

California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt Wildlife
Department and the Wildlife Graduate Student Society (WiGSS)
present:

ECOSERIES

In-person with

Justin Luong

The Impacts of Solar Microgrid on
Coastal Prairies Vegetation and Soil
Properties



Thursday
September 11, 2025
4:00pm

California rangelands help support leading agricultural product exports, but also serve as an important biodiversity hotspot which can support over 2000 plant species across the state; simultaneously, California is working to develop the renewable energy grid and is currently the 4th largest producer of solar energy in the country. Microgrids are smaller energy units that are flexible and can be installed with relatively low disturbance and may work well to be integrated into working lands. In an effort to reconcile rangeland use to support diverse ecosystem services, we are assessing how solar microgrids across three coastal prairies in Humboldt County affect plant communities, their functional traits and impacts on soil biogeochemistry (bulk density, soil carbon).

Justin Luong is an Assistant Professor of Working Lands and Restoration Ecology. He studies rangeland ecosystem responses to climate change, species invasions and conservation management with interdisciplinary methods that combine field, greenhouse and social science approaches. His work focuses on biodiversity, endangered species conservation, grazing management, functional traits, restorative agrivoltaics, bridging the science-practice gap and plant communities and restoration projects responses to climate stressors and varying land management practices.

Join us for his in-person only EcoSeries presentation in
WDFS 258!

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