

**BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

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**RANGE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Tuesday, September 15, 2015**  
**Sacramento, CA**

<b>RMAC Members Present</b>	<b>RMAC Members Absent</b>
Co-chair, Lesa Osterholm Bart Cremers John Van Duyn Sheryl Landrum  <b>Via Conference:</b> Co-chair, Marc Horney Chuck Pritchard Ed Anchordoguy Cole Bush Mary Rickert	Chris Marengo Aaron Lazanoff Bill Burrows
<b>RMAC Staff</b>	<b>Department Staff</b>
Kevin Conway Edith Hannigan	

Items appear in the order they were presented on the agenda.

**Approve May and July Minutes**

Lacking a quorum, RMAC decided to put over approval of the May and July minutes until the November meeting.

**Administrative****a. Membership****i. CCA Representative**

No updates from the California Cattlemen's Association. Members discussed reaching out to personal contacts.

**b. Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act Guidelines**

- i. Deputy Attorney General, Stephen Lerner, gave an overview of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act. Mr. Lerner went over the legislative intent of the Act, why the Act is relevant to RMAC and spoke specifically on several issues, including serial meetings, introducing new business, agendas and notices, and remote attendance at meetings.

**Focus Group Updates****a. Rangeland Water Quality****i. Rangeland Service Organizations**

Co-chair Horney will make edits to send to Edith for final comments from RMAC members. Members anticipate having this ready for distribution shortly. Co-chair Osterholm discussed developing a cover letter for the

document to describe some of the relationships between these organizations and ranchers, and other programs such as cost-share opportunities, etc, to maximize utilization of this document.

**ii. GRAP Update**

RMAC submitted a public comment letter expressing support for the resolution to discontinue statewide discussions of regulating grazing activity. A hearing will be held September 16<sup>th</sup> which staff plan to attend and update members on the outcome.

This led to a discussion of how to identify the list of topics the range community needs more information about to be better prepared to respond to future proposed regulatory programs and other issues.

**iii. 319 Program Update**

Information on the mini-grants from NGLC and the 319 program was provided to members via email and hardcopy from staff.

**b. Land Management Tools**

**i. Potential prescribed herbivory pilot project**

Mr. Conway gave an updated on organizing a prescribed herbivory pilot project in the state; a likely spot looks to be on Mount Zion State Forest in Amador. Work is being done to try to execute a contract this winter for a project next spring. Other options include looking at post-fire grazing on Boggs Mountain State Demonstration Forest or other state forests.

Member Pritchard announced a field trip taking place on November 14 for Cal Poly students. If the field trip ends up being open to the public staff will forward information.

**ii. BLM/Payne Ranch**

RMAC members had a discussion on using grazing as fire management. Co-chair Horney discussed the management of federal and state lands in the face of such fire risk as a basis for a presentation at the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition (CRCC) Summit in January 2016. Members discussed doing some research to find out how much it may cost to preventatively graze land versus fire suppression costs. Members discussed ideas for a CRCC Summit discussion of a sample site in the Knoxville Wildlife Area and how it might be managed and a discussion of costs to manage over time. Co-chair Horney and Member Bush discussed beginning work on this.

**c. Rangeland Conversion/Forest & Resource Management**

Members Van Duyn and Landrum did not have any updates for this focus group, but RMAC members discussed anecdotes relating to post-fire grazing timing on federal land. They discussed ways to begin to address this issue through RMAC and Board of Forestry, including beginning with bringing in experts from BLM and supporting the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition summit presentation on this topic.

**d. Public Land Grazing**

Member Cremers brought draft policy language for RMAC to consider. He proposed separating grazing and mining policies into two separate policies, to better address the individual issues surrounding the two land uses. Member Cremers will continue to search for areas in CAL FIRE and Board policy where new rangeland language may be needed. Staff will work with Dave Loveless, CAL FIRE state demonstration forests manager, to determine how to incorporate RMAC's suggested changes into the state forests' ongoing policy updates.

**e. VTP Program EIR**

Staff updated RMAC on the progress of the Vegetation Treatment Program Environmental Impact Report. There will be a consultation workshop at the Board meeting in September for the Board to discuss the existing preliminary draft. The Board anticipates releasing a Revised Notice of Preparation to update stakeholders on the current draft document, provide updated contact information, and for the public and agencies to provide comment on updated science since the initial Notice of Preparation was released over ten years ago. There will be a public scoping workshop at the October Board meeting.

RMAC discussed writing a public comment letter in response to the Notice of Preparation, taken on by Members Van Duyn and Landrum. Topics to address include: rangeland health and soil health, supporting the use of prescribed fire, carbon sequestration. Given that the public comment period will be over before the next meeting, staff anticipates a draft letter will be circulated amongst RMAC members for edits in the next two weeks.

**f. Drought**

CeCi Dale-Cesmet provided information about a workshop at UC Davis on rangeland vulnerability to climate change focused on policy issues on September 29 and 30.

**Rangeland Sustainability Self-Assessment Workshop Planning**

A group of range professionals, including Co-Chair Horney and Member Pritchard, are organizing a workshop around the Rangeland Sustainability Self-Assessment. The workshop is slated to be held in January 2016, possibly with the CRCC summit. They hope to have plans in place by the end of October.

**Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Emissions Calculation Update**

Helge Eng, CAL FIRE, provided an update on the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund grants. The Air Resources Board has approved the urban forestry grants and will shortly be approving the reforestation and research and pest control grants. The fuel reduction grants have not yet been approved because of the uncertainty of the greenhouse gas reduction benefits of taking trees out. However, Chief Eng is confident they have reached an amendable solution and the grants should be approved soon. CAL FIRE and ARB are currently negotiating a straightforward carbon accounting program that lay people can do in grant applications and other uses.

**Legislative Update**

Ms. Hannigan provided RMAC with the final status of relevant bills in this Legislative session.

**Updates from Partner Organizations**

California Farm Bureau – The Farm Bureau plans on attending the GRAP hearing in September. Noelle Cremers provided an update on the Fish and Game Commission's Predator Management Working Group and the listing of the tricolored blackbird. Ms. Cremers also provided an update on the new Fish and Wildlife regulations defining a "take" of bird species. The comment period for these regulations ends September 28. She also mentioned that UC Davis is working on calculating acres fallow across the state due to drought.

California Resource Conservation District – Member Pritchard discussed the ongoing projects of the CARCD, including a public comment letter to the State Water Board on GRAP and a workshop on BMPs in coastal watersheds for avocado and citrus operations on October 5.

**New and Unfinished Business**

No new or unfinished business was identified.

**Member Updates**

Members provided updates on their ongoing related activities. The next RMAC meeting is Tuesday, November 17.

**Meeting Adjourned.**