

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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**Range Management Advisory Committee
May 2014 update to the Resource Protection Committee**

The Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) met on May 6 and May 7, 2014 in Sacramento. This was the second RMAC meeting since being assigned new Department staff to facilitate RMAC business. The main concern is setting priorities to focus the Committees limited resources on a manageable number of issues. No action items were taken at this meeting. The following items were discussed:

1. 2014 Priorities – Please see attached draft 2014 priorities.
2. Committee Membership – There are currently three open seats.
3. Drought – Discussion of impacts on rangeland and what roll, if any, the RMAC may have.
4. Statewide Grazing Regulatory Action Project (GRAP) – Nick Kunz from the State Water Resources Control Board updated the RMAC on their efforts to address potential water quality impacts from grazing activities.
5. VTP EIR – Chris Zimny, Cal Fire, updated the RMAC on the current status of the VTP EIR scientific review by the California Fire Science Consortium.
6. VMP – Tony Mediati, Cal Fire, updated the RMAC on the transition of the Vegetation Management Program (VMP) to meet the mandates of the SRA funding. The expectation is that future treatments are going to be occurring within communities at risk, leading to more complex and expensive projects on a per acre basis.
7. Conversion of Rangelands – John Lowrie, Department of Conservation, informed the RMAC about the conversion of rangeland to commercial solar power plants.
8. Public Land Grazing Leases – The RMAC will schedule an update of current efforts by various livestock organizations to expand grazing on State lands, an example of a successful public lands lease, and an agency perspective of the roll grazing plays on State lands at their July meeting.

The next RMAC meeting has been scheduled for July 8 and 9, 2014 in Sacramento.