Ways of Seeing
the History of California Rangelands

Peter S. Alagona, History & Environmental Studies, UC Santa Barbara
Six Periods

1) Pre-Colonial to 1769
2) Mission & Rancho 1769-1848
3) Early American 1849-1880
4) Progressive & New Deal 1880-1940
5) Post-War 1945-1970
6) Environmental 1970-2000s
“Native Californians Lassoing a Steer”

– Auguste Ferra, Bancroft Library
Clearing oaks with dynamite. Salinas Valley, ca. 1915.
Field day at the Hopland Station. Mendocino County, ca. 1950s.
CAPITALIST AT WORK

He's in business for himself. With faith in his own judgment, he competes in the American market, producing a commodity as essential as three square meals a day.

His limousine is a streamlined cow-pony with an automatic gear shift that takes the ruggedest trails in stride. His factory is the great outdoors, his swivel chair is a well-worn western saddle.

His capital and his credit he has earned for himself. To keep them working, he enjoys the cooperation of his home-town Bank of America.

Bank of America
NATIONAL TRUST AND SAVINGS ASSOCIATION

MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION
“Watershed Management Increases Rangeland Productivity.”

California Agriculture, July 1976.
Development near San Jose.
(Image from www.conservationmaven.com)
Road sign near Koehn Dry Lake, Saltdale, CA.
Five ways to tell the history of California’s rangelands
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1) As quintessentially Californian
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2) As landscapes lost or in decline
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What should a California rangeland produce?

or

What do we want from these places?