

Today is \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_. This is Ken Morgan's Northcoast Ag Report, our lead story is about \_\_\_\_\_ when we return

<https://www.publicnewsservice.org/2018-10-18/endangered-species-and-wildlife/conservation-groups-seek-endangered-status-for-native-ca-bees/a64328-1>

## **Conservation Groups Seek Endangered Status for Native CA Bees**

October 18, 2018

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Four types of California's native bumblebees could be wiped out if nothing is done, according to conservation groups that this week [petitioned](#) the state to put the bees on the state endangered species list.

Experts say bees are in big trouble because habitat has been lost to housing and agriculture.

Kim Delfino, California program director of the group Defenders of Wildlife, adds that many bees are vulnerable to diseases carried by non-native species brought in for pollination, and to a class of pesticides called neonicotinoids.

"The thing that's really tipped them over the edge is the widespread use of certain pesticides," she states. "You know, when a pesticide is applied, it takes everything out including the beneficial insects like native pollinators like these bees."

Delfino notes that the Crotch bumblebee has declined by 98 percent from its historic numbers. The western bumblebee declined by 84 percent, the Suckley cuckoo bumblebee is down by more than half and the Franklin's bumblebee hasn't been seen since 2006.

Opponents of the listing say the pesticides are important to modern agriculture.

Delfino praises a bill passed by the State Legislature to make money available to help landowners put in bee-friendly plants, but she says voluntary measures like that just aren't enough.

"It would be looking more closely at activities like pesticide application, on how they're impacting pollinators," she states. "It would be promoting greater restoration efforts in native bee habitat."

The Fish and Game Commission has 90 days to decide if there is enough scientific evidence to warrant further consideration. Then the commission will start a year-long scientific review to decide if listing is warranted.

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## Livestock owners asked to weigh in on fire impact

*[EDITORS: Updated to include survey link <http://bit.ly/FIREsurvey>. Livestock photos can be downloaded at <http://bit.ly/2NNmlO2>.]*

Preparing a farm for wildfire is more complicated when it involves protecting live animals. To assess the impact of wildfire on livestock production, University of California researchers are asking livestock producers to participate in a survey.

People raising cattle, sheep, goats, poultry, swine, horses, llamas, alpacas, aquaculture species or other production-oriented animals in California who have experienced at least one wildfire on their property within the last 10 years are asked to participate in the [FIRE survey](#).

"We will aim to quantify the impact of wildfires in different livestock production systems," said Beatriz Martinez Lopez, director of the Center for Animal Disease Modeling and Surveillance in the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. "The idea is also to create a risk map showing areas more likely to experience wildfires with high economic impact in California.

"This economic and risk assessment, to the best of our knowledge, has not been done and we hope to identify potential actions that ranchers can take to reduce or mitigate their losses if their property is hit by wildfire."

Martínez López, who is also an associate professor in the Department of Medicine & Epidemiology at UC Davis, is teaming up with UC Cooperative Extension livestock and natural resources advisors and wildfire specialists around the state to conduct the study.

"Right now, we have no good estimate of the real cost of wildfire to livestock producers in California," said Rebecca Ozeran, UC Cooperative Extension livestock and natural resources advisor for Fresno and Madera counties. "Existing UCCE forage loss worksheets cannot account for the many other ways that wildfire affects livestock farms and ranches. As such, we need producers' input to help us calculate the range of immediate and long-term costs of wildfire."

Stephanie Larson, UC Cooperative Extension livestock and range management advisor for Sonoma and Marin counties, agreed, saying, "The more producers who participate, the more accurate and useful our results will be."

"We hope the survey results will be used by producers across the state to prepare for wildfire," said Matthew Shapero, UC Cooperative Extension livestock and natural resources advisor for Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, "And by federal and private agencies to better allocate funds for postfire programs available to livestock producers."

The survey is online at <http://bit.ly/FIREsurvey>. It takes 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the number of properties the participant has that have been affected by wildfire.

"Survey answers are completely confidential and the results will be released only as summaries in which no individual's answers can be identified," said Martínez López. "This survey will provide critical information to create the foundation for future fire economic assessments and management decisions."

*UC Agriculture and Natural Resources researchers and educators draw on local expertise to conduct agricultural, environmental, economic, youth development and nutrition research that helps California thrive. Learn more at [ucanr.edu](http://ucanr.edu).*

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