

Rangeland Stewardship

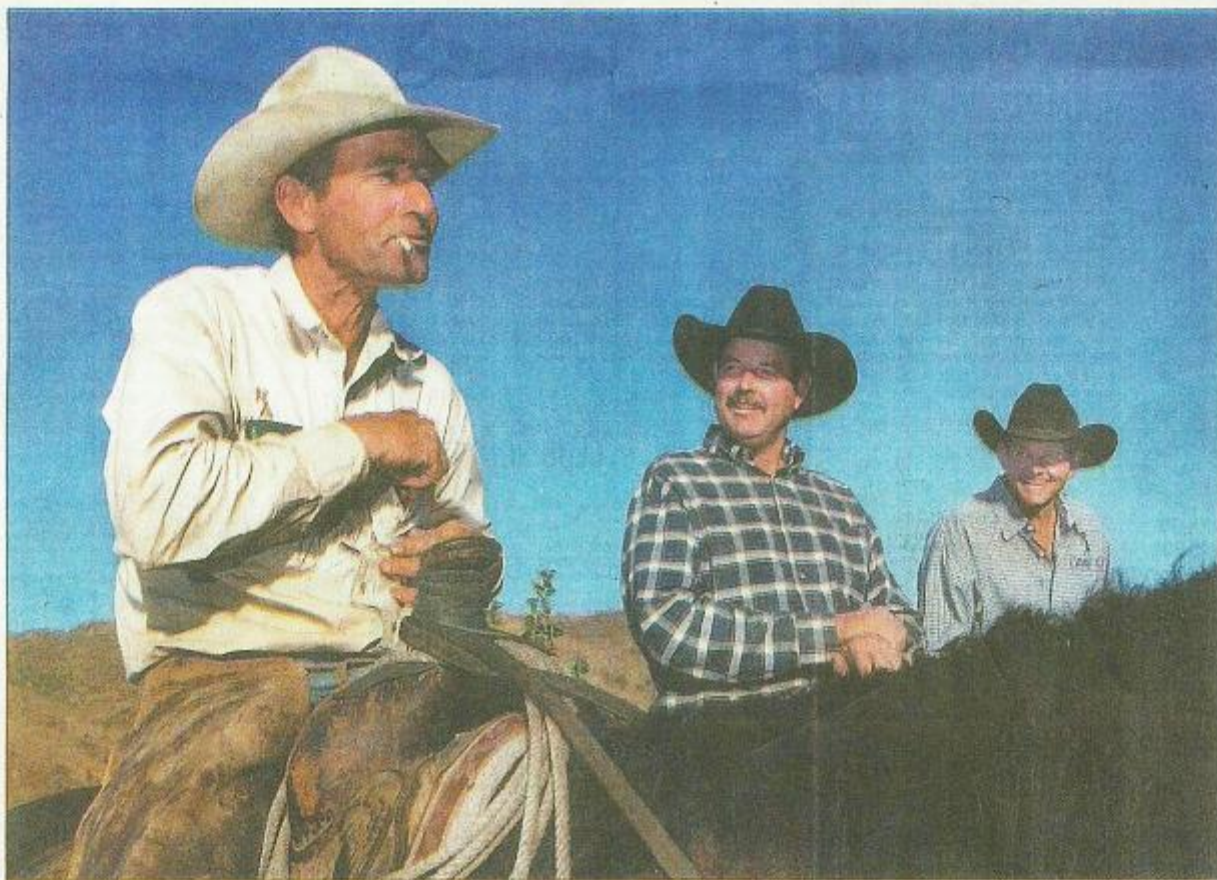
Richard Atmore Jr.
President, R.A. Atmore and Sons, Inc.
President, R.A. Cattle Company

Ventura River Watershed Council
October 3, 2013





R.A. ATMORE & SONS, INC.
Natural Resources Division



COWBOY COUNSELORS: Pete Cator, left, Richard Atmore and Brad Haley, of Ventura County, offer their views on love and marriage.

Ventura County Star

Love Wranglers

California cowboys dispense free advice on love, marriage



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Grazing Operation

- R.A. Cattle Co., division of R.A. Atmore & Sons, Inc.
- 275 head Cow/Calf Operation
- 6800 acres currently under lease
- Current grazing capacity = 1 animal unit (1000 lbs.) per 35 acres
- Current grazing methods: High Intensity – Short Duration / Rotational – Rest.





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Grazing Benefits

- Invasive Weed Control
- Valuable Protein Source
- Wildfire Protection
- Enhanced Viewshed
- Security & Management for Open Space
- TNC, USFWS & others utilize grazing to enhance habitat on their properties.



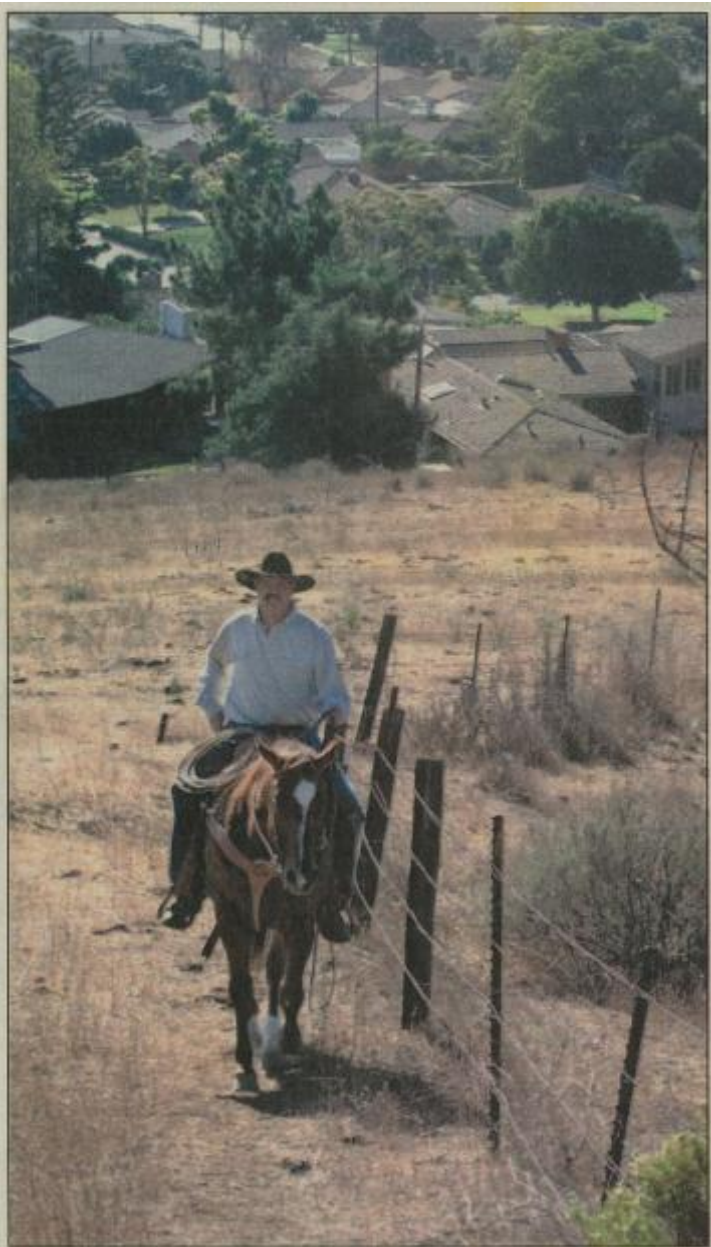




MAR 15 2008







STEVE OSMAN / Los Angeles Times

Richard Atmore rides his horse on the ranch land where he has grazed his cattle for 20 years.









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MAY 21 2008





R.A. Cattle Company



Prepared by Wildscape Restoration, March 2007; Aerial Imagery Source: USDA NAIP 2005

Historic Land Stewards



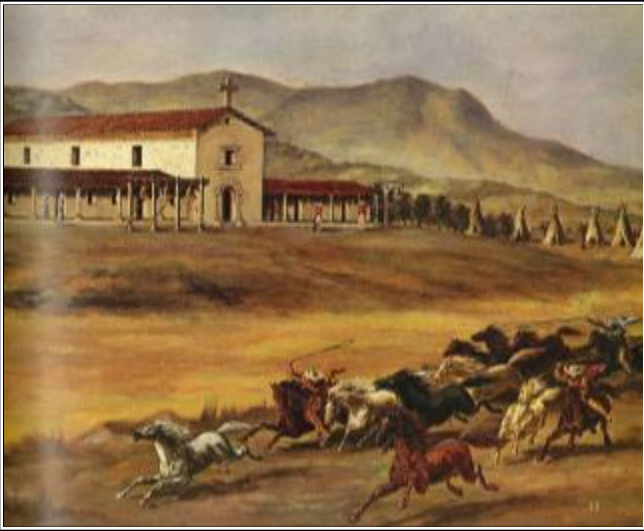
American Indians: The First Land Managers



The Chumash burned brush for 5000 years to:

- **Increase Food Resources**
- **Reduce Fire Hazard**
- **Increase Water Resources**
- **Increase Game Animals**

Spanish Colonization



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When the Spanish arrived in 1770:

- **The California landscape was primed for the introduction of agriculture & animal husbandry**
- **Cattle were California's first agricultural product**
- **Hides & tallow were shipped to Europe**
- **Meat was a useless by-product**



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Cattle Ranchers



- **5 Generations of Stewardship**





Central Coast
Farm & Ranch

Grassland Caretakers

The Lima Connection

CWA Chapter Celebrates 30 Years

What's Driving Fuel Costs?

SUMMER 2006

Management of Venturan Coastal Sage Scrub



Prescribed Burning



Robert St. John / Star Press Photo

Controlled burn darkens sky for miles

A flame torch suspended from a helicopter opens fire near the Two Trees landmark before a controlled burn of Ventura's hillside concluded near dusk Friday. Under a cloud of haze visible for miles, Ventura ranchers J.A. "Toots" Jauregui, above left, and Richard Atmore check the fire line near their grazing cattle. Starting Thursday, 30 Ventura city and county firefighters burned a 2,100-acre firebreak in a bid to prevent brush fires for several years. Scores of citizens called with questions and concerns. "It never got out of control," said Denise Mabry, a county fire spokeswoman. "Everything went fine and it's done. It will smoke for a while."

- **Produces rangeland conversions**
- **Reduces fuel hazards**
- **Creates habitat diversity**
- **Increases water resources**
- **Provides habitat more favorable to wildlife**
- **Increases livestock carrying capacity**



Prescribed Burning

Mastication





Mastication

Prescribed Grazing



Barlow Canyon 1955



- **Photos dating back to 1850 depict similar viewsheds**
- **Photo depicts thousands of years of sage scrub management**
- **By 1955 95% of grasses were introduced species**

Barlow Canyon 2009



- **1960 – 1988: No prescribed burning**
- **Coastal sage scrub demonstrates dominance over annual grasses**



1955: Livestock carrying capacity of 1 animal unit per 10 acres

2009: Livestock carrying capacity of 1 animal unit per 35 acres





Prescribed burned in 1995

- **13 years after controlled burn**



Adjacent hillside burned in 1974 wildfire

- **34 years since last burned**





Mastication Area







Push, Pile and Burn Area



Post-prescribed burn



Controlled Burn Area



Controlled Burn Area



Control Area



11.16.2010





Wildfire





Proper management of grassland controls invasive plants and reduces wildfire risks.

Conservation Plan Map

4-22-08
Date: 3/3/2008

Customer(s): R A ATMORE & SONS INC
District: VENTURA COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Field Office: SOMIS SERVICE CENTER
Agency: Natural Resources Conservation Service
Assisted By: Ellen H James

Land Units:



Legend

EQIP_04

Practice name

- Fence
- 4-21-2008
- 03-12-08
- 11-6-2007
- 8-23-2007
- 11-22-2006
- Roads



- **Fencing facilitates rotational grazing practices**
- **Since 1995, have installed over 120,000 feet of fence**
- **Divided 5 pastures into 16**
- **Graze 2 years, rest 1 year**







Timing and intensity of grazing controls non-native plants.





California coastal flora evolved under the influence of man and grazing animals, both which have been part of the eco-system for thousands of years.



Challenges





Maintaining grassland and habitat diversity



Qualified, experienced personnel



APR 14 2007



Invasive Plant Control

- Early detection & eradication of non-established, noxious invasive species
- Control vs. eradication of established non-native plants
- Invasive plants cattle cannot control are detrimental to existing habitat



Herbivory



Castor Bean



Crysanthemum



Artichoke Thistle

Early Detection & Eradication



Artichoke Thistle





Bull Thistle



Cape Ivy



Tree Spurge (*Euphorbia dendroides*)











Erosion Control Issues















Rangeland & Wildlife Habitat Enhancement







11/11/2010





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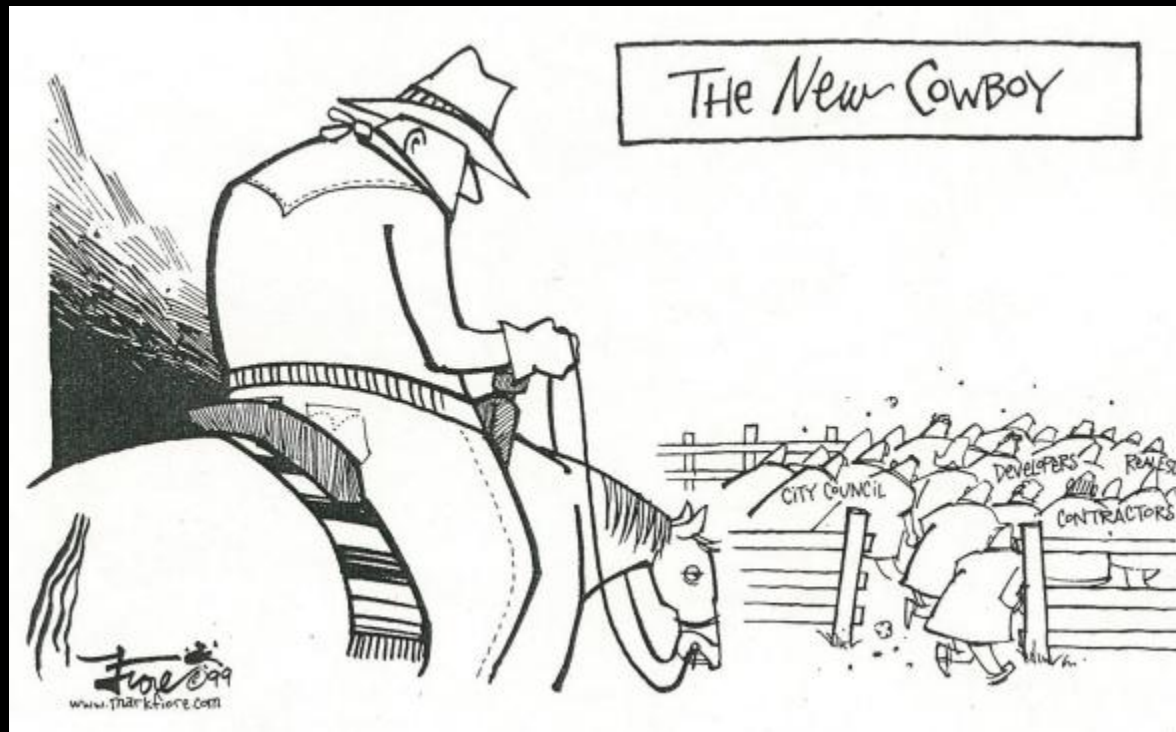


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In Conclusion...





Responsible urban interface rangeland & open space managers work to:

- **Protect the environment**
- **Provide managed habitat diversity**
- **Work with evolved existing ecosystems to achieve realistic goals**
- **Reduce wildfire risks**



80% of all home losses from wildfires are preventable



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The End