

RANGE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

P.O. Box 944246
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460
Website: www.bof.fire.ca.gov
(916) 653-8007



Dear Secretary Ross,

I am sending this letter on behalf of the Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC), an advisory body to the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, the California Natural Resources Agency, the California Environmental Protection Agency, and the California Department of Food and Agriculture. The RMAC is specifically responsible for matters affecting the conservation, management, and use of grassland, oak woodland/savannah, and brushland ecosystems in the state. A recent review of the statutes delineating the RMAC's role revealed that "the Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency... shall notify the advisory committee of, and [is] encouraged to consult with the advisory committee on, rangeland resource issues that are under consideration" (PRC741). In order to fulfill its statutory duty to advise agencies on rangeland-related issues in California, the RMAC would like to re-establish productive lines of communication.

The RMAC has not recently received communications regarding consideration of programs or policies impacting rangelands and rangeland managers in the state from the California Department of Food and Agriculture. The RMAC would like to foster an environment of open and constructive communication about rangeland issues and hopes that the California Department of Food and Agriculture will assist us in this endeavor by working collaboratively to develop consistent and timely notification over the coming year. This would allow the RMAC to provide constructive feedback as it relates to rangeland management into the development or refinement of programs for which your agency is responsible.

We respectfully request that your office notify our administrative staff (below) of any changes in or the development of programs related to management of rangelands, including but not limited to the Animal Health and Food – Livestock program, the Milk and Meat Safety Program, the Healthy Soils Program, the Alternative Manure Management Program, the Dairy Digester Research and Development Program, the State Water Efficiency Enhancement Program, the Noxious Weeds Program, and any other relevant programs, and provide annual written updates regarding the benefits and outcomes of existing programs on California's rangelands. These notifications can be sent to:

Brandi Goss, Environmental Scientist
California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
Brandi.Goss@bof.ca.gov
916-215-4947

We hope to minimize extra work on the part of your staff so far as possible. The RMAC seeks to maintain effective collaborations with state agencies in order to ensure a future with healthy, productive rangelands in California.

Sincerely,

Marc R. Horney, Ph.D.
Chair, California Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC)
mhorney@calpoly.edu
(805) 756-7543

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.