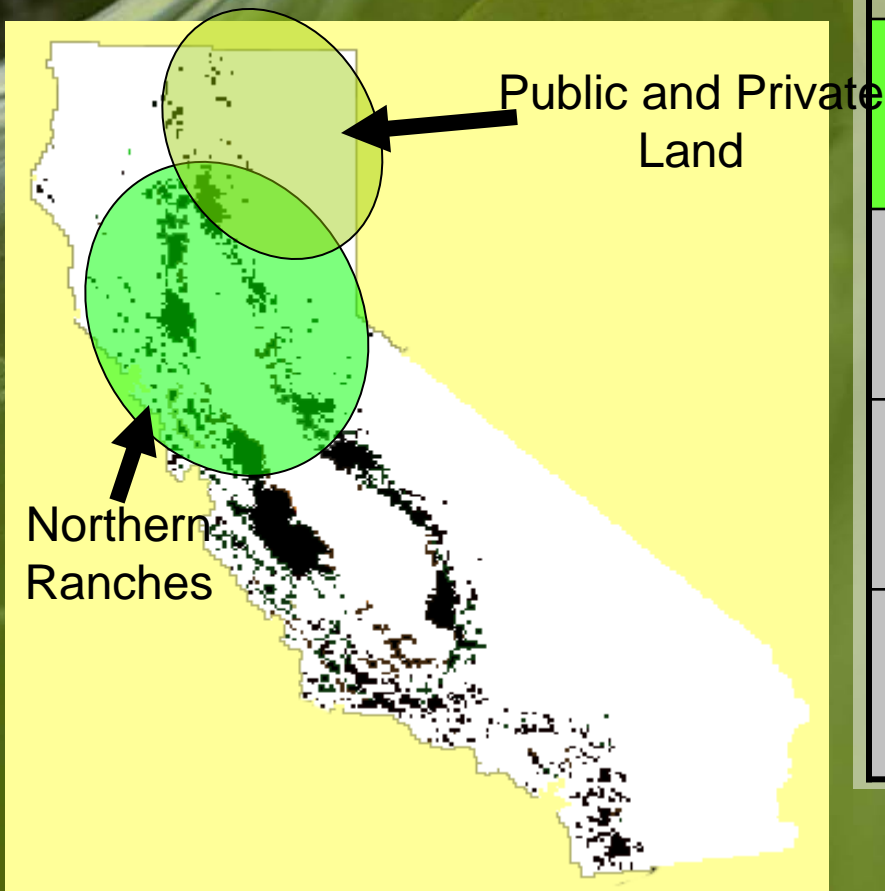
- Forage Sources
 - Annual range is available all year
 - Public land leases available for summer grazing
 - Irrigated pasture available all year
 - Great Basin available in summer growing season – sometimes winter grazing

Ranching Operations



Ranching Operations

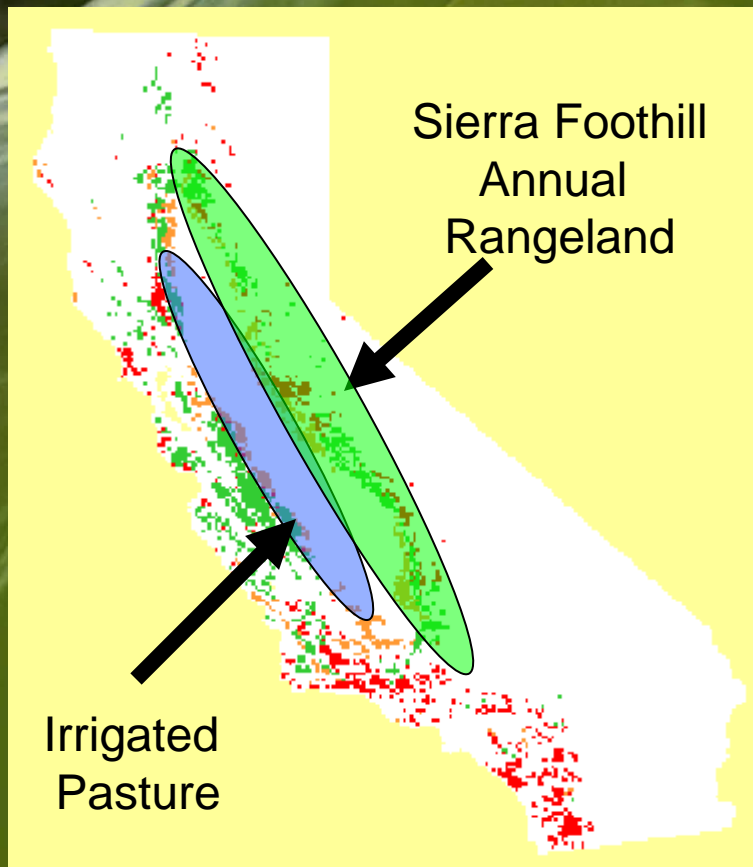
Northern California Ranches



J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Green Season				Dry Season							
				High Elevation Sagebrush, Forest Meadows							
				High Elevation Pasture							

Ranching Operations

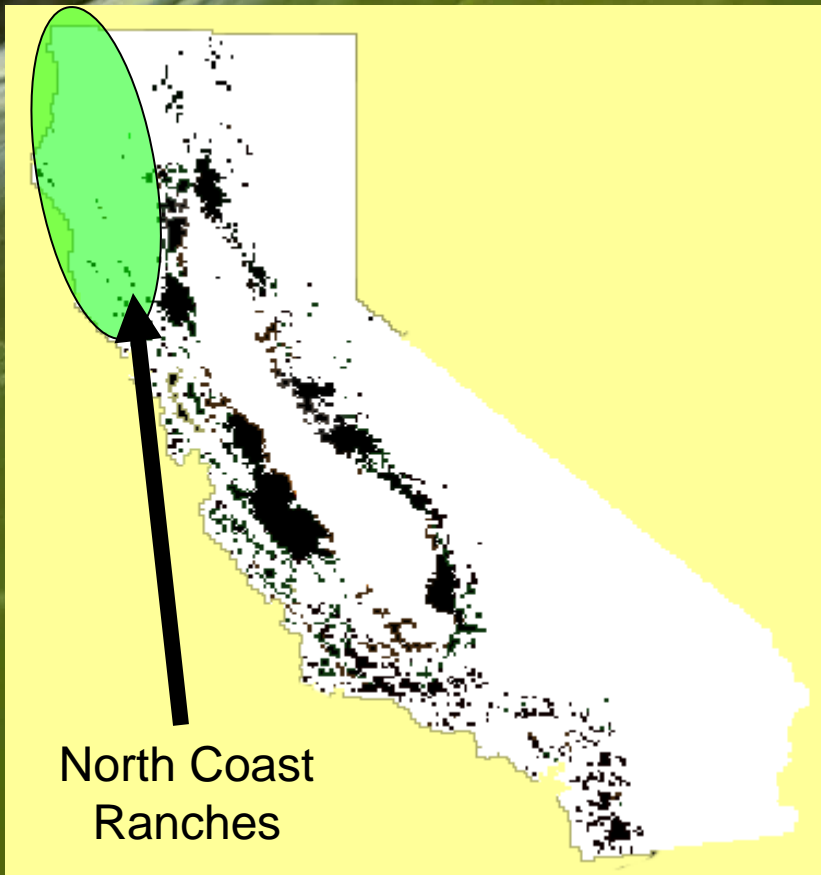
Sierra Foothill Ranches



J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Green Season				Dry Season							
				High Elevation Sagebrush, Forest Meadows							
				High Elevation Pasture							
Valley Irrigated Pasture											

Ranching Operations

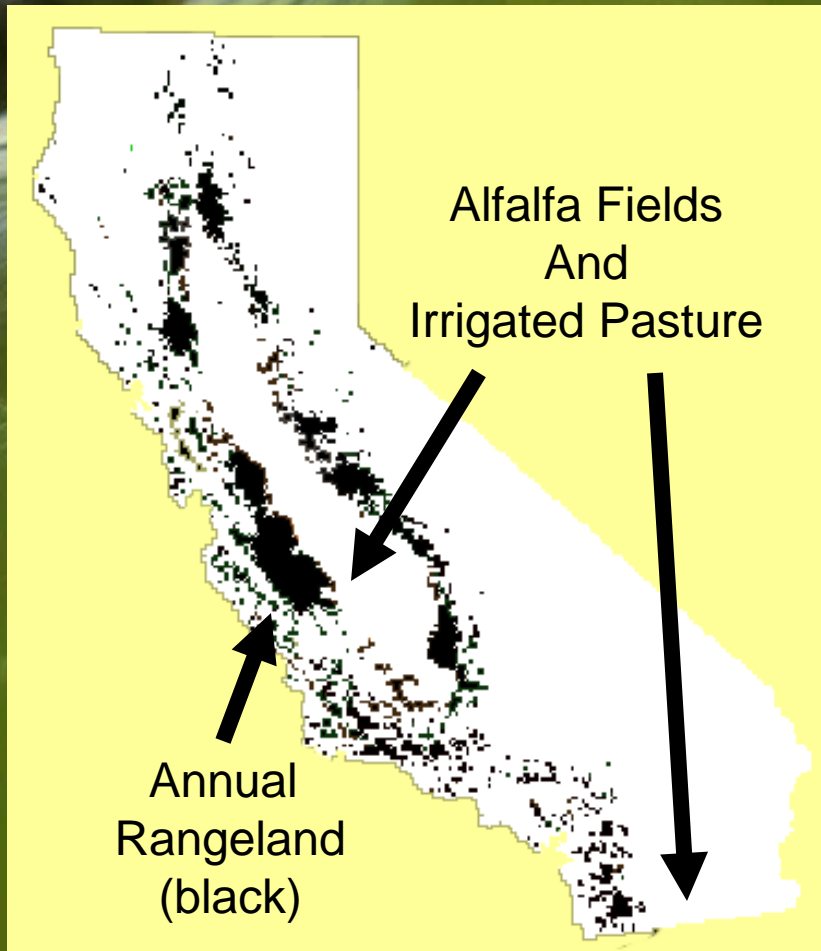
North Coastal Ranches



J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Green Season				Dry Season							
Coastal/Valley Irrigated Pasture											
Forest Land											

Sheep Operations

Sheep Forage Sources



J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
Green Season				Dry Season							Green Season	
Grey				High Elevation Sagebrush, Forest Meadows							Grey	
Grey				High Elevation Pasture							Grey	
Valley Irrigated Pasture												

Grazing Leases



- Leases
 - Public land permits
 - Federal: Forest Service, BLM, DOD
 - State: little, resistance to grazing state parks
 - Local: Open space, parks, water districts
 - Private leases
 - Absentee owners, Utility Co., Timber Co.

Grazing Leases



- Lease length (in and out dates)
- Landowner services
- Water
- Reasonable use
- Special clauses
- Restrictions (hunting, fishing, tree cutting)
- Supplemental Feeding
- Maintenance and Improvements

Summary

- Each ranch is unique to the family and the landscape, but common in some operational characteristics
- Forage sources are seasonal in their availability, productivity and quality
- Forage sources in California are: annual rangelands, mountain meadows, great basin rangelands, and irrigated pasture
- In California, annual grasslands and oak-woodlands are the largest source of grazed forage

The background of the slide is a photograph of a waterfall, with water cascading down rocks. The image is heavily filtered with a semi-transparent green color, creating a monochromatic effect. The text is centered in a white rectangular box at the top of the slide.

End of this Presentation