



GRAZING SCHOOL OF THE WEST

Grazing School of the West (GSW) is a multidisciplinary nonprofit organization advancing ecological livestock grazing to benefit land, animals and people.

OUR MISSION is to educate and train the next generation of land stewards in prescribed grazing—and advocate for its broader adoption—to improve climate resilience, prevent catastrophic wildfires, and strengthen local food and fiber systems.

OUR VISION is to create a **culture of care** that highlights the interconnectedness between natural ecosystems and human communities. Our values of **connection, curiosity** and **cooperation** are embedded in everything we do.

Why We Practice Prescribed Grazing

From catastrophic wildfire to the rapid spread of invasive species, climate change and our disconnection from the natural world are placing unprecedented pressures on our landscapes. These forces threaten biodiversity and the ecological balance that underpins resilient ecosystems.

Prescribed grazing—the ancient practice of shepherding, modernized with contemporary tools—offers a proven pathway towards healthier ecological systems. Prescribed grazing is the intentional use of ruminant animals (hoofed herbivores including sheep, goats and cows) to accomplish specific vegetation goals on a given landscape. A primary principle of regenerative agriculture and an effective method of mitigating wildfire risks, its benefits also include carbon sequestration, native plant and habitat restoration, and sustainable production of local food and fiber.

Peer-reviewed research in the *Journal of Environmental Management, Rangeland Ecology & Management*, and *Ecology and Society* demonstrates that prescribed grazing can reduce fine fuel loads, disrupt fuel continuity, and reduce annual burn probability across a range of regions and landscapes.



Cole Bush

Co-founder & Director

An entrepreneur, advocate and educator known as “The Urban Shepherdess,” Cole brings more than a decade of experience in prescribed grazing and is a voice for promoting viable vocations in regenerative agriculture, proactive land stewardship and fire prevention. She is the founder of Shepherdess Land & Livestock and Shepherdess Holistic Hides.



Olivia Tincani

Co-founder & Strategic Advisor

Olivia is a Food & Farm Business Educator and Strategist specializing in strategic planning, farmer training program design, whole-animal supply chains and community facilitation. She provides business, financial, and strategic planning education and advising for small-scale independent farms, ranches, food businesses, and the organizations that serve them.

Our Accomplishments

- Since 2019, GSW has provided education and vocational training via in-person workshops and trainings and virtual webinars to more than 250 established and aspiring grazing practitioners, ranchers, farmers, land managers, technical service providers, and professionals.
- Delivered multi-day, hands-on trainings 1-2 times per year over the past three years to diverse participants, with 25+ receiving partial scholarships.
- Raised \$330,000 in organizational and program funding.
- Completed a multi-year pilot project providing vocational training to incarcerated individuals at Pitchess Detention Center in LA county.
- Played a pivotal role in state policy initiatives, including the passing of California's SB675, formally integrating prescribed grazing into the state's wildfire resilience strategies.

GSW gave me the opportunity to ground the theory I had gathered from disparate sources and produce real livestock grazing management skills through experience in the field. GSW gave me the experience I needed to become a competent grazier and shepherd.

- Dylan Boeken, Owner
Boek House Hearth & Husbandry



Firefighters value livestock grazers to reduce the severity, continuity, and size of wildfires. When firefighters look at a landscape that has been grazed, we can see a decrease in the amount of fuels that is available to ignite from a spot fire and the threat of spread is significantly reduced because there is little accumulation, continuity, or height.

- Garrett Sjolund, Assistant Chief
CAL FIRE Butte County



Our Goals

- Launch our new, flagship, 4-day, in-person intensive, a training refined over three years, in May 2026, and then deliver it twice annually.
- Provide more scholarships to increase and diversify participation in our programs.
- Develop GSW's Intro to Prescribed Grazing & Business of Prescribed Grazing self-paced virtual courses to boost access to learning and complement in-person training.
- Develop an online learning platform and resource hub focused on prescribed grazing and ecological land stewardship education, training, jobs, and policy.
- Serve the 450+ graziers in California and beyond via an alumni network that fosters continued learning & peer exchange through expanded professional and peer connections.
- Develop an accredited apprenticeship to improve prescribed grazing workforce development.



Support Our Work

GSW is actively seeking funding partners to support our small, entrepreneurial team as we work to increase our capacity and build long-term organizational stability. We are reaching out to a variety of funders for both organizational and programmatic support towards our two-year (2026-27) fundraising goal of \$500,000.

To contribute, please visit www.grazingschoolofthewest.com/donate or contact Olivia Tincani at olivia@grazingschoolofthewest.com