

RANGE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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**RANGE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, November 10, 2021, 12:30 PM

Teleconference

RMAC Members Present

Chair Marc Horney
Vice Chair Rich Ross
Bart Cremers
Sheryl Landrum
Lance Criley
Billie Roney
Katie Delbar, ex officio member

RMAC Members Absent

Taylor Hagata
Andréé Soares
John Van Duyn
Don Watson
Kristen Murphy

RMAC Staff

Deniele Cade, Licensing Analyst
Kristina Wolf, Environmental Scientist

Department Staff

None

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.

Items are numbered by their corresponding Item Number on the agenda and documented below in order of their introduction during the meeting.

1) Call to Order, Webinar Format, and Roll Call – Deniele Cade

2) Chairman’s Report

Chair Horney gave a brief update on meetings with the Tahoe National Forest (see agenda item 7), and on the formation of a subcommittee on grazing licenses in the state (see agenda item 8).

3) Discussion, ranking, and recommendations for appointment of nominated candidates to RMAC open seats

Several members reported not receiving the nominee packets, and Dr. Wolf directed them to the RMAC webpage to obtain all meeting materials. There were four nominees for the open RMAC seats.

There is a December 31st deadline for nominees/applicants. Open seats are as follows: two seats are public, one is for the Resource Conservation District (RCD), and one is for an organization representing rangeland owners. The nominees were as follows:

- Joel Kramer – RCD
- Sara Letton – RCD
- Keith Guenther – public
- Lance Criley – public

Member Roney spoke to the experience and qualifications of nominee Joel Kramer. Chair Horney expressed concern about not all members having time to review the nominee packets, and suggested that further discussion and voting on this agenda item be delayed until January. Dr. Wolf reviewed the timeline and process for recommendations on appointments to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board). If acted on today, nominees could be considered at the Board’s December meeting; otherwise, the earliest next review of recommended candidates by the Board would not be until January or March of 2022. Member Ross pointed out that because the deadline for applications on the Call for Nominations is December 31st, and believes the committee should hold off on voting on recommendations for new nominees. Member Cremers also reminded the committee that in prior years, establishment of a subcommittee to review the nominees occurred.

Member Landrum moved to form a subcommittee that will review the applicants for which full nomination packets are received by December 31st, and make a recommendation to the full committee in January. Member Roney seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Horney	Aye
Ross	Aye
Cremers	Aye
Roney	Aye
Criley	Aye
Landrum	Aye

Soares	Absent
Van Duyn	Absent
Watson	Absent
Murphy	Absent

The motion passes unanimously.

See below agenda item 7 for members of this subcommittee.

Because Member Criley applied for re-appointment and is not a new nominee, the Chair suggested that the committee move on his re-appointment. Member Roney moved to recommend Lance Criley's re-appointment to the Board. Member Landrum seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Horney	Aye
Ross	Aye
Cremers	Aye
Roney	Aye
Criley	Abstain
Landrum	Aye
Soares	Absent
Van Duyn	Absent
Watson	Absent
Murphy	Absent

The motion passes with one abstention.

4) Approval of June, August, and September 2021 meeting minutes

Member Landrum moved to approve meeting minutes June, August, and September. Member Roney seconded the motion. Member Criley indicated that one typo needed to be corrected in the September minutes (Member "Robey" should be changed to "Roney").

Roll Call Vote:

Horney	Aye
Ross	Aye
Cremers	Aye
Roney	Aye
Criley	Aye
Landrum	Aye
Soares	Absent
Van Duyn	Absent
Watson	Absent
Murphy	Absent

The motion passes unanimously.

5) Update on Potential Informational Hearings on fuels management treatment tools, with an emphasis on prescribed herbivory – Marc Horney, Chair

The Chair summarized the RMAC's potential role in providing information to various state legislative bodies (e.g., Assembly on Natural Resources) on the use of prescribed herbivory for fuels management.

6) Update on RMAC Letters to State Agencies and Solicitation of Annual Priorities

Dr. Wolf provided a brief update on development of the letters to the CA Department of Food and Agriculture, CA Natural Resources Agency, CA Environmental Protection Agency, and the Board requesting feedback to the RMAC of agency priorities. The letters were sent out to the agencies requesting a response by December 1st.

7) Update on Tahoe National Forest meeting on hiring for positions requiring range management expertise

Chair Horney summarized the conversation between representatives of the Tahoe National Forest (TNF) and Chair Horney, Member Criley, and Dr. Wolf about hiring range management specialists (RMS). The TNF was unclear about why RMAC was interested in federal hiring practices, and Chair Horney clarified that the RMAC has no specific information on issues with hiring practices, but there had been concern that there has been difficulty in finding qualified candidates. The TNF is very open to finding creative solutions to this issue. Dr. Wolf stated that the TNF had had a difficult time finding an RMS, and they partnered with the Plumas National Forest to found a qualified candidate that could work on both National Forests, and they also raised the level from a GS-11 to a GS-12 to entice more candidates. The RMAC will continue to do what it can in terms of outreach to spread the message about open positions. Dr. Wolf also pointed out that there is not a good crosswalk between range programs and the requirements for an RMS, and any guidance on that would be helpful for applicants and agencies. The TNF also stressed that if permittees have any issues at all on grazing parcels, they want to hear directly from their permittees in a timely manner so they can address issues as quickly as possible. Chair Horney also indicated that a nationwide message was circulated among academic programs to create a uniform crosswalk that will apply across all universities with range programs to help with the qualifications of an RMS. Gaps in training (e.g., short course on CEQA, NEPA, etc) were also discussed, and Dr. Wolf indicated that perhaps the universities could also attempt to fill those gaps via professional trainings or other training needs. Leigh Sevy also indicated that the USFS regions provide some training in monitoring and NEPA, and would be willing to work with other organizations to develop more trainings of this kind.

Continued agenda item 3: Member Roney and Member Landrum volunteered to be on the subcommittee to review nominees. Chair Horney indicated that there could be a conflict of interest with Member Landrum and one of the nominees; Member Landrum indicated that she could recuse herself in that case. Member Cremers volunteered as well. Member Landrum removed herself from the subcommittee.

Dr. Wolf will send all complete applications received by close of business December 31st, 2021 to the subcommittee.

8) Formation and Discussion of Sub-committee for Grazing License and Land Management

The subcommittee has not been officially formed, but the Board did guide RMAC to move forward on this endeavor. Chair Horney indicated the desire to have the following represented on the committee: Certified Range Managers (CRM), State Department of General Services (DGS), state land management agencies (California Department of Fish and Wildlife [CDFW], State Parks), and 2 members of the RMAC.

Proposed members include:

- Tracy Schohr (U.C. Cooperative Extension, CRM)
- Lance Criley (USFS, RMAC)
- Rich Ross (attorney, RMAC)
- Larry Ford (CRM)
- Bart Cremers (California Wool Growers Association, RMAC)
- Tony (DGS)
- Kevin Conway (Jackson Demonstration Forest)
- someone from CDFW

Member Landrum moved to begin formation of the subcommittee, and provide names of the committee at the January RMAC meeting. Member Roney seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Horney	Aye
Ross	Aye
Cremers	Aye
Roney	Aye
Criley	Aye
Landrum	Aye
Soares	Absent
Van Duyn	Absent
Watson	Absent
Murphy	Absent

The motion passes unanimously.

Dr. Wolf will work on structuring the committee and ensuring compliance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meetings Act.

9) Updates from Partner Organizations & Public Forum

- Member Ross indicated that a bill was passed, signed, and chaptered that prohibits sales of small engines (chainsaws, generators) that include a lot of equipment used by land managers, making much of the fieldwork logistically infeasible. This bill was never discussed in RMAC, and it would be great for things like this to come to RMAC for discussion before they are passed.
- Member Ross stated it would be nice to have someone talk about bulldozer lines for fire risk mitigation. ***Dr. Wolf will be looking into finding someone from CalFIRE to talk about this.***

Other Announcements:

- Dr. Wolf will send out some links to the RMAC listservs for people to review and provide public comment on drafts currently being considered, if desired (e.g., California Climate Adaptation Strategy).
- Theresa Becchetei – California Pacific Society for Range Management (SRM) Fall meeting is December 16th from 1-4 PM on Zoom.
- Pelayo Alvarez from Audubon California emailed Dr. Wolf to ask about having a discussion on AB-252 Multi-benefit Land Repurposing Program at a meeting early next year, so this will be agendized then.
- Theresa Becchetei – CCRC will be January 24th in person in Stockton; there will be a virtual option as well. Working title: Rangelands and the 30x30
- National Society for Range Management Targeted Grazing Committee has a meeting tonight at 5 PM on Zoom with Dan Macon on the California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP).

Next meeting: a Doodle poll will be sent out to members to arrange the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 2:00 PM.