

## BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION RANGE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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### **Board of Forestry and Fire Protection – Range Management Advisory Committee**

#### **VEGETATION MANAGEMENT FOCUS GROUP**

#### **MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting held Tuesday, March 16, 2010, 1:00pm  
Resources Building, 1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street, 15<sup>th</sup> floor, Room 1506-12  
Sacramento, California

#### **Attending:**

#### **RMAC:**

Scott Carnegie  
Ed Anchoroguy  
Mel Thompson  
Ken Zimmerman  
Marc Horney  
Bart Cremers

Eric Huff (staff)

#### **Representing:**

California Forestry Association (CFA)  
California Wool Growers Association (CWG)  
California Wool Growers Association (CWG)  
California Cattlemen's Association (CCA)  
General Public  
California Farm Bureau Federation (CFBF)

California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

#### **Members of the Public:**

Joe Rawitzer  
Tracy Schohr

#### **Representing:**

Monterey-San Benito Range Improvement Assn.  
California Cattlemen's Association (CCA)

#### **Item 1: Call to Order and Introductions**

Following introductions of meeting participants, Vegetation Management Focus Group Chairman, Scott Carnegie called the meeting to order. Mr. Carnegie noted that this Focus Group was identified as the "Vegetation/Fire Focus Group" and he suggested that the name be "Vegetation Management Focus Group" instead. The Group concurred with the Chairman's perspective.

#### **Item 2: Review and Discussion of Draft 2010 California Fire Plan.**

Chairman Carnegie introduced the topic noting that both the draft Fire Plan and his draft comment letter regarding the Fire Plan had been previously circulated to the RMAC membership for review. Mr. Carnegie went on to explain his perspective that the draft Fire Plan appeared to be focused more on fire suppression than treatment of pre-existing fuel conditions. The Group and meeting participants concurred with this observation.

Member Horney expressed his desire to see greater emphasis on the Draft Plan's Goal #5 which reads, "**Develop a method for integration of fire and fuels management practices with landowner priorities and multiple jurisdictional goals within local, state and federal responsibility areas.**" The Group and meeting participants shared this desire and suggested that RMAC's comment letter should include discussion of this point. It was also generally agreed that the language of the draft comment letter should be stronger.

RMAC Chairman Zimmerman offered that the Committee should not expend effort to rewrite the draft Plan and should instead focus on identifying the elements lacking in the current draft. He went on to suggest that the letter inquire as to what was learned in the last 1996 Fire Plan review—where were the failings of the 1996 Fire Plan?

Focus Group Chairman Carnegie noted that the draft Fire Plan was lacking in mechanisms for accountability. The Plan currently contains no metrics for measuring the performance of the Fire Plan in meeting the stated goals and objectives. He went on to offer that the comment letter should also include discussion of the need to increase budgeting for fuels management. The Group discussed the status of the current budget for the VMP program and generally agreed with Mr. Carnegie's suggestion.

After discussion of the importance of post-fire treatments, Member Thompson suggested inclusion of a specific comment on this point. The Group agreed with this suggestion.

The Group concluded discussion of this topic with direction to Chairman Carnegie to revise the draft comment letter in accordance with the Group's suggestions. In particular, the letter should focus on the importance of pre-suppression and post-fire vegetation treatment, draft Fire Plan Goal #5, accountability for meeting the draft Plan's stated goals and objectives, identification of the failings of the 1996 Fire Plan, and increased budget allocations to support fuels treatment operations. Mr. Carnegie informed the Group that he would circulate a revised draft for their review and concurrence in advance of the April Resource Protection and Fire Plan Steering Committee meetings. Provided the Committee concurs with the revised draft, Focus Group Chairman Carnegie will present the comment letter at the April Board meeting.

### **Item 3: New and Unfinished Business.**

Focus Group Chairman Carnegie directed the participants to review the draft Vegetation Focus Group Goals. As staff copied and circulated the four draft goals, Mr. Carnegie highlighted each of them and solicited comments from meeting participants. The Group concurred with the draft Goals as presented. They will be presented to RMAC on the following day for incorporation in the Board's Priorities Report for 2010.

RMAC Chairman Zimmerman reported that the draft Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) draft 2010 Assessment document has been circulated for review. Mr. Zimmerman suggested that the Group review specific sections of the document pursuant to the advice of FRAP Chief, Dean Cromwell. The document will be widely circulated and could be another important means of sharing RMAC's perspective on public lands acquisition and management among other topics.

### **Item 4: Public Comment.**

There was no public comment to report.

At Member Thompson's motion, the meeting was then adjourned by unanimous consent of the Focus Group participants.

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