



2026 Tour Descriptions

TECHNICAL TOURS

Rambling Range Route

Dates: ****OVERNIGHT TOUR**** Saturday February 7th return Sunday February 8th; departs 7:45am (Saturday) and returns 5pm (Sunday)

Price: **\$250**

What's included: Transportation; 1-night hotel stay; all meals (Saturday lunch and dinner, Sunday breakfast and lunch); Hearst Castle tour; water and snacks on the bus. Please plan to eat breakfast before leaving on Saturday; bring all necessary items for an overnight stay

Description: Join us for a closer look at ranching and unique Central Coast landmarks. We will leave the Portola Saturday morning, touring ranches in the rain shadow of the Central Coast Range, overnight in the Paso Robles area, making our way up the coast to Hearst Castle for a tour and then returning in time for the Trade Show Super Bowl Party. Topics will range from niche meat marketing, targeted grazing, wildfire and fuels management, and diversifying ranch income.

Producer's Forum Field Day - Cowboy Corridors and Stockmanship

Date: Sunday, February 8th; 7:30am-5pm

Price: **\$60**

What's included: Lunch, coffee and snacks.

Description: We will spend the day observing and discussing a blend of tradition and innovation within a California central coast context. In particular, we will explore the potential of using grazing planning, Cowboy Corridors and Stockmanship as strategies to develop economically viable and ecologically beneficial ranching.

Host sites include the Hollister Hills State Vehicular Recreation Area (grazed by Joe Morris) and Paicines Ranch, with the tour route meandering along Cienega Road at the northeast base of the Gabilan mountains. A pasture walk and talk at Hollister Hills with Joe and neighbors will explore ranch economics, monitoring and workforce development in the form of a synergistic grazing crew (livestock, horses, dogs, stockhandlers, and ecologists). A short drive will take us to lunch at The Overlook, where the Paicines Ranch team will share their passions, principles, and intentions around food, farming, and ranching in ways that are delicious, fun, and a little adventurous.

The afternoon will be spent with Dawn Hnatow, owner and founder of Cattle Up Stockmanship. Dawn has worked with livestock her entire life and spent numerous years under the mentorship of Bud Williams. Their many years together forever changed the trajectory of her life and she now spends her time passing on the wealth of knowledge she gained during those priceless experiences.

Estates and Ecosystems

Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 12:00pm to 5:00pm

Price: \$65

What's Included: Transportation and lunch, water and snacks.

Description: Santa Lucia Conservancy mission is to “protect and steward in perpetuity the unique natural, cultural, and aesthetic resources of The Preserve, and promote residential communities that are ecologically sensitive.” This is a very simple statement that is used to manage two Spanish Land Grants that are now the Santa Lucia Preserve. Join us for an afternoon to see how the Conservancy works with the homeowners on the Preserve to manage over 20,000 acres for multiple ecosystem goals including habitat for flora and fauna, reduce wildfire fuels, and more. This unique, even to California, community uses livestock to manage the Preserve without the benefit of permanent fences, providing limitless opportunities for management.

Feathers, Flames and Fields

Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026, 7:30am to 5:30pm

Price: \$130

What's Included: Transportation, snacks, water and lunch.

Description: Immerse yourself in the beauty and rich ecological heritage of San Benito County on this exclusive one-day tour! We will explore two remarkable rangeland sites and discover how partnerships, conservation, and cultural history come together to protect and provide stewardship for these vital landscapes.

The first stop is at the 540-acre Nyland Property, where we will hear inspiring stories from the San Benito Agricultural Land Trust, Amah Mutsun Land Trust, grazing lessee, Central Coast Prescribed Burn Association, and Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed program. We will learn firsthand how these groups work together to steward the land through traditional ecological knowledge, sustainable grazing, and fire management.

Next, we will head to the iconic Pinnacles National Park, where science meets conservation action. We will learn about an experiment investigating if cattle grazing, seeding with native forbs, and mowing can help the park achieve their conservation goals. We will also learn the history of how the park was created and their incredible role in the recovery of the endangered California condor. If we're lucky we may even get to see a condor or two soaring over us! Don't miss this opportunity to experience conservation in action, the people making it happen, and see some of California's awe-inspiring landscapes up close.

Hawaii Ranch Tour, Post 2026 SRM Annual Meeting

Date: Saturday, February 14th and Sunday, February 15th, 2026. 8:00am – 6:00pm both days.

Price: \$150

What's Included: Transportation from the NRCS office to the ranches, lunch, water and snacks both days. NOT INCLUDED: air fare to Hawaii (Hilo or Kona), hotel/Air BnB accommodations, rental car
Limited to 16 people.

Description: Join us for a view of Hawaii most tourist never see, Hawaiian rangelands. A two-day tour of Hawaii Island Ranches will highlight the unique challenges and opportunities of rangelands on the wetter and drier side of the Big Island, as well as management concerns due to an active volcano on the island. The tour will begin on Saturday, February 14th. On day 1, participants will meet at the USDA NRCS Waimea Field Office at the Parker Ranch Center, 67-1184 Mamalahoa Highway Suite H-148, Kamuela, Hawaii 96743 at 8:00 am. Two ranches will be visited on February 14th on the west side (Kona, drier side) of the island. Day 2, February 15th, participants will meet at the USDA NRCS Waimea Field Office again at 8:00 am. Two ranches on the east side (Hilo, wetter side) of the island will be visited. Both days will conclude by 6pm back at NRCS office in Waimea. Come ready to see unique challenges with soil differences, precipitation, VOG, as well as invasive species concerns (wild goats and invasive guavas among other issues). You don't want to miss this unique opportunity.

SOCIAL TOURS

Pedals to Pebbles

Date: Sunday, February 8, 2026, 9:00am to 4:00pm

Price: \$120

What's Included: Bike rentals, lunch and tour guides.

Description: Hop on an e-bike for a ride on the famous 17-Mile Drive through the picturesque community of Pebble Beach. The tour starts in Monterey and meanders through Pacific Grove and along the dramatic coastline of Pebble Beach. We'll have many stops to enjoy the sights and learn about local geology, natural resource issues and management. We'll have lunch in Pebble Beach and return to Monterey along the same route taking in the scenery. Participants should be comfortable riding bikes next to slow-moving traffic and need not worry about biking endurance as the e-bike has an electric motor. This tour will be back in time for the start of the Trade Show Mixer and Super Bowl Party.

Whale Watching Tour

Date: Sunday, February 8; 12:30pm (arrive by 11:45am, 5 min walk from Portola) Return estimated by 3:30pm.

Price: \$95

What's Included: Ticket and gratuity for tour only.

Description: Experience the best Monterey Bay has to offer! Walk from the meeting's host hotels to the pier and hop aboard a boat for a 4-hour whale watching excursion. We will have a VIP section for SRM, will be a great time to socialize and network as well as watch for whales. It is not guaranteed that you will see whales, however it will be peak-whale-watching-season. Please plan for any motion sickness and prepare for a great time on the water!

NOTE: No walkers or wheelchairs are allowed on the boat. No high heels allowed on the boat. No pregnant women, or children under 3 years old due to safety concerns. And they need a passenger list with First and Last name and phone number to give Coast Guard (saves time from having to do it before boarding). Need to gather at registration time. Have 3-2 weeks to reduce the number for refund. Then will not be "private" tour, others given opportunity to purchase upper deck seats. Food is allowed to be brought on the boat, but no alcohol, no glass containers, no large coolers. There is a snack counter for candy bars, chips, tea, coffee, etc.