



Tonia Brito-Bersi<sup>1</sup>, <u>ab813@humboldt.edu</u>

Ernesto Chavez-Velasco<sup>1</sup>, Kerry Byrne<sup>2</sup>, Erika Foster<sup>3</sup>, Robert Griffin-Nolan<sup>4</sup>, Yamina Pressler<sup>5</sup>, Justin C. Luong<sup>1</sup>





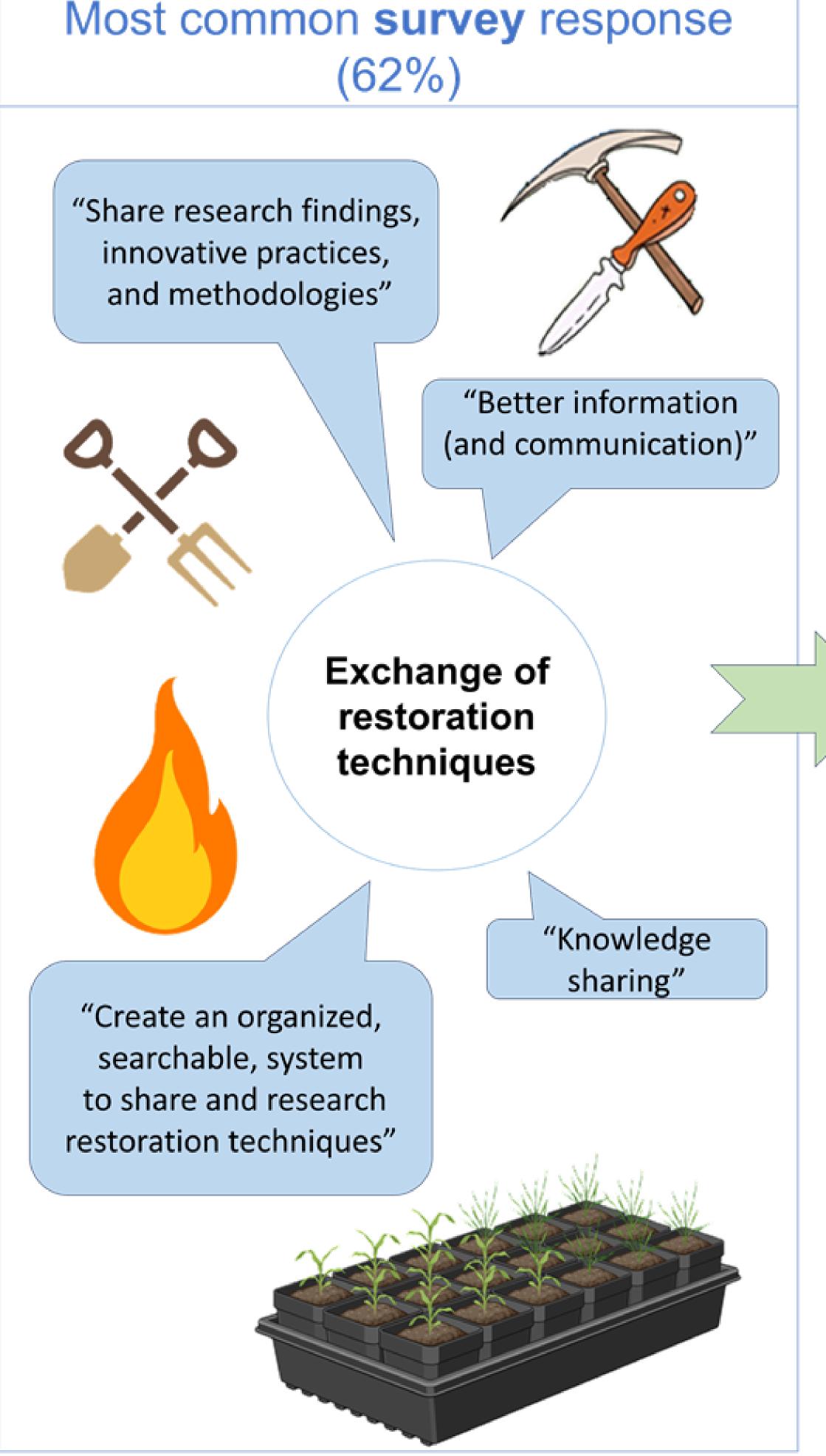
California grassland restoration provides an opportunity for nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation. Our goal in developing GRASS-Net or Grassland Restoration Action, Science, and Stewardship Network is to share effective climate-smart practices, facilitate seed exchanges for hard-to-access species, and develop coordinated strategies on how to limit biotic homogenization from restoration. We have set out to assess grassland restoration practitioner needs to better establish an effective GRASS-Net.

## Methods California grassland restoration practitioners from varied roles and California agencies gave us feedback on GRASS-Net Within four topics: 1) professional background = Interview 2) network development participant 3) seed sharing locations 4) interactive tools. **Semi-structured** Survey Interviews Questionnaires (N=34)(N=198)"...we often don't take enough time to connect with ourselves and share what we wonder about and what we observe"

## **Future Directions:**

- What/where are existing networks and working groups?
- Separate analysis of tribal members' interview responses
- Considerations for seed exchange networks
- What does "local" mean to practitioners?
- Preferred forms of communication





Common interview responses guiding implementation

"Opening some forum, for experience sharing... like the Reddit of Restoration."



In-real-time platforms (40%)

"I don't know who the key players are... having those people at your fingertips essentially, would be highly valuable"

Online spaces to find other practitioners (30%)

Centralized and curated information (35%)



"...centralizing the resources... if there are tricks and tools and case studies that people have... this might be a place where you can go and query that."

Acknowledgements and Funding: Project funding from UC Climate Action Seed Award #R02CP7122. Thank you to all interview and survey participants for your time and honest reflections, the GRASS-Net technical advisory committee for your input (The Cheadle Center, Hedgerow Farms, The Nature Conservancy, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Audubon Canyon Ranch, Pepperwood Preserve, Amah Mutsun Land Trust, Bureau of Land Management, Wiyot Nation, Chumash Nation, UCI Reserves, Mattole Restoration Council, Heritage Growers). Thank you Luong Lab for helping with analysis especially Sage Brislen, JJ Madrigal, Brandon Clarkson, Sean Dillon, and Derek Tremaine. Cartoon renderings by BioRender; Bromus carinatus drawing by Linsday Albert; Tools drawing by Lesley Goren.