

RMAC ANNUAL PRIORITIES – this draft document includes revisions and comments made during the September 16th RMAC meeting.

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These are tied back to RMAC's statutory mandates, which includes the annual review of current priorities, and incorporation of other advised agency priorities (e.g., CDFA, California Environmental Protection Agency [CalEPA], Board of Forestry and Fire Protection [Board], CNRA). Please review the priorities (called "objectives") in the Annual Priorities section of the Strategic Plan.

This document is a revised version with the RMAC Chair's thoughts on the priorities.

"SLGLLM" = RMAC subcommittee on State Lands Grazing License and Land Management

- **OBJECTIVE: Promote appropriate grazing for fuels management and multiple ecosystem services.**
 - **Purpose:** To make prescribed grazing a practical option for state land management agencies where it is appropriate and suitable for accomplishing ecological, environmental, and cultural objectives.

Action Items:

1. **(Lead: SLGLLM)** Develop standard template/form(s) with a guidance document for constructing grazing license agreements for use by state agencies. **(Completion: 06/23)**
 - a. Template/form(s) must meet requirements of Dept. Fish & Wildlife, State Parks, State Forests;
 - b. be approved for this use by General Services,
 - c. and follow standards of good practice recommended by UCCE and CRMs.
2. **(Lead: SLGLLM)** Develop or approve informational publications which agencies can use for
 - a. (1) conducting site inventories and assessments specific to the ecological site(s) on the management unit and their management objectives,
 - b. (2) developing adaptive management plans detailing the general use and specific objectives for the management unit, and
 - c. (3) producing detailed grazing plans that will form the basis for grazing licenses. These will be developed from general management unit plans which include [1] the purpose(s) for grazing, [2] measurable outcomes to be managed for from the grazing treatments, [3] infrastructure required for the grazing treatment, [4] description of the grazing practices to be used, and [5] identification of any resources requiring protection from damage by the grazing practices.

Commented [WK1]: Identify steps for completion. Move forward on this.

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Commented [WK2]: This would be the Guidance Booklet ; #1 is for the license and land management plan templates.

(Completion: 12/23)

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• **OBJECTIVE: Increase collaboration and joint educational opportunities for RPFs and CRMs**

- **Purpose:** To integrate and coordinate Registered Professional Foresters (RPFs) with Certified Rangeland Managers (CRMs) for the purpose of developing effective fuels management treatments from their different but complementary professional backgrounds. there could be opportunities to rectify this, perhaps via combined training programs with both RPFs and CRMs to develop burn plans.

Commented [WK3]: Link to Objective above (Member Starrs).

Action Items:

1. (Lead: RMAC) Establish an RMAC subcommittee to develop ongoing, working relationships with the California Licensed Foresters Association and the Certified Rangeland Managers Panel with the purpose of establishing annual fuels management trainings for both CRMs and RPFs to participate in together. (Completion: 1/23)

Commented [WK4]: Chair Dr. Horney, Cal-Pac SRM CRM Panel, , , Member Starrs (gone Mar-May; potential COI, but can recuse as appropriate).

Work with CLFA/CRMs on action item #2. Action team/subcommittee.

2. (Lead: RMAC) Initiate a public demonstration project for a select group of CRMs and RPFs to collaborate on a project where multiple, integrated fuels treatments requiring application of both forest and rangeland ecology practices are required. (Completion: 9/23)

Commented [WK5]: PtsOC: Dr. Horney, Member Cremers,

3. (Lead: RMAC) Work with Professional Foresters Registration to explore points within the registration/licensing processes where CRM and RPF requirements and exam contents could be intentionally coordinated. (Completion: 5/23)

Commented [WK6]: Member Kramer – could work with farmers/ranchers/professionals in facilitating and understanding the requirements to take the CRM exam.

Commented [WK7]: There is some seed funding to develop this program, and continued efforts to secure additional funding for ongoing efforts.

• **OBJECTIVE: Increase the number of CRMs, and utilization of them, in California**

- **Purpose:** There are only 86 CRMs left in the State. RMAC needs to promote using that expertise in CALFIRE for developing burn plans and conducting prescribed burns.

Commented [WK8]: Organizes and maintains the committee of individuals writing and scoring the exam. Therefore the SRM is responsible for this program; however, RMAC has long been involved in workforce development conversations and in facilitating the program.

Action Items:

1. (Lead: RMAC) As needed, write letters of support for and promote the efforts of Drs. Susan Marshall and Marc Horney in obtaining funding to develop a statewide training program for potential CRMs. (Completion: 3/23)

Deleted: <#>(Lead: RMAC) Invite CalFire representatives to discuss state requirements for planning and conducting prescribed burns as a CalFire employee or private "burn boss" at Sept or Nov RMAC meeting. (Completion: 13/23)¶

2. (Lead: RMAC) Meet with CRM Panel and CalPac-SRM leadership to discuss other methods of promoting CRM utilization and/or further development of the program. (Completion: 3/23)

Commented [WK9]: Clearly Identify/clarify where/when CRMs are required and/or would be warranted.

Commented [WK10]: Dr. Horney can reach out to CRM panel.

• **OBJECTIVE: Establish appropriate guidance for grazing following wildfire on California state-owned lands**

Commented [WK11]: Potentially combine this with the objective below.

Commented [WK12]: Revise this document, send out to committee to provide feedback/revisions by a set date, and this will be revised and presented at the Feb 23 meeting.

- **Purpose:** Ensure that where grazing is being conducted on state lands that policies for grazing livestock management being required by state lands managers are consistent with the best available science. Cattle producers are reporting being asked to defer grazing for a season so that prescribed burns can be conducted, and then are often not being allowed to graze for several years afterwards. (These reports are presumably chiefly from USFS and BLM lands in the state, but the policy may also be adopted by state lands managers)

Action Items:

1. (Lead: RMAC) Produce an authoritative peer-reviewed publication explaining what is known about requirements for post-burn “rest” from defoliation and its application to the major grassland ecotypes in California (annual grasslands, blue oak savannas, coastal perennial prairie grasslands, Great Basin sagebrush-steppe). (Completion: 9/23)

Alternatives:

- a. Request such a publication from UC ANR (UCCE)
- b. Request such a publication from faculty/students at CSUs (Cal Poly SLO, Chico, Humboldt) and/or UCs (Berkeley or Davis).
- c. Organize an RMAC subcommittee to produce a white paper.

• **OBJECTIVE: Develop educational opportunities and outreach RE: fuel reduction methods**

- **Purpose:** Grazing is a fuel reduction method in the State’s Wildfire Resilience Action Plan, but few professionals in the state doing planning and leading fuels treatments have experience with it. State-wide training and demonstrations in methods of reducing fine fuels using grazing is necessary to get the practice implemented at scale. This will require coordination with CALFIRE.

Action Items:

1. (Lead: RMAC) Continue to conduct and promote annual educational workshop series on the use of grazing for fine fuel reduction in collaboration with CALFIRE, UC ANR/UCCE, USDA-NRCS, and others. (Completion: 11/22)
2. (Lead: RMAC) Work with UC ANR/UCCE to identify needs for technical and training information and establish a plan for producing them. (Completion: 3/23)

• **OBJECTIVE: Solicit and prioritize current California rangeland management research priorities (RMAC Strategic Objective 4: Monitor for issues in rangeland science and management).**

- **Purpose:** To circulate and elevate practical needs for rangeland management research from land managers and agency staff to research organizations in California with the technical skill and capacity to properly investigate them.

Commented [WK13]: FRAP analyses – should provide information about condition and health of rangelands in CA.

But what should the targets be??

Could FRAP talk with RMAC about targets? UCCE, etc. Could be consults on FRAP publications of this nature

Farmland Mapping Program – data gathering and mapping.
Farmland Mapping & Monitoring Program – DOC.

<https://frap.fire.ca.gov/assessment/>

Action Items:

1. (Lead: RMAC) Regularly solicit requests or solicitations for investigations of rangeland management topics. (Completion: 11/22)
2. (Lead: RMAC) Where appropriate, initiate proof-of-concept projects or small-scale collaborative investigations utilizing CDFA mandates under the FAC 7271 and 7273. (Completion: 5/23)

• **OBJECTIVE: Increase collaborations with related agencies and bodies**

- **Purpose:** Broaden RMAC's connections and interactions with organizations involved in large-scale management of rangelands in California and that have not been part of its formal stakeholders.

Action Items:

1. (Lead: RMAC) Extend invitations for periodic public reports on their activities and current issues to the UC California Natural Reserve System, the California Rangeland Trust, the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition, the Central Coast Grazing Coalition, and others. (Completion: 11/22)

• **OBJECTIVE: Continue to monitor regulatory initiatives on surface water pollution and ground water management**

- **Purpose:** Remain in position to provide constructive feedback to agencies on the scientific merit and practicality of regulatory efforts meant to protect water quality and sustain its availability and affordability.

Action Items:

1. (Lead: RMAC) Re-establish RMAC's standing water quality subcommittee? (Rename to "Water Quality and Sustainability" or just "Water" subcommittee?)
2. (Lead: RMAC) Establish an annual schedule for representatives from the State and Regional WCBs make presentations or submit reports to RMAC on their activities that may impact grazed lands in the state. (Completion: 1/23)
3. (Lead: RMAC) Establish an annual schedule for staff from DWR to make presentations or submit reports to RMAC on groundwater management plans under development that may impact grazed lands in the state. (Completion: 1/23)

• **OBJECTIVE: Livestock Pass Program**

- **Purpose:** Monitor county-by-county implementations of the LP program and inter-county coordination. It has been reported that in some areas ranchers with livestock grazing in multiple counties have been issued passes which are only valid in their county of residence.

Action Items:

Commented [WK14]: essential to production graziers.

Commented [WK15]: Member Dr. Larson could report back; could tie into CCA's water quality committee. Member Hagata – working on this in Lassen County, could be involved. Member Ross – can be involved virtually Dr. Horney – Ken Tate talk to RMAC?

Commented [WK16]: Kristina can reach out to DWR reps. For this and above action items.

Commented [WK17]: Members Roney and Ross

1. (**Lead: RMAC**) Agendize topic for spring meeting. Invite CalFire, CFBF, or UC ANR staff who have knowledge of the state-wide implementation of the LPP program.
(**Completion: 11/23**)

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