

**BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

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**To:** The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection      **Date:** September 29, 2015

**From:** Kevin Conway, Staff Forester

**Subject:** Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) Update

Chair Gillless and Members of the Board,

The RMAC met in Sacramento on September 15. The following is a brief update of the RMAC's recent activities.

- **Representation:** The RMAC is continuing to struggle to find representatives from the California Cattlemen's Association. The terms of members Bill Burrows (general public) and Ed Anchordoguy (California Wool Growers Association) will expire in January of 2016. The Committee is beginning the process of identifying their replacements.
- **Bagley-Keene:** Board Counsel, Steve Lerner, gave the RMAC a great overview of their obligations under the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act. The RMAC has members that would like the flexibility to participate in some meetings remotely. We discussed how to do this in compliance with Bagley-Keene.
- **GRAP:** The State Water Resources Control Board voted to discontinue the Grazing Regulatory Action Project (GRAP) which proposed a statewide approach to addressing grazing as a non-point source pollutant. The direction to staff was to continue to address grazing at the regional board level, and to provide a progress report to the State Board in 12 months. The Rangeland Water Quality Management Plan (RWQMP) was specifically identified as an area of opportunity to enhance rangeland water quality. This was developed with RMAC as a cooperator. The Range Water Quality Planning Short Courses, part of the implementation of the RWQMP, are taught by the UC Coop Extension.
- **Rangeland Services Organizations:** The RMAC is working on a fairly comprehensive list of organizations that may provide technical support, research, or funding to assist rangeland managers prevent impacts to water quality from grazing operations. This began as an informative document to the State Water Board as part of the GRAP process. With the discontinuation of GRAP the target audience of this document is now interested general public and Regional Water Boards.
- **Board's Grazing Policy:** The RMAC is evaluating the Board's policy on grazing on State Forests. They will likely be recommending some changes to this policy in January of 2016. Currently grazing is included with mining and commercial concessions as a special use of State Forests.

The next RMAC meeting will be Tuesday, November 17, 2015 in Sacramento.

*The Board's mission is to lead California in developing policies and programs that serve the public interest in environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable management of forest and rangelands, and a fire protection system that protects and serves the people of the state.*