Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/23/2021 10:44:14 PM
First name: Nick
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Organization:
Title:
Comments:
My name is Nick Dowers. Our family is currently running cattle and farming in this region and has been for 35+ years. Having extensive knowledge of Cottonwood Creek and the history of Cottonwood Creek I think that eliminating cattle grazing from the creek would be detrimental to the proper functioning condition of the creek and its habitat. Prior to the designation in 2009, cattle have grazed there historically for generations, dating back to the 1860's. The grazing has contributed to the stunning beauty of the creek and surrounding habitat.
The benefits of grazing include the reduction of overgrown sage by the cattle. Having cattle in place prior to 2009 for generations had invaluable fire mitigation. Ultimately proving it directly affected the scenic beauty and resources we are all trying to protect. Additionally, the cattle are keeping the historic trails open, and providing accessibility to the creek. Lastly, cattle are vital in distributing native plant seeds throughout the area.
In order to maintain the proper functioning condition, we will need monitoring sites. In which, I would like to add my local knowledge and expertise of the area to assist in site selection. Any effort to divert dam or de-water the creek would be detrimental to the outstanding remarkable values which are in place because of the one hundred percent unimpeded free flow of water to Oasis Ranch which has been protected by water rights dating back to 1865.