

Welfare ranching



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Regarding “Cattle grazing on public lands is incompatible with wildlife” (Open Forum, April 9): Erik Molvar’s comments on the ecological disaster caused by cattle ranching on public lands at Point Reyes National Seashore were spot-on. Several decades ago, I was employed as the wildlife biologist there, managing the elk program, including the starting of a population at Limantour. Molvar’s contrast of the degraded condition of the cattle pastures with the more ecologically intact elk range reflects my observations precisely. In his short piece, Molvar was unable to list all the damaging ecological consequences of this welfare ranching, including effects on water quality and anadromous fish.

Cattle also harbor and spread to wildlife, especially elk, the disease paratuberculosis, caused by an intestinal bacterium. I nearly gag thinking of the spreading and volatilizing of manure from cattle-manure ponds done every year by the ranches. The specious argument that ranching is a “historic” use and must be preserved is laughable in the face of the effort to give the weakest of nods to the longest and most historic use, that of Native Americans. These National Park Service lands would much better

serve their public owners as a demonstration of ecological restoration rather than as a continuing degradation of them.

Thomas Kucera, San Rafael

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San Francisco, Monday, April 16, 2018

How to shut down a nuclear power plant

PG&E's costly closing of Diablo Canyon to take years

By David H. Baker
A nuclear power plant doesn't just shut down. It goes into a state of suspended animation, with the process expected to take years.

World
President Trump builds on Syria's chemical weapons program. **A5**

Dateline
Veteran Stephen Spinella returns to America with a new role.

Bay Area
A crazy plan to ride every Muni line in one day. **C1**

Sporting News
Fans cheer Warriors' win in playoff's opener. **B1**

Diablo Canyon is the largest nuclear power plant in California, and its closure is expected to take years, according to PG&E. The plant is owned by PG&E and operated by the San Diego-based Edison International. The plant's closure is expected to cost PG&E about \$1 billion, according to a report by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The plant's closure is expected to be completed by 2025.

South Bay road fixes stuck in slow lane

Highway 85 study stalled as lawsuit ties up tax funds

By Wendy Lee
Traffic on Highway 85 near Silicon Valley's south bay is stuck in a state of suspended animation, with a lawsuit over tax funds blocking progress on a road project.

White House, Congress side with California growers, but state opposes project intended to meet water needs

Tensions heighten over Shasta Dam

Santa Rosa fire damage extends underground

The Trump administration and Republicans want to raise the height of Shasta Dam by 10 feet.

Tensions heighten over Shasta Dam

By Charles Ledford
Washington — Congress and the Trump administration are pushing ahead with a plan to raise a century-old dam behind a water reservoir to meet the water demands of an eastern California — a project backed by big farmers but opposed by state officials, federal agencies and environmental groups.

Santa Rosa fire damage extends underground

By Katie Johnson
At first, crews thought to look for water pipes that had been damaged by the fire. But they found something else: a network of underground pipes that had been damaged by the fire.

With substantial support from Washington, the Trump administration and Republicans in Congress want to raise the dam 10 feet to store more water and guard against being forced to release water during drought.

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