

## CALIFORNIA GROUND SQUIRREL-livestock conflicts on the Central Coast

Summarized for the CCRC/MROSD review of livestock-wildlife conflicts

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In this context, a “conflict” is a scenario in which California ground squirrels negatively affect livestock or ranching practices, or vice versa.

	↓ <i>Rancher, manager, consultant interviews; popular press</i> ↓		↓ <i>Peer-reviewed articles, UC Cooperative Extension, etc.</i> ↓	
Area of conflict ↓	<i>Conflict experienced on the ground</i>	<i>Conflict mitigation implemented on the ground</i>	Scientific literature on the conflict	Scientific literature on the mitigation
<b>Habitat</b>	<i>Some people consider ground squirrels to be keystone species, but they are treated as pests. “I can understand that they make soil and provide habitat for other species, but lots of people don’t like them” (-Rancher).</i>	0	(Barry et al. 2006), (Davidson et al. 2012), (Fitch 1948), (Lenihan 2007), (Schiffman 2007)	0
	<i>Squirrel burrowing can create hazards for livestock and damage water systems.</i>	<i>Killing of ground squirrels</i>	(Marsh 1998), (Vertebrate Pest Control Research Advisory Committee 2013)	(Howard 1953), (Marsh 1994), (Salmon 2013), (Salmon et al. 2007), (Salmon and Schmidt 1984), (Vertebrate Pest Control Research Advisory Committee 2013), (Whisson and Salmon 2009)
<b>Forage</b>	<i>There is concern about forage consumption by ground squirrels.</i>	<i>Destruction of burrows</i>	(Fitch 1948), (Howard et al. 1959), (Lidicker Jr. 1988), (Schitoskey and Woodmansee 1978)	(Howard 1953), (Marsh 1994), (Salmon 2013), (Salmon et al. 2007), (Salmon and Schmidt 1984), (Vertebrate Pest Control Research Advisory Committee 2013), (Whisson and Salmon 2009)
<b>Predation/ Depredation</b>	<i>Poisoning squirrels can kill golden eagles and other predators that prey on the poisoned carcasses.</i>	<i>Movement to ban Compound 1080</i>	(Hegdal et al. 1986)	(Ford et al. 2013)
	<i>Gassing or explosions can kill other burrow residents, such as California tiger salamander and California red-legged frog.</i>	<i>Avoidance of gassing or exploding burrows in known ranges of California tiger salamander or California red-legged frog</i>		
<b>Disease</b>	0	0	(Atwill et al. 2001)	0

“0” means there was no mention of the topic in interviews, popular press, or scientific literature as of October 2013.

*Spermophilus beecheyi*  
bibliography→

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